

TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Lee - Lenox – Stockbridge
Lee Board of Health

**LIST OF ALTERNATIVES FOR PLASTIC PRODUCTS TO BE REGULATED BY THE TOWN OF LEE BEGINNING
IN MAY 2017, IN ACCORDANCE WITH BYLAWS ADOPTED IN MAY 2016**

November 15, 2016

In accordance with the bylaws, the Lee Board of Health is issuing this document, which includes lists of approved alternatives, examples of websites where products can be found, tips for finding acceptable items, and background and explanatory information. Based upon available information and the by-laws' provisions, the Lee Board of Health believes that ample alternatives exist to most if not all the regulated products. Yet, it will consider additional alternatives and update the information in this document as needed.

Approved Alternatives to Foam and Rigid Polystyrene Products

• **Biodegradable/compostable alternatives:**

The Board of Health has determined that certification by the not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder association Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) shall be the governing criterion for this category of alternatives. The Board also approves items with the “OK compost” certification from Vinçotte, the Belgium-based inspection entity, that products are biodegradable and compostable in compliance with European Union standard UNI EU 13432. As one example, Crown Poly, a leading US bag manufacturer, makes a compostable produce bag using a European company's material that is certified OK compost. In addition, the Board approves plain, uncoated, brown, white, or off-white paper plates and cups under this alternative product category.

Following is a partial list of suppliers (non-local ones include website addresses) that carry BPI-certified products (in most cases you will have to enter BPI certified in the websites' search engine to find BPI-certified products). Note that many websites offer “biodegradable” and “compostable” products but do not provide evidence of certified compliance with ASTM standards. The Board of Health considers such certification essential.

- Lee Hardware (contact Fred Levine)
- Be Green Packaging, LLC – <http://begreenpackagingstore.com/>
- Bgreen Today – <http://bgreentoday.com/>
- Eco Products – <https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/>
- FoodBizSupply – <http://www.foodbizsupply.com/>

- Greenstaurant – <http://greenstaurant.com/>
- Mansfield Paper Company, Inc. (Springfield, MA) – <http://mansfieldpaper.com/>
- Renewables (cups only) – <http://www.renewablesbrand.com/>
- Sam’s Club (selected clamshells only) – <http://www.samsclub.com/sams/homepage.jsp>
- Staples – <http://www.staples.com/>
- Tundra Restaurant Supply – <http://restaurant-supplies.etundra.com/>

The online BPI Product Catalog (<http://www.bpiworld.org/BPI-Public/Approved/1.html>) covers the full range of alternatives to products made from foam or rigid polystyrene. The following table includes the name of any company and any applicable brand names appearing in the BPI Product Catalog as of early October 2016. It also indicates which product types regulated by the bylaw are made by each company. BPI continuously updates the catalog. When ordering or re-ordering products, businesses should refer to the catalog to ensure the products are still certified. The catalog provides contact information for each company listed and a list of each company’s certified products, along with an SKU number.

Businesses searching for approved products should –

1. review the table,
2. find one or more companies that manufacture the desired product(s),
3. go to the BPI catalog (<http://products.bpiworld.org/>),
4. find the company/ies in the list,
5. click where indicated for a list of products,
6. note the company, brand, and product names, and the SKU of the desired items, and
7. search online for suppliers or contact their materials supplier to see if they carry the desired products (note that some manufacturers’ websites have a link for finding distributors); or go to a supplier of choice and see if it carries the certified product(s) you are seeking.

Note that several of the companies included in the BPI Catalog as well as those cited in the table have additional products to those listed, including lids, straws, cutlery, sample cups, cup holders, various types of bags, and resins and films for various products covered by our bylaws.

COMPANY – BRAND (IF ANY)	HOT CUPS	COLD CUPS	PLATES	BOWLS	SERVING TRAYS	RAW FOOD TRAYS	FOAM CONTAINER OPTIONS	RIGID CONTAINER OPTIONS
Asean – Stalkmarket	√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Aura Eco Packaging (Novnz, Inc.)					√			
Be Green Packaging LLC			√	√	√	√	√	√
Besics Packaging Corp. – BSI Biodegradable Solutions	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Biodegradable Food Service (Earth-To-Go)	√	√		√			√	√
Bridge-Gate Alliance Group			√	√	√		√	√
CFK Inc – Royal Chinet, Savaday, Earthcycle, Paprus					√	√	√	√
Conglom Inc – Ieco	√						√	
Darnel Inc			√	√		√	√	√
Dyne-A-Pak, Inc						√	√	
e2e FoodPack Inc	√			√				
Eco Guardian	√		√	√		√	√	√
Eco Kloud	√		√	√	√		√	√
Eco-Green Packaging			√	√	√		√	
Eco Packaging Inc	√	√	√			√	√	√
Eco Products Inc	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ener Worldwide Sdn Bhd			√	√			√	
Fabri-Kal Corp		√				√	√	√
Gallimore Products – Galligreen	√		√	√			√	√
Genpak LLC – Harvest	√		√	√	√		√	
Geotegrity Eco Pack (Xiamen Co Ltd)		√	√	√	√	√	√	
GP Pro	√		√	√			√	

COMPANY – BRAND (IF ANY)	HOT CUPS	COLD CUPS	PLATES	BOWLS	SERVING TRAYS	RAW FOOD TRAYS	FOAM CONTAINER OPTIONS	RIGID CONTAINER OPTIONS
Green Century Enterprises Inc	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
Green Wave International Inc			√	√	√	√	√	√
Green Good Eco-Tech Company	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
Guangxi Qiaowang Pulp Packaging Products Co Ltd – Qiaowang	√		√	√	√	√	√	
Hanchang Paper Co Ltd – GreenUS	√	√		√				
Hefei Hengxin Env Science and Technology – HXIN	√			√				
Hoffmaster – Earth Wise Tree Free			√	√			√	√
Hong Kong Cup Product Mfy Ltd	√							
Huhtamaki – Chinnet, Huhtamaki			√	√			√	
Hung Fu Xin Co Ltd – GreenFuture	√	√		√		√		
International Paper – Ecotainer	√	√					√	
Jiun Yo Co Ltd	√							
Leafware LLC			√	√				√
Lollicup USA – Karat Earth	√	√	√	√			√	√
Minima Technology Co Ltd	√	√						

COMPANY – BRAND (IF ANY)	HOT CUPS	COLD CUPS	PLATES	BOWLS	SERVING TRAYS	RAW FOOD TRAYS	FOAM CONTAINER OPTIONS	RIGID CONTAINER OPTIONS
MW Polar (Milky Way International) – Sun Harvest, Dynamic, My Share			√	√				
Nanofiber Tech Inc	√							
President Packaging Ind Corp	√			√				
PrimeWare/PrimeLink Solutions LLC – PrimeWare	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
Reynolds Consumer Products Inc – Hefty			√	√	√			
Sabert Corp – TerraPac			√	√	√		√	√
Sans Packaging Co Ltd	√			√				
Seda North America	√							
SelfEco	√	√	√	√				
Shandong Run Ming Bio Development Co Ltd			√	√	√		√	
Shaoneng Group GuangdongLuZhou Paper Mould Packing Products Co., Ltd – LuZhou			√	√	√		√	
Solo Cup (Dart Container Corp) – Bare	√		√				√	
Staples – Sustainable Earth	√		√	√				
Total Packaging Solutions LLC	√		√	√		√	√	
Totempak	√			√			√	
TrueChoicePack – BioGreenChoice	√	√	√	√	√		√	√

COMPANY – BRAND (IF ANY)	HOT CUPS	COLD CUPS	PLATES	BOWLS	SERVING TRAYS	RAW FOOD TRAYS	FOAM CONTAINER OPTIONS	RIGID CONTAINER OPTIONS
Vegware Ltd	√	√	√	√			√	
VerTerra Ltd			√	√				
Wenzhou Keyi Environmental Protection Tableware Co., Ltd			√	√	√		√	
Wenzhou Sanxing Eco-Friendly Packaging Co., Ltd	√		√	√		√	√	
Winfa Packaging Co Ltd		√						√
WinGram International Co Ltd							√	
World Centric	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Xiamen Wei Mon Environmental Materials Co., Ltd – PlandPaper	√		√	√				
YJS Environmental Technologies Co., Ltd – PlandPaper	√		√	√				

• **Recyclable Alternatives:**

To maintain public safety, the Board of Health has approved the following items:

- Cardboard/paperboard – preferably unbleached/totally chlorine free, unlined or lined with a US Food and Drug Administration approved – and preferably bio-based – material
- Polypropylene drink and food containers (recycle symbol #5)
- Aluminum foil, trays, and containers
- Food wrap papers – preferably unbleached/totally chlorine free – coated with a US Food and Drug Administration approved – and preferably bio-based – material.

Approved Alternatives for Reusable Shopping Bags, Recyclable Paper Bags, and Raw Food and Bulk Item Bags

- **Reusable shopping bag alternatives:**

Numerous companies make reusable bags and even more distributors – most of them online – exist to sell them. In accordance with the bag reduction bylaw, the Board of Health currently approves the use of the following materials to manufacture reusable shopping bags. The bags must meet all other specifications set forth in the bylaw.

- Polypropylene (woven or non-woven) - preferably with some recycled content (any materials used to laminate bags must be recyclable)
- Polyester (woven)
- Nylon
- Cotton (natural, recycled, or organic)
- Cotton canvas

- **Recyclable Paper Bags:**

Following is a partial list of companies that sell bags meeting the bylaw's requirements. On most websites, search for recycled paper bags or recycled paper shopping bags.

- American Retail Supply - <http://www.americanretailsupply.com/>
- Green Valley Packaging (CT-based) - <http://www.gvpackaging.com/>
- Mansfield Paper (Springfield, MA) - <https://www.mansfieldpaper.com/>
- Novolex (Duro Bag brand) - <http://novolex.com/>
- Packaging Specialists (Newburyport, MA) - <http://pack-spec.com/>
- Stewart's Packaging - <http://www.stewartspackaging.com/>
- Uline - <https://www.uline.com/>
- WebstaurantStore - <http://www.webstaurantstore.com/>

- **Raw Food and Bulk Item Bags**

The following companies manufacture BPI certified compostable bags. Please look them up in the BPI Product Catalog (<http://products.bpiworld.org/>)

- Al-pack
- Anhui Jumei Biological Technical Co., Ltd. – Ecopoly brand

- BioBag-Americas
- Eco Concept Service – Bagherra brand

In addition to the compostable bags certified by BPI, the Board of Health approves 100 percent (100%) recyclable paper made with at least forty percent (40%) postconsumer recycled material, which is available from multiple sources. It also approves Compostable cellophane or other cellulosic material, one example being Eco Clear Compostable Bags from ClearBags (www.clearbags.com). The Board also approves Compostable unbleached wax paper made with non-petroleum-based wax, but has not yet found products that fully comply with the definition in the bylaw. At least on a temporary basis, the Board approves these product types manufactured by If You Care (www.ifyoucare.com) and offered by EcoCraft Packaging, from BagcraftPapercon, a subsidiary of Packaging Dynamics (www.bagcraft.com).

As noted earlier, this list is not exhaustive and the market is rapidly changing with new alternatives continually being developed. The Board of Health recognizes that alternatives might be more limited in some areas than others. It will consider alternatives not included in this list, and will provide exemptions where no approved alternatives yet exist.

Important notice: *The Lee Board of Health has identified in this document companies selling approved alternative products, doing so solely for informational purposes to assist establishments in finding compliant items that meet their needs. Neither the Board of Health nor its designee, the Tri-Town Health Department, endorses any company by including it in this document. Any company offering products that meet the specifications set forth in the by-laws and this document and wanting to be considered for inclusion in the document should contact the Tri-Town Health Department and provide any requested information.*

Background and Rationale

As stated in each adopted bylaw: “Not later than 180 days following the adoption of this bylaw, the Lee Board of Health or its designee shall adopt a list that it shall periodically update of approved and available alternatives for each product type. The approved alternatives shall be (1) appropriate for the respective product type; (2) consistent with the other provisions of this bylaw; (3) made of materials that (a) in the near term may be partially or entirely fossil-fuel based; (b) are non-toxic according to the then most current research; and (c) compostable, biodegradable (other than oxo-, hydro-, or thermo-degradable, and not including materials containing potentially harmful or incompatible additives for facilitating or accelerating degradation), or recyclable and/or reusable as established by certified compliance with then current ASTM standards, if any, or, in their absence, specifications established by the Board of Health or its designee; and (4) meet such other criteria as the Board of Health or its designee shall establish from time to time.”

The Lee Board of Health has decided in accordance with the bylaws that the foundation for the list of alternatives for most products covered by the bylaws shall be certified compliance with ASTM standard D6400 or D6868 as determined by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). Such compliance means that the compost produced by items approved for composting in municipal or industrial facilities meets strict biological and chemical standards, and has no adverse impacts on the ability of the compost to support plant growth. This means that the compost is safe and of high quality. Therefore, an element of public and environmental health and safety is embedded in the cited ASTM standards and BPI's certification. "BPI is a not-for-profit... professional association of key individuals and groups from government, industry and academia, which promotes the use and recycling of biodegradable polymeric materials (via composting). The BPI is open to any materials and products that demonstrate (via scientifically proven techniques) that their products are completely biodegradable in approved composting facilities." (BPI website)

Any product certified by BPI as being compostable must meet rigorous criteria based upon compliance with ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868.

- ASTM D6400, specifically cited in the plastic bag reduction bylaw, "covers plastics and products made from plastics that are designed to be composted in municipal and industrial aerobic composting facilities."
- ASTM D6868, not specifically cited in the bylaws, "covers biodegradable plastics and products (including packaging), where plastic film or sheet is attached (either through lamination or extrusion directly onto the paper) to substrates and the entire product or package is designed to be composted in municipal and industrial aerobic composting facilities."

The online BPI Product Catalog covers the full range of alternative products to those made from foam or rigid polystyrene that are regulated by the respective bylaw. It also covers bags made from bioplastics, including those required in the plastic bag reduction bylaw.

Items that comply with ASTM D6400 and D6868 may include petrochemically based materials. To avoid these materials, you would need to examine the list of product ingredients.

Date Approved: November 16, 2016 by its Lee Board of Health Members

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