



May 1, 2023

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415.302.0110

San Rafael City Council  
City Hall  
1401 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**RE: Reusable Foodware Ordinance**

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,  
Sustainable San Rafael urges your adoption of the proposed Reusable Foodware Ordinance. This is a significant step towards keeping unnecessary plastic and paper foodware out of our landfills and assuring that take-out containers and accessories are fully compostable.

The straightforward requirement of reusable foodware and utensils for sit-down meals in restaurants and cafes also enables left-over food to be properly disposed of in green carts for conversion to compost or food-to-energy electricity.

In addition, requiring reusable or natural-fiber organic foodware for take-out meals keeps plastics and other chemicals from polluting resource-recovery streams and the larger environment. This allows the production of high-quality compost for organic agriculture, home gardening, and carbon sequestration in healthy soils--all in alignment with SB1383. Moreover, it reduces health impacts from ingesting these harmful and potentially carcinogenic pollutants.

Sustainable San Rafael requests that you continue to ramp up these benefits through public education, in collaboration with Marin Sanitary Service. We also urge that you work with state and federal representatives to expand 'extended producer responsibility' laws so that the corporations responsible for coating grocery packaging in plastics and other non-compostable materials are prohibited from doing so.

Consumers have a right to products and services that are not harmful to their health and the environment. Thank you for undertaking this commonsense Foodware Ordinance, which is an example of the kind of systemic change that governments can achieve to help create a more sustainable world.

Sincerely,

William Carney, President