

GUIDE TO ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FOR NON-FOOD VENDORS

This guide is to assist vendors who are selling goods or packaged consumables (such as nuts, fudge, etc), who are looking to transition away from single-use plastic. The main items we are looking to eliminate for non-food vendors are plastic bags, plastic containers and soft plastic wrapping.

Note that it is always better to choose **REUSABLE** alternatives wherever possible. Of course this is not always feasible, so we recommend using 100% certified compostable products for take away where needed.

When sourcing these, be wary of products labelled only as 'biodegradable' or 'degradable'. This does **NOT** mean the same thing as compostable, and may be a plastic product. Always ensure you purchase 100% certified compostable. Where possible, try to choose natural products such as paper, bagasse, cardboard, wood, palm or bamboo.

plastic carry bags

Reusable Options

- Don't provide plastic bags, instead sell reusable cloth bags (these can be branded).
- Offer a borrow / return cloth bag service for regulars who forget their bags (for markets).

Disposable Options

Ask if customers really need a bag, many will have their own bag they can use. If a takeaway option is needed, provide sustainably sourced paper bags (can be branded) or recycled cardboard boxes.



soft plastic wrapping

This is any kind of plastic that you can scrunch, commonly used as a clear wrapping for goods and consumables.

Many vendors sell pre-packed goods and do not have control over the packaging. If this is you, we recommend talking to your supplier and see if they can provide you with returnable or compostable packaging. If you think your soft plastic is unavoidable, please talk to your event/market organiser about your situation. They may ask you to instead provide signage informing customers on how to recycle soft plastic.

If you pack your own goods, consider reusable or compostable packaging. You can find some ideas below. If you need a transparent solution, consider a semi-transparent paper bag, these are paper bags that have had tannins removed. They are strong and grease resistant.



takeaway containers

There are many containers that can take the place of plastic wrapping. If you prefer, you could keep plastic in your display but simply pack the actual bought goods in compostable packaging.

Reusable Options

Have a collection of containers and allow customers to borrow and bring back (for markets).

Disposable Options

Provide wooden/paper/cane or other 100% compostable containers that meet home compost standard. Products made from bagasse (sugarcane) are a good option as they are strong and leak-proof. Glass bottles or paper bags can also be used for some goods. Try source sustainably.

