



Sustainable Food Packaging: Link to Zero Waste & Atlanta Airport Project

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Overview

- Why ILSR?
- Why is sustainable food packaging important?
- Sustainable Food Court Initiative
- Atlanta Airport project
 - Foodservice packaging compostability requirements
 - Definition of compostable foodservice ware
 - Information packet for airport concourse food vendors
- A word about recyclable food packaging



Why ILSR?

- Promoting zero waste planning & goals for 15+ years
- Documenting communities & venues with highest materials recovery levels
- Evaluating sustainable plastics since 2006
- Co-chairing the Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative since 2008)
- Composting is inherently local

Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative: Market-based tools

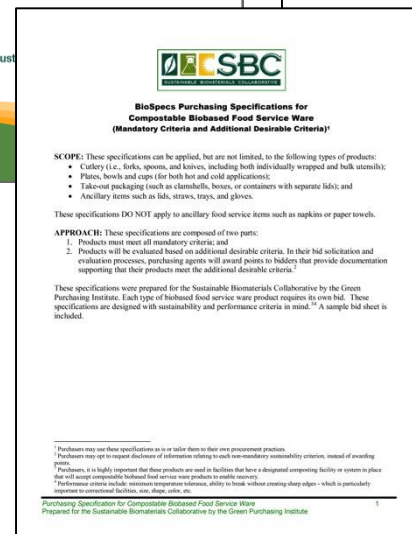
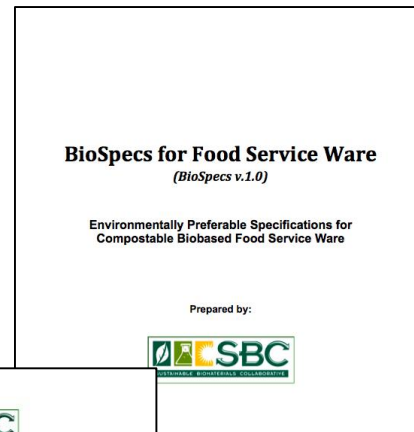
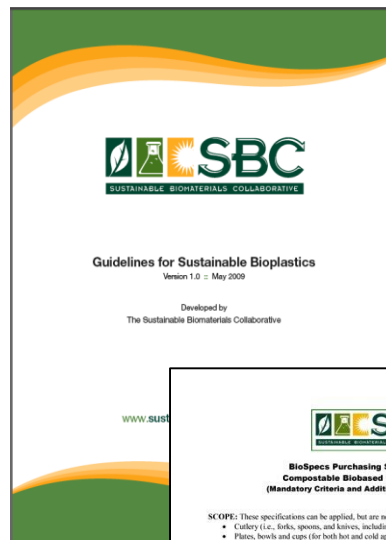
- Sustainable feedstocks / Sustainable agriculture
- Green Chemistry / Clean Production
- Closed Loop Systems / Cradle to Cradle / Zero Waste



**WORKING
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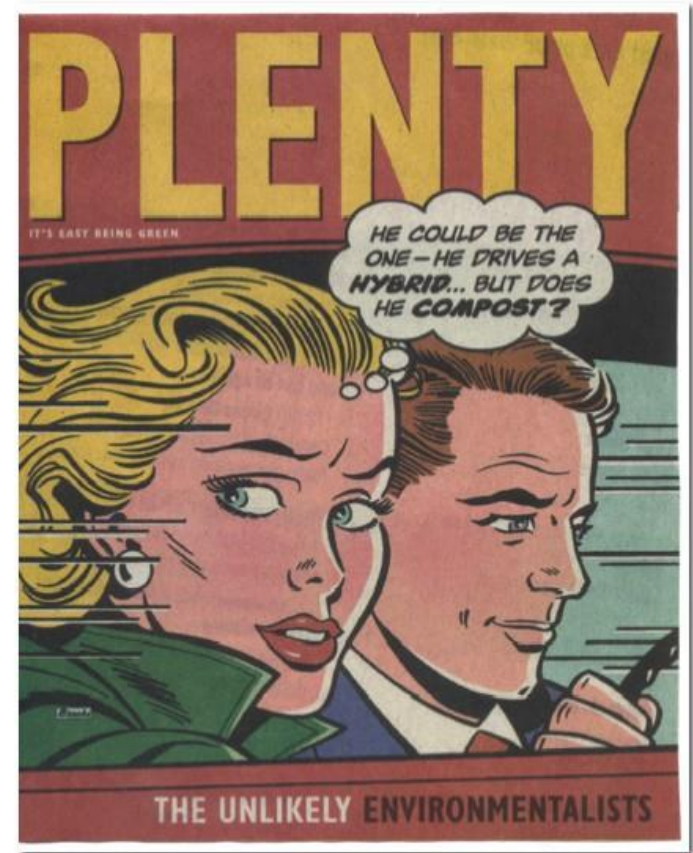


"Just because it's biobased, doesn't make it green"



Composting = Local

- # Organics do not ship well
- # Composting is small-scale
- # Compost products are used locally
- # Jobs are local
- # Dollars circulate within local economies
- # Local = good for local economies



Need for Sustainable Food Packaging

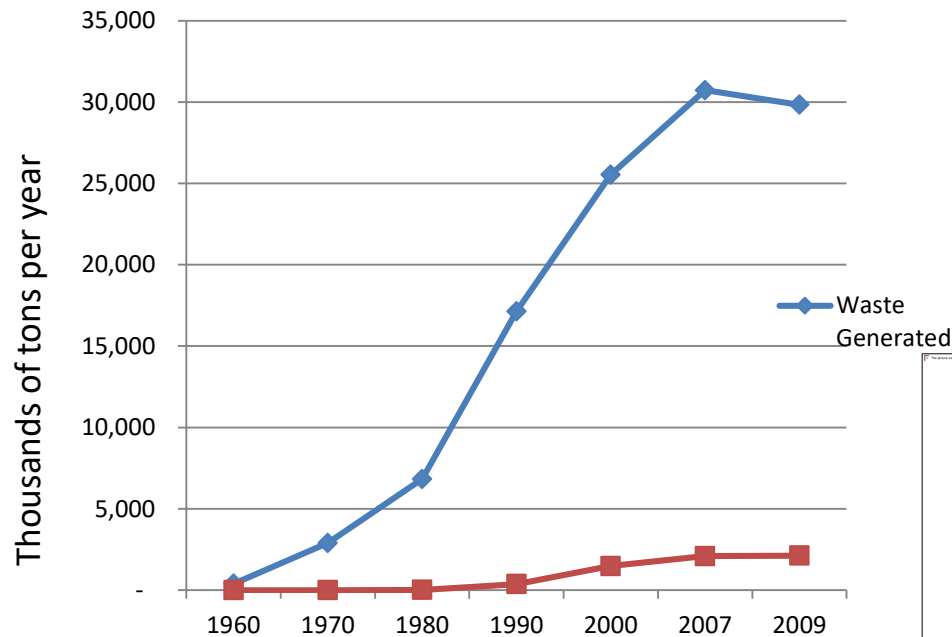


Source: US EPA, 2009 data (<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/msw99.htm>)

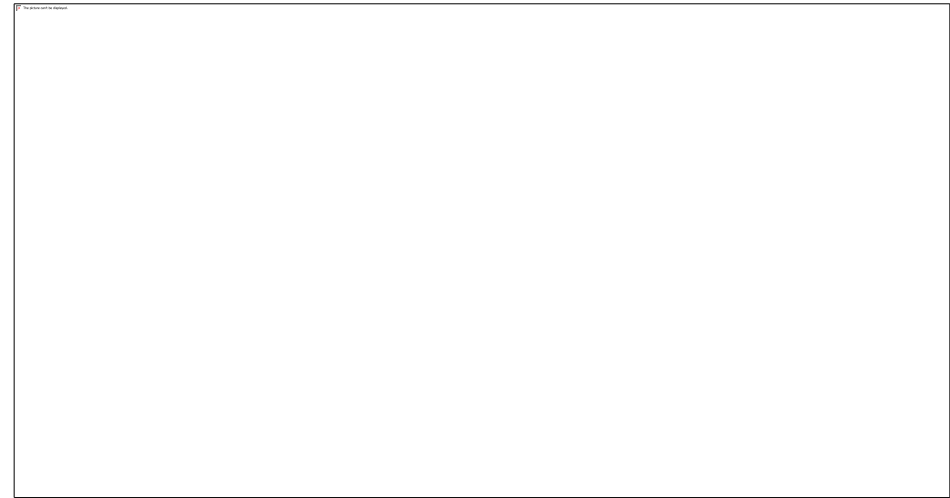


Plastics Recycling vs Composting Levels

Plastics Recycling

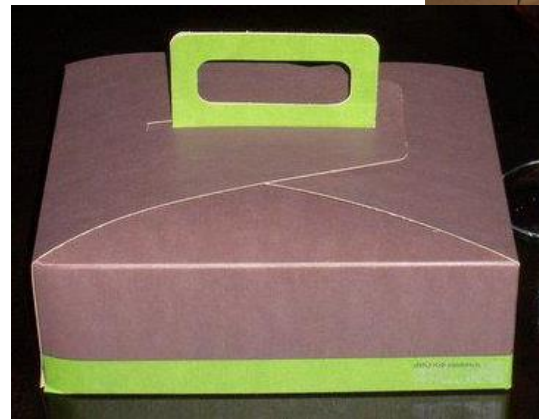


Yard Debris Composting



Source: US EPA, 2009 data (<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/msw99.htm>)

Sustainable Food Packaging



Sustainable packaging photos courtesy: Holly Elmore, Elemental Impact

Communities with Polystyrene Restrictions

California:

- Berkeley
- City of Calabasas
- City of Capitola
- Emeryville
- Huntington Beach
- City of Laguna Woods
- Malibu
- Monterey
- Mill Valley
- Millbrae
- Newport Beach

- Oakland
- Pacific Grove
- Palo Alto
- Richmond
- City of San Clemente
- San Francisco
- San Mateo County
- Santa Cruz County
- Santa Monica
- Sonoma County
- Ventura County

Other:

- Freeport, Maine
- Portland, Oregon
- Seattle, Washington
- Takoma Park, Maryland



San Francisco: Aiming for Zero Waste



Seattle: Compostable Foodservice Ware



Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport Vendor Contract

“Concessionaire shall use compostable serviceware along with consumer facing packaging and source separate all food service wastes for direct transport to off airport composting facilities.”

National Restaurant Association
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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Sustainability takes off at Atlanta airport
Posted by Elissa Elan on January 10, 2012 4:15 PM
A provision in Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport's new 10-year operating contract requiring concessionaires to use compostable packaging as well as compost waste is one of the most significant sustainability initiatives of its kind, said Christopher Moyer, subject matter expert for the National Restaurant Association's Conserve Sustainability Education Program.
Moyer, along with Holly Elmore, founder and CEO of sustainability concern Elemental Impact, a strategic partner of the NRA, and onsite foodservice m HMBHost, spearheaded a taskforce that just completed a yearlong story project yielding tools and solutions concessionaires can use to y with the contract's zero-waste provision.
[request for proposal] is game changing because of the sheer size of the t," Moyer said. "It's one of the busiest in the nation. By implementing this they essentially are changing the way food items are served there. anies will now be required to put their products in compostable packaging."
"said Conserve and Atlanta-based Elemental Impact would work together icate operators so they can meet the parameters of the new contract, include using compostable, consumer-facing packaging and serviceware il as source separate, recycle and compost organic material.
nserve, we will work on solutions with our partners, like HMB Host, and suggestions that help the airport's concessionaires comply with the RFP easily and cost effectively," he said. "It's all very exciting."
"lost, a member of both the NRA and Elemental Impact, is one of eight ervice contractors awarded contracts at Hartsfield airport Jan. 3. The try will oversee foodservice operations at the airport's Atrium food court a new International Concourse F, which debuts this spring.
h it could take as long as 18 months to fully implement the contract's waste initiative, Moyer said he and Elemental Impact will "roll up our as and make solutions available that help concessionaires find recycling ents and meet the requirements involved in the contract. It's not long that will happen overnight, but it will happen in time."
ded that the two groups would, in the next few weeks, ask questions and or solutions geared toward helping offset the costs of transferring over to stable products. "That's our role," he said.
For more information on Conserve, visit the website at <http://conserve.restaurant.org/>.

Atlanta Airport Makes a Bold Sustainable Statement
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Concourse T, serves as the Sustainable Food Court Initiative's first pilot project. See the ZNY Blog post, *Atlanta Airport - First SFC Pilot*, for details on the pilot announcement, including the national team members.
In order for SFC pilot success, concessionaires must be required to use sustainable packaging and source-separate compostable and recyclable materials for processing versus landfill destination. Changes in contracts with concessionaires and a team spirit with the airport waste hauler along with the contracted custodial companies are a necessity for success.
With perfect timing, the Atlanta Airport is in the midst of the concessionaire RFP for the entire airport. The City of Atlanta Office of Sustainability and Department of Aviation Management & Sustainability for the Airport, led by Michael Cheyne, Director of Asset Management & Sustainability for the Airport, made the bold, courageous and successful move to include the following provision in the RFP:
"Concessionaire shall use compostable serviceware along with consumer facing packaging and source separate all food service wastes for direct transport to off airport composting facilities."
As the world's busiest airport, the new concessionaires will run the entire gamut from local concepts to the nation's largest chains and quick service restaurants. This provision serves as a catalyst to evolve restaurant consumer packaging at every level.
With the support of the National Restaurant Association, the Foodservice Packaging Institute, Institute for Local Self Reliance, Elemental Impact and leading industry

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Atlanta Airport SFC Pilot ACTION
Panthers Winning Recycling Season
Sustainable Foodservice Packaging Meeting
A POWERFUL Cyberspace Network
NRA Leads Industry Collaboration

WEBSITE LINKS
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SBC SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIALS COLLABORATIVE

COMPOSTABLE
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www.sustainablebiomaterials.org

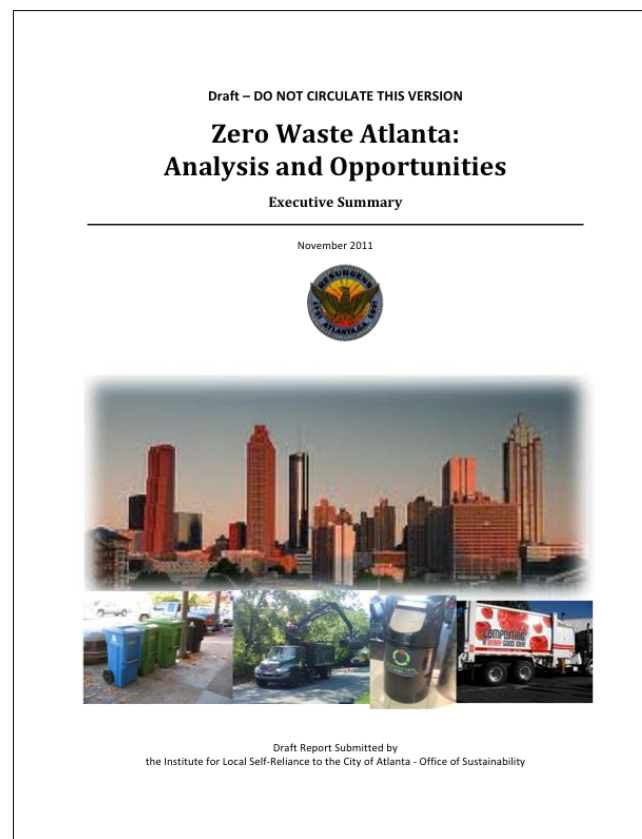
Off-site Composter



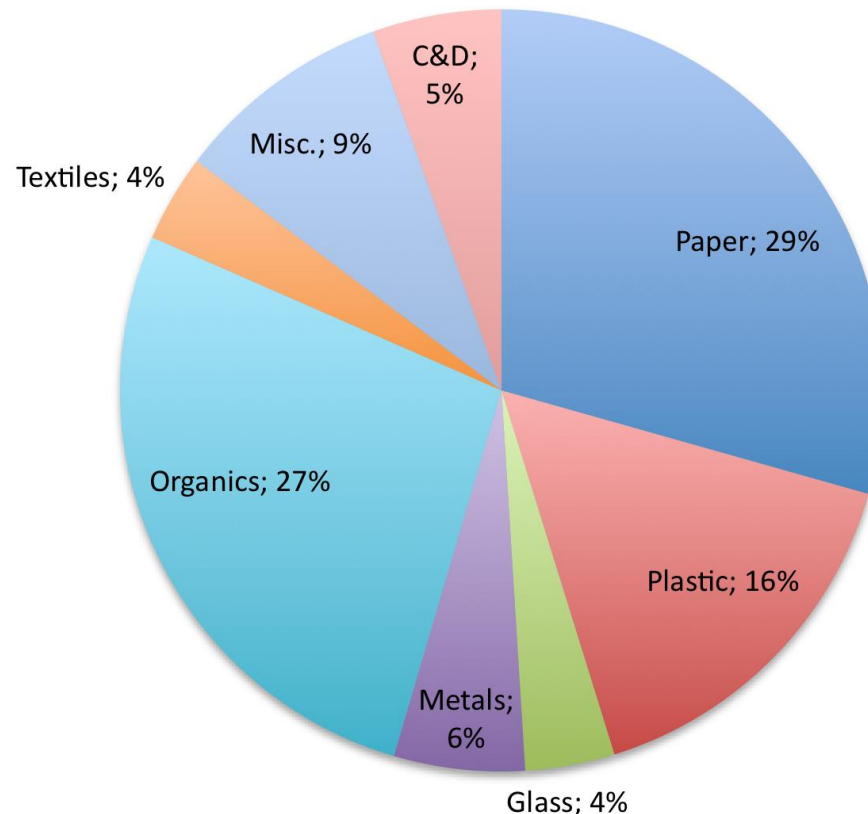
Photos Courtesy: Holly Elmore, Elemental Impact

Why composting at the Atlanta Airport Is important

- Airport generates 19,000 tons per year
- Food scraps represent about one-third
- Non-recyclable paper and plastic foodservice ware also significant volume
- Airport goal: 50% material diverted from landfill disposal by 2015



Atlanta Marketable Commodities Landfilled



Composition of municipal solid waste for the Atlanta 10-county region

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs, *Georgia Statewide Waste Characterization Study*, Final Report, by R.W. Beck, June 22, 2005

Educational Packet for Food Vendors

- Composting: What Is It & Why Do It?
- Why Composting at the Atlanta Airport Is Important?
- The Importance of Packaging in Successful Composting
- Requirements That BPI-Certified Products Shall Be Used
- Types of Products Covered
- Common Points of Confusion



Information for Food Vendors cont.

- Why require foodservice ware to be compostable?
- What is the difference between recyclable and compostable products?
- Why is the Airport requiring BPI-certified products?
- Where can compostable products be found?
- Why is it important to find out about product coatings such as grease barriers?



Recyclable Food Packaging

Closing the Loop on Paper
Food Packaging

Coalition for Resource Recovery
www.thecorr.org



- Paper packaging pre-screened for recyclability
- Restaurants bag spent paper food packaging in 100% recycled content paper bags
- Bags of spent packaging are collected with old corrugated cardboard (OCC) or existing trucks and recycled into high value materials.
- The benefit: Reduced waste costs for restaurants, valuable fiber added to recycling stream, and a net greenhouse gas benefit.

Summary of CoRR Key Findings

An array of packaging from coffee cups to salad containers have favorable recyclability and repulpability characteristics demonstrated through lab tests. Pre- and post-consumer lab results were analogous for lab testing of coffee cups.



Boxes & Cups

Mill Interest

- Tissue, containerboard, deinked pulp, and other emerging processes all are requesting feedstock for mill trials.
- ***CoRR is currently calling for Quick Service Restaurants with locations in NYC to join the pilot!***

To participate in the NYC pilot, please contact Lily Kelly at lkelly@globalgreen.org.

www.thecorr.org



Sustainable Food Packaging: Highest and Best Use

Products should be:

- ✓ Reusable,
- ✓ Recyclable, or
- ✓ Compostable

