

The City of El Cerrito has adopted an Expanded Foodware Ordinance requiring foodware to be compostable or reusable, and additionally requiring foodware accessories to only be provided upon request.

The Expanded Foodware Ordinance has two components:

1. All Food Providers in the city must use compostable single-use foodware (e.g., straws, eating utensils, and food containers) with limited exceptions. Compostable is defined as being accepted in the City's green-waste collection programs and being free of all intentionally added fluorinated chemicals.
Note: Compostable plastics are not allowed.
2. Aligning with State law (AB 1276), all Food Facilities must **only** distribute single-use foodware accessories (e.g., utensils, straws, stirrers, etc.) and condiment cups or packets **upon request** by the consumer. This includes through food delivery platforms.
Note: Bundling or wrapping of foodware accessories is not allowed. Self-serve stations are okay.

See the attached list of compliant foodware items



The City will assist food providers by providing training and building public awareness to support a smooth transition. These ordinances will help reduce the community's environmental impact, reduce recycling contamination and costs, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the City's Climate Action Plan and Strategic Plan goals.

**This ordinance applies to all food Providers and food facilities in the City. Food providers are defined as any vendor, business, organization, entity, group, or individual, including any restaurant or retail food establishment, and any provider of prepared food at organized or special events, in the City of El Cerrito. Food facilities are defined as an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption at the retail level.*



Reusable foodware preferred. It is better for the environment and saves money for you.



Compostable foodware is compliant. It breaks down 100% in the green waste bin.



Single-use Plastic foodware is prohibited in the City of El Cerrito.



Timeline for transition



How can I find out information on how to comply?

City Staff are currently sharing information, answering questions, and can provide trainings and resources to help businesses comply with the Ordinance.

1

Visit the city's website:
el-cerrito.org/foodware

2

Review the attached resource list of products that are compliant. These are examples and the City does not endorse any specific products or vendors.

3

Food establishments are invited to schedule a visit or consultation with the City to receive information, ask questions, or share your thoughts.

CONTACT

Questions about the Ordinance? Want to provide input?
Contact Christina Leard at CLeard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-215-4338.
Visit el-cerrito.org/foodware

