



Join the Pledge to Keep Compost Guidelines Free of Plastics!

The Problem:

Many plastic-coated paper products are accepted in community composting programs, including milk and juice cartons, hot and cold paper drinking cups, frozen food containers, plastic-lined paper bags, take-out containers and some paper plates. Also, some programs use plastic collection bags containing a filler or additive that are sold as being “degradable”, “biodegradable”, “oxo-degradable”, etc. but do not meet BPI /ASTM standards for compostability.

Why is this a Problem?

The quality of compost dispersed through soil application into the greater environment will have an impact on the health of local and global ecosystems. In addition, the long-term business success of the growing compost industry relies upon the production of a clean product. New Eco-Cycle/Woods End Laboratories research shows that the plastic-coated paper products that are currently being accepted as feedstock by some composting facilities are producing both macro and micro-fragments of non-biodegradable plastic, which then contaminate the finished compost and, therefore, the soils where this compost is applied. The same can be inferred for plastic bags that are not certified to be compostable.

The Solution:

Eco-Cycle is asking you to join us by creating **guidelines that exclude plastic-containing products from all compost collection programs across the U.S.** We believe it’s critical to take action NOW. Collection programs like yours that are at the vanguard of the coming movement to compost municipal organics must set the right example for others to follow. *Will you join us?*

1. In your guidelines, include on your list of prohibited materials all plastic-coated paper products, including milk and juice cartons, hot and cold paper drinking cups, frozen food containers, plastic-lined paper bags, take-out containers and paper plates. (Go to www.ecocycle.org/specialreports/microplasticsincompost to see sample language.)
2. Specify that only certified compostable products are accepted in your compost collection program guidelines per ASTM 6400 or EN 13432, or the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). Recommended guidelines can be found at <http://www.ecocycle.org/recycle-compost-reuse/compost>.
3. Include in your educational materials information to dispel consumer confusion over packaging label claims to help them purchase BPI certified compostable products. (Go to <http://www.ecocycle.org/specialreports/microplasticsincompost> for sample language).

Signing below indicates that you agree to the above. If signing digitally, please type your name next to ‘signature.’ The full report can be found at <http://www.ecocycle.org/specialreports/microplasticsincompost>. Thanks for your help!

Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Company/Organization: _____

____ Yes, I allow Eco-Cycle to use my company’s logo on the list of organizations signing the pledge. The list will be published on Eco-Cycle’s website, in press releases and credited in public presentations.

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