



**TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Lee - Lenox – Stockbridge**

Achieving Zero Waste: We can't do it without YOU!

Minimize event impact and help us achieve the Town of Lee's green goals

The Tri-Town Health Department and Lee Recycling Committee encourage a zero-waste (recycling/composting) effort during special events – such as Lee Founders Weekend – to minimize trash. The success of our Zero Waste efforts during Founders Weekend reflects the transition of food vendors to using recyclable and compostable products. We greatly appreciate your cooperation, as you are the weekend's largest waste generators.

Massachusetts cannot dispose of all the trash generated within its borders, so must ship it out of state. This situation is not sustainable. Separating recyclable and compostable items from trash can greatly reduce the volume that must be disposed of. Zero Waste efforts minimize the total waste sent to landfills or incinerators by recovering as much recyclable and compostable material as possible.

Here are some tips/requests to help us approach our Zero Waste goal:

- When purchasing products for Founders Weekend (and, ideally, the rest of the year), it's important to comply with the Town's bylaws regulating the use of thin-film plastic bags and polystyrene drink and food containers.
- Many products claim to be eco- or earth friendly, but that doesn't mean they're compostable. To ensure you're purchasing truly compostable products, please look for the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certification. Items are available from a range of sellers, from Mansfield Paper in West Springfield to multiple online stores, such as Amazon, greenpaperproducts.com, and more. The products range from hot and cold cups, to plates, clamshells, cutlery, and bag liners. Note that plain paper products are compostable and are available locally.
- When choosing recyclable items, please look at the triangle symbol that tells you what type of material they are made from. Note that the only plastics that are recyclable locally and for which a market exists have a 1 or a 2 inside the triangle.
- Please avoid using cups, plates, and bowls with colors or plastic coatings, and avoid food containers with metal.
- Please use BPI certified compostable cutlery (one vendor is WorldCentric – the holes in the handles make them readily distinguishable from other, non-compostable cutlery. This is especially helpful as it gets dark.



Because events such as Founders Weekend are intended to be zero-waste events, all vendors must carry all their trash back with them. You will not be able to dispose of your trash in Lee. Local vendors must use their own bins for their trash.

Thank you in advance for helping us to achieve zero waste at Founders Weekend and other special events.