

**UCRRA PARTNERS IN
COMPOSTING PROGRAM
CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE
PRODUCTS GUIDE**

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
999 FLATBUSH ROAD KINGSTON NY 12401**

***UCRRA Organics
Recovery Facility***



UCRRA Compostable Products Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Our mission is to protect public health and the environment and to promote sustainable materials management practices by efficiently managing solid waste materials with a focus on resource conservation.

Every year, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency's Organics Recovery Facility turns thousands of tons of yard and food wastes into nutrient-rich compost for farmers, landscapers and home gardens. The quality compost product we produce aids in healthier and more resilient soils systems, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, recycling nutrients, and conserving water among other benefits to all who purchase our *Grown Ulster Green* compost product.

As a leader in community composting, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency ("the Agency") follows the industry standards for best practices in organics management. The Agency strives to always seek the best knowledge available to develop its professional expertise as a leader in composting, and strives to stay informed about new trends and emerging issues within the solid waste management industry.

"Compostable" packaging and service ware items have been on the rise for the past decade and are increasingly ending up in our facilities. The Agency recognizes that compostable packaging plays an important role in diverting organic materials from disposal, particularly for schools, food-related businesses, and community festivals. However, compostable products continue to strain the efficiency in our operations and the Agency must find ways to cope with the challenges and concerns related to compostable packaging.

This guidance document serves as an official memo to our *Partners in Composting*, to help your team understand our policy on compostable packaging and to help raise awareness of the emerging issues.

Sincerely,

Angelina Peone

Recycling Coordinator

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

CC: Tim Rose, P.E., M.P.A., Executive Director

CC: Charles Whittaker, Director of Operations and Safety

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



All compostable packaging must be approved by the Agency to ensure that it meets the following standards.

- **Acceptable items must be certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) with ASTM D6400 and D6868 specifications.**
- **Acceptable items must be current in the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) online database www.products.bpiworld.org**
- **An educational program must be in place to prevent and control any contamination of food scraps by the users of the collection program. Training should include verbal or written directions, posters, stickers, etc. at the point of collection.**
- **To the greatest extent possible, compostable packaging should be clearly labeled certified compostable, or otherwise should be easily identifiable as compostable such as having imprinting, color marks, etc.**

Please be advised that the Agency will continue to accept compostable packaging that is approved by the Agency, and that the Agency is striving to phase out all service ware packaging that is not BPI certified compostable. You should also be aware that the licensing and certification on a number of BPI products is no longer valid effective December 31st 2019 and that the Agency does not wish to accept any packaging that has had its licensing certification be eliminated by the Biodegradable Products Institute.

Thank you for your attention and for sharing our commitment to producing the best compost product possible. Your cooperation is essential to support our program. UCRRA recognizes the effort required to inform your customers or program participants of these developments and make the necessary changes. In an effort to demonstrate our support of your program, the Agency may allow a grace period to make any necessary changes. Please contact the Agency's Recycling Coordinator at 845-336-0600 or email APEO@UCRRA.ORG should you have any questions about this memo.

2. COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS...FACT OR FICTION?

MYTH	TRUTH
<p><i>Packaging labeled 'plant-based' 'eco-friendly' or 'biodegradable' are compostable in industrial facilities</i></p>	<p>There is little regulatory oversight over the use of branding or marketing claims as “biodegradable” “plant-based” “eco-friendly” and “compostable.” However, a certified compostable product has been scientifically tested for biodegradation (conversion of organic carbon to CO₂), and disintegration (physical break down), and undergoes a technical analysis for heavy metals, and other laboratory tests to confirm no adverse impacts on the ability of compost to support plant growth.</p>
<p><i>Compostable products break down completely in industrial composting facilities</i></p>	<p>Even certified compostable products are tested in a laboratory setting, and don't always replicate 'real-world' applications.</p> <p>Many compostable products are heat resistant up to 190 degrees, whereas active composting temperatures typically reach 150-160 degrees.</p> <p>Some compostable products can take up to 190 days to fully degrade, whereas our active composting process is only 30 days, plus 60 days of curing. This means we have to remove partially degraded materials during the screening process and reintroduce them into new aeration zones several times before they fully decompose.</p>
<p><i>Compostable products are a better choice and are good for the environment</i></p>	<p>Durable, reusable items are always better than disposable items! Compostable products may require more fossil fuel energy use, release more greenhouse gases, or result in more toxicity than their non-compostable counterparts (Oregon DEQ).</p> <p>Handling packaging causes inefficiencies in our composting process, which also uses more energy and resources.</p> <p>Packaging designed for water and grease resistance may contain chemicals that can transfer into finished compost. BPI certification ensures no added chemicals are in their products.</p>

3. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)?

The BPI is a non-profit association with the largest certification program for compostable products and packaging in North America. [The BPI] logo verifies that products and packaging have been independently tested and verified according to scientifically based standards. Compostable products certified by BPI hold the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) technical standard based on pass/fail criteria for compostability using test methods and third party verification.

What are ASTM specifications?

ASTM D6400 covers labeling of polymers and finished products designed to be composted in industrial facilities. ASTM D6868 covers labeling of finished products that incorporate polymers as coatings or additives with paper, fiber, or other substrates designed to be composted in industrial facilities. BPI uses 6868 for uncoated paper, fiber, multi-layer flexible packaging, coffee pods, etc.

Why did BPI expire licensing on certain products?

Concerns around toxicity of fluorinated chemicals led BPI to change its certification program to eliminate fluorinated chemicals. BPI certified products not meeting the new requirements will be phased out by the end of 2019. Learn more at <https://bpiworld.org/Fluorinated-Chemicals>

How can I comply with these changes?

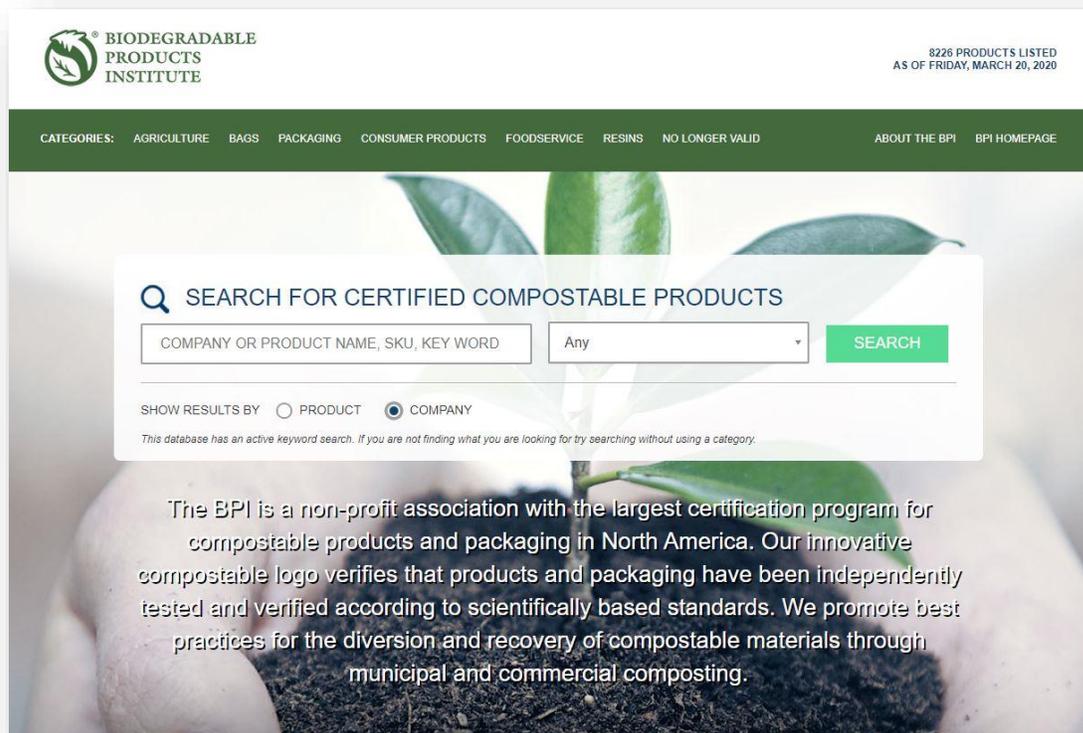
If foodservice ware compostable products are currently included in your food scraps collection program, please contact the Agency Recycling Coordinator to discuss your plan to phase out or discontinue any non-certified packaging. Notify the Recycling Coordinator of any changes or new products used in response to this memo.

We encourage you to share or forward this memo to the entire team. Guidance for searching for accepted items on the BPI website is provided on the following pages. Please note that all loads of food scraps are inspected as they are received by the Agency. You can expect ongoing feedback about the quality or contamination of your loads.

UCRRA Partners in Composting Program Compostable Products Guidance Document

4. USING THE BPI WEBSITE

Visit www.products.bpiworld.org for a searchable database of thousands of certified compostable products. If you're searching for a specific company or product name, try using the search bar feature to type in the product name or browse based on the specific type o packaging.



If you're browsing to look at all options, you may also scroll down and use the Products Category feature



UCRRA Partners in Composting Program

Compostable Products Guidance Document

Click on LIST OF PRODUCTS to view the certified products manufactured by that company.

Dart Container Corporation (Solo Cup)



500 Hogsback Road
Mason, MI 48854
United States

Dart Container Corporation, founded and headquartered in Mason, Michigan, Industry Standard of Excellence in the development, manufacture and distribution of innovative foodservice packaging solutions. Dart manufactures cups, plates, containers, lids and straws made from such materials as expanded polystyrene foam, solid polystyrene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), paper and sugar cane. From its humble origins as a machine shop in Mason, Dart has expanded across the globe to include more than 40 locations in six countries.

[LIST OF PRODUCTS](#) [WWW](#)

e2e FoodPack, Inc.



147 Liberty St.
Toronto, Ontario M6K 3G3
Canada

[LIST OF PRODUCTS](#) [WWW](#)

Eco-Products, Inc



4755 Walnut St
Boulder, CO 80301
USA

Sells a full line of compostable foodservice products including corn cups, straws, hot cups, hot cup lids, cutlery, food containers, and other compostable items.

[LIST OF PRODUCTS](#) [WWW](#)

Use the NAME, CATEGORY, AND SUBCATEGORY listings to identify the desired item in the database. For each item, be sure to record the SKU identification code, Product Name/Description, Brand/Company, and note any *Coloring or *Imprinting on the item.

PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BY THIS COMPANY

Brand	SKU	Name	Category	Subcategory	Color & Printed/Unprinted
Eco-Products	EP-CB13	Compostable Can Liners, 24x32in, 13 gallon, 0.88mil, Green, 25 bags per roll, 8 rolls per case	Bags	Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags	Lt. Green
Eco-Products	EP-CB33	Compostable Can Liners, 30x39in, 30 gallon, 1.2mil, Green, 25 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case	Bags	Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags	Lt. Green
Eco-Products	EP-CB39	Compostable Can Liners, 33 x 39in, 39 gallon, 0.9mil, Green, 25 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case	Bags	Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags	Green Printed
Eco-Products	EP-CB45	Compostable Can Liners, 34x48in, 32 gallon, 1.0mil, Green, 20 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case	Bags	Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags	Lt. Green
Eco-Products	EP-CBLS	Large Compostable Shopper Bag - 10 Gallon	Bags	Compostable bags	-
Eco-Products	EP-CBMS	Medium Compostable Shopper Bag - 7 Gallon	Bags	Compostable bags	-
Eco-Products	EP-CB55	Compostable Can Liners, 42x48in, 48 gallon, 1.0mil, Green, 20 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case	Bags	Yard Waste bags, Compostable bags	Lt. Green
Eco-Products	EP-SB24BASE	Renewable & Compostable Salad Bowl BASE - 24oz.	Foodservice	Bowl	Uncolored Unprinted
Eco-Products	EP-SB32BASE	Renewable & Compostable Salad Bowl BASE - 32oz.	Foodservice	Bowl	Clear
Eco-Products	EP-SB48BASE	Renewable & Compostable Salad Bowl BASE - 48oz.	Foodservice	Bowl	Clear
Eco-Products	EP-SBS48BASE	Renewable & Compostable Squat Salad Bowl BASE - 48oz.	Foodservice	Bowl	Clear

UCRRA Partners in Composting Program

Compostable Products Guidance Document

Contact the company directly to coordinate any purchase orders or product questions.

<p>Dart Container Corporation (Solo Cup)</p> <p> Save by SOLO</p> <p>500 Hogsback Road Mason, MI 48854 United States</p> <p>Dart Container Corporation, founded and headquartered in Mason, Michigan, Industry Standard of Excellence in the development, manufacture and distribution of innovative foodservice packaging solutions. Dart manufactures cups, plates, containers, lids and straws made from such materials as expanded polystyrene foam, solid polystyrene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), paper and sugar cane. From its humble origins as a machine shop in Mason, Dart has expanded across the globe to include more than 40 locations in six countries.</p> <p>LIST OF PRODUCTS WWW</p>	<p>e2e FoodPack, Inc.</p> <p> earth to earth</p> <p>147 Liberty St. Toronto, Ontario M6K 3G3 Canada</p> <p>LIST OF PRODUCTS WWW</p>	<p>Eco-Products, Inc</p> <p></p> <p>4755 Walnut St Boulder, CO 80301 USA</p> <p>Sells a full line of compostable foodservice products including corn cups, straws, hot cups, hot cup lids, cutlery, food containers, and other compostable items.</p> <p>LIST OF PRODUCTS WWW</p>
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Contact the Biodegradable Product Institute with any questions about using the database.

1-888-BPI-LOGO (274-5646)



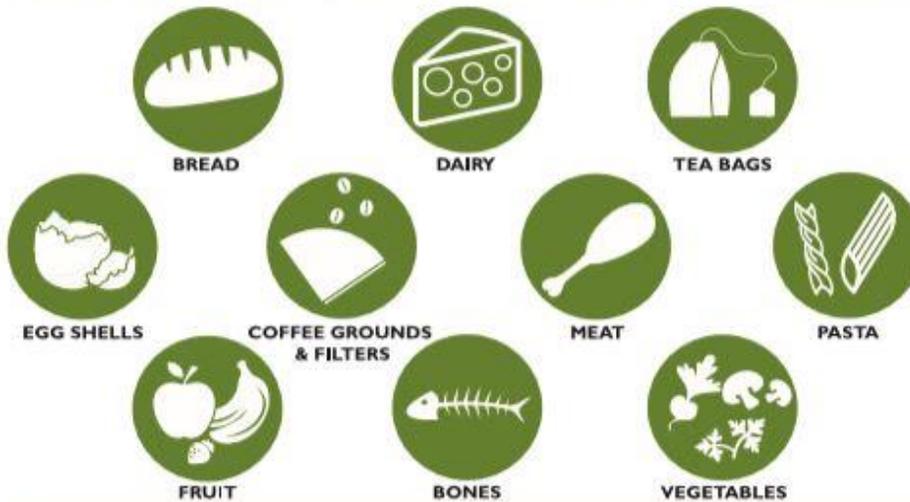
Partners in Composting Program

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

Compostable Organics THESE ITEMS ARE ACCEPTABLE



All food scraps and food residuals: uneaten food and food waste residuals including peelings, shavings, ends, cores, cooked or uncooked food scraps



CERTIFIED
COMPOSTABLE
PACKAGING

COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING
MUST BE APPROVED BY UCRAA

VISIT WWW.BPIWORLD.ORG
FOR A LIST OF BPI CERTIFIED
COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

When in doubt, ask! Call 845-336-0600

Compost Contaminants ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



Non-food items including: plastics, glass, metal, cardboard, papers, waxed paper, produce stickers, rubber bands, twist ties, mesh food bags, condiment wrappers, grease, cooking oil, etc.

