

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# Green To Go

Association of Recycling Managers

Cindy Weckwerth  
Supervisor, Food Lodging and Pools

Leslie Foreman  
Community Liaison

# Green To Go

- History
- Revisions
- Work group
- Education
- Implementation
- Lessons learned



# History

- First introduced 1989
  - “Packaging” shall mean and include all food-related wrappings, adhesives, cords, bindings, strings, tapes, ribbons, bags, boxes, coverings and containers, cups, glasses, plates and serving trays
  - Many items without a recycling market



# Unless



# History

- Updated in 1996
  - Added glass bottles, tin and aluminum cans
  - Some items removed
  - Foam remained in the ordinance to be recycled
    - Requirement to recycle foam was not enforced



# 2014 Revisions - Goal

- Reduce waste
- Encourage a recyclable and compostable waste stream



# 2014 Revisions

- Food packaged on site
- Immediate consumption
- Compostable plastics added
- Preferred plastics added based on robust market conditions
- Waste stream management
- Revised overly punitive enforcement language



# Exclusions

- Food pre-packaged by
  - Manufacturer • Producer • Distributor
- Plastic films less than ten (10) mils thick
- Plastic utensils
- Straws and stir sticks
- Hospitals and Nursing Homes





# Education and Outreach

- Emphasis on education and compliance
- Licensed food businesses

Flyer

English, Spanish, Somali, Chinese,  
Hmong and Vietnamese

Flyer  
mailed in license  
renewal form

Health  
Inspectors

eNewsletters

Website

Cultural Community  
Forums

Packaging Fairs

311 Script

Business Associations

Media coverage

Sales reps



# Hennepin County support

- Free
  - Labels and signs, bin set up
  - Cost savings estimates
- Business Grants up to \$50,000
- [www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling](http://www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling)



# Implementation work group

- Membership
- Recommendations:
  - Exclude catering companies
  - Immediate consumption
- Temporary product exemptions
- Exempt until April 22, 2017:
  - Polyethylene (PE) plastic lined paper cups and containers
  - Lids for hot cups and containers
- Exempt until April 22, 2016
  - Lids for cold cups



# Phased implementation - 2015

- Goal: Compliance
- Adopted May 2014
- Delayed implementation to April 22, 2015
- 2015 – Containers
  - Emphasize education
  - Issue orders
  - No citations unless egregious



# Phased implementation - 2016

- 2016 – Managing waste stream
  - Packaging: issue orders and citations
  - Collection bins and waste stream management:
  - Emphasize education
  - Issue orders
  - No citations unless egregious



# Lessons learned

- BOMA - Building Owners and Managers Assn.
- Haulers
- Exemptions
- Outreach & Education is Essential



# Website Screen Shot

[www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo)

## Health Department

Home > Health Department > Food, Lodging, and Pools



### Food, Lodging & Pools

Public Service Center  
250 S. 4th St., Room 510  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

- Health Department +
- Environmental Services
- Grants & RFPs
- Food, Lodging, and Pools -
  - Food Safety
  - Green To Go >>
    - Farmers Markets
    - Hotels
    - Civic Events
    - Swimming Pools
    - Body Art Establishments
    - Tanning Facilities
    - Non-Community Wells
    - Training
    - Food Safety Inspection Videos
    - Plan Review Processes
    - Definitions & Types of Food Establishments
    - Environmental Health Complaint Form
    - HACCP
    - Links & Resources
- Healthy Homes & Lead Hazard Control +
- Healthy & Safe Youth +
- Healthy Seniors +
- Healthy Sexuality +
- Internship & Seasonal Technician Opportunities +

## Green To Go

### Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance

The Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance requires food and beverages prepared for immediate consumption and to-go must be placed in environmentally acceptable packaging. Recyclable materials must be recycled. Compostable plastics must be composted.

*The ordinance went into effect on April 22, 2015*

Informational handouts describing the requirements of the of the Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance are available in English: [Green To Go Flyer](#), Spanish: [Ordenanza para Envases Ambientalmente Aceptables](#), Hmong: [Siv Cov Ntim Khoom Kom Zoo Rau Tej Chaw Puag Ncig](#), Somali: [Xeerka Konteenarada Deegaan-Ahaan La-Aqabli Karo](#), and [Chinese](#) 环保包装条例.

### Green To Go FAQs

Find answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

### What is Packaging?

Cans, bottles, or containers used to package food or beverages for immediate consumption including glasses, cups, plates, serving trays, and to-go containers.



Examples of packaging



Not Allowed

• Rigid polystyrene plastic marked #6:

# Discussion

Cindy Weckwerth

612-673-3485

[cindy.weckwerth@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:cindy.weckwerth@minneapolisismn.gov)

Leslie Foreman

612-673-3544

[leslie.foreman@minneapolisismn.gov](mailto:leslie.foreman@minneapolisismn.gov)

