

## Mayor's List of Recyclables and Compostables

### Section I - Definitions:

**Compostable** means made solely of materials that break down into, or otherwise become part of, usable compost in a safe and timely manner in an appropriate program.

**District Recycling Collection Program** means any recycling collection services provided to District residents and/or businesses by the District either through collection at point of generation or through drop-off for recycling.

**Disposable food service ware** means containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, straws, forks, spoons, knives, napkins, and other items that are designed for one-time use for beverages, prepared food, or leftovers from meals prepared by a food service entity. Disposable food service ware shall not include items composed entirely of aluminum.

**Food service entity** means full-service restaurants, limited-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafes, delicatessens, coffee shops, supermarkets, grocery stores, vending trucks or carts, food trucks, business or institutional cafeterias, including those operated by or on behalf of District departments and agencies, and other entities selling or providing food within the District for consumption on or off the premises.

**Public Space** refers to outdoor areas such as sidewalks and parks where refuse and recycling containers for use by pedestrians are placed.

**Recyclable** means made solely of materials that can be recycled using the District's recycling collection program.

**Recycle or Recycled or Recycling** means the series of activities, including separation, collection, and processing, through which materials are recovered or otherwise diverted from the solid waste stream for use as raw materials or in the manufacture of products other than fuel.

**Rigid plastic** means a plastic consumer product which maintains its shape when empty and unsupported (e.g. a bottle, container, or molded block). Excluded from this definition are: films, wraps, bags, flexible pouches, or resins that have been expanded or foamed, such as expanded polystyrene.

## Section II - Mayor's List of Recyclables and Compostables

The following list applies to all residential, commercial, government, and industrial entities with the exception of public spaces. All materials herein intended for recycling shall be dry and empty.

### *List of Recyclables*

- I. The following items that are two inches or more in diameter or in any two dimensions (e.g. length and width) and were not used as the primary packaging for hazardous materials are considered recyclable:
  - a. **Recyclable Paper Products**
    1. Corrugated Cardboard that does not contain a wax coating  
(*Examples include:* packaging boxes, pizza boxes, and hot cup sleeves)
    2. Junk mail
    3. Magazines
    4. Milk and juice cartons
    5. Newspapers (including all inserts)
    6. Office paper and envelopes, including those containing staples and plastic windows
    7. Soft cover books such as paper backs and telephone books
    8. Paper bags and uncoated kraft paper
    9. Paperboard or paperboard packaging including cups, plates, and food containers with a moisture or grease barrier coating, provided that the coating is not made of wax. Paperboard boxes with plastic windows also are accepted.
    10. Uncoated molded pulp
    11. Shredded paper placed in a paper bag and stapled shut
    12. Wrapping paper capable of tearing
    13. Hard cover books
  - b. **Recyclable Metal Products**
    1. Aerosol cans
    2. Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
    3. Metal food and beverage containers

- c. **Recyclable Plastic Products that are rigid plastic, made solely of one of the following resin types listed and are one of the following product types listed in this clause:**
    1. **Resin types:**
      - i. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET),
      - ii. High-density polyethylene (HDPE),
      - iii. Low-density polyethylene (LDPE),
      - iv. Polypropylene (PP), or
      - v. Polystyrene (PS)
    2. **Product types:**
      - i. Soda, Water, & Other Plastic Drink Bottles (including caps left on bottles)
      - ii. Food & Household Plastic Bottles/Jars (except for motor oil bottles) (*Examples include:* ketchup, laundry detergent, shampoo bottles, and household cleaning product containers)
      - iii. Plastic Tubs & Lids  
(*Examples include:* yogurt and margarine containers & lids)
      - iv. Plastic Produce, Deli, & Bakery Containers, Cups, & Trays  
(*Examples include:* Take-out, deli, bakery, berries/produce containers, cookie trays, cake domes, party cups, cup lids, and clear egg cartons)
      - v. Plastic Non-food Containers & Packaging  
(*Examples include:* flower pots, small storage containers like Tupperware, clear formed plastic packaging around products like toys, hardware, and electronics)
      - vi. Bulky Plastic Items  
(*Examples include:* Plastic milk/soda crates, plastic buckets with metal handles, and plastic laundry baskets)
      - vii. Plastic toys that do not contain metal or electronic components
      - viii. Plastic containers
  - d. **Recyclable Glass Products**  
(*Examples include:* Food and beverage glass containers, which are sealed and distributed with a cap or lid)
- II. At this time, the scope of the list is limited to disposable food service ware and other items that are acceptable for commingled collection and processing in single or dual stream material recovery facilities for which other recycling requirements do not exist within District or Federal law. It does not prohibit the recycling of non-disposable food service ware products and materials through other means of collection and recovery. In the future, additional product and material types and processing types may be added to the list of what is required to be recycled.

- III. Except for straws and stirrers, items smaller than two inches in diameter or in any two dimensions that are made of the materials listed above may not be recyclable using the District recycling program but may be recyclable by using special private recycling programs, and therefore may be utilized by food service entities regulated under the Sustainable DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 8-1531 *et seq.*

*List of Compostables*

- I. For food service entities, any of the following disposable food service ware is considered compostable:
  - a. Items made entirely of untreated, uncoated paper or plant fiber.
  - b. Wax coated paper for deli sheets, sandwich wraps, basket liners, straws, and other similar items.
  - c. Items certified compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute to meet one of the following standards:
    - 1. ASTM D6400: Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be Aerobically Composed in Municipal or Industrial Facilities
    - 2. ASTM D6868: Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composed in Municipal or Industrial Facilities
- II. For all other persons, a list of compostable materials will be provided after the District's establishment of a compost collection system.
- III. Items that cannot be composted through a non-governmental program or cannot be recycled should be placed in the trash, until the District implements a compost collection system.

**Section III- Effective Date**

- I. This policy shall take effect on February 1, 2021, except as it relates to implementation of the Sustainable DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 8-1531 *et seq.*, in which case the policy shall take effect on January 1, 2017.