

Minimal Waste/Sustainability Food Vendor Guidelines

Dear Food Vendor:

Thank you for participating in the Meet the Mountains Festival 2026! We are proud to announce that the festival is a minimal waste event. The goal at a minimal waste event is to plan ahead and distribute only materials that are recyclable or compostable so that a minimal number of materials have to be landfilled. Minimal waste events are a great way to not only show our commitment to the environment, but to create a living model of minimal waste events for the community.

As a food vendor distributing products at this event, you are the key to meeting our goal: diverting at least 20% of waste produced at the festival from the landfill.

Food vendors attending the Meet the Mountains Festival are strongly encouraged to hand out only recyclable or compostable materials to attendees. Please stay away from single use items such as plastic shopping bags, single-use novelties, etc.

As much as possible, please refrain from using the following items:

- **Plastic Water Bottles**
 - **Instead use canned water or water coolers like Igloo brand coolers.**
 - If you need to use plastic, please be sure that your bottles are marked with a “1” or “2” within the recycle symbol on the bottle. These bottles can be recycled locally. We will also have water stations set up throughout the festival.
- **Plastic Soda Bottles**
 - **Instead use canned sodas.**
 - If you need to use plastic, please be sure that your bottles are marked with a “1” or “2” within the recycle symbol on the bottle. These bottles can be recycled locally.
- **Aluminum Foil - **Cannot be recycled via JC Solid Waste****
 - Alternative: wax paper
- **Styrofoam - **It cannot be recycled at all.****
 - Alternatives: compostable plates or cups, and paper to-go boxes
- **Plastic Straws**
 - Alternatives: paper, hemp, or metal

We strongly encourage you to not use the following items, but will allow:

- **Plastic Cutlery**
 - Alternative: Certified Compostable cutlery
- **Condiment Packets**
 - Alternative: bottles of condiments
- **Plastic-Coated Paper Products**
 - Alternative: wax paper

- **Plastic Drink Cups & Lids**

- Alternative: recyclable or compostable plastic cups and lids
- If you need to use plastic, please be sure that your cups and lids are marked with a “1” or “2” within the recycle symbol on the bottle. These can be recycled locally.

The following items can be recycled through City of Johnson City:

- Aluminum cans
- Plastic #1 and #2
- Cardboard
- Glass
- Paper
- Plastic Bottles

The following items can be composted through Hoffman Composting:

- bones
- cooked/uncooked food
- cardboard
- Certified Compostable products (this includes cups, cutlery, plates, and boxes)
- wax paper & wax-coated paper products

The following distributors can provide recyclable and compostable products:

- [World Centric](#)
- [Amazon Basics](#)
- [U-Line](#)
- [Eco-Products](#)
- [Green Paper Products](#)
- [Myriad Greeyn](#)
- [Naturalik](#)
- [Repurpose Compostables](#)
- [US Supply House](#)
- [Vegware](#)

If you have any questions as to whether or not your items are considered recyclable or compostable, please contact us at mtmfest@visitjohnsoncitytn.com or (423) 900-2523.