UCERRA PARTNERS IN
COMPOSTING PROGRAM
CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE
PRODUCTS GUIDE

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
999 FLATBUSH ROAD KINGSTON NY 12401

UCERRA Organics
Recovery Facility
UCRRA Compostable Products Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Our mission is to protect public health and the environment and to promote sustainable materials management practices by efficiently managing solid waste materials with a focus on resource conservation.

Every year, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency’s Organics Recovery Facility turns thousands of tons of yard and food wastes into nutrient-rich compost for farmers, landscapers and home gardens. The quality compost product we produce aids in healthier and more resilient soils systems, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, recycling nutrients, and conserving water among other benefits to all who purchase our Grown Ulster Green compost product.

As a leader in community composting, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (“the Agency”) follows the industry standards for best practices in organics management. The Agency strives to always seek the best knowledge available to develop its professional expertise as a leader in composting, and strives to stay informed about new trends and emerging issues within the solid waste management industry.

“Compostable” packaging and service ware items have been on the rise for the past decade and are increasingly ending up in our facilities. The Agency recognizes that compostable packaging plays an important role in diverting organic materials from disposal, particularly for schools, food-related businesses, and community festivals. However, compostable products continue to strain the efficiency in our operations and the Agency must find ways to cope with the challenges and concerns related to compostable packaging.

This guidance document serves as an official memo to our Partners in Composting, to help your team understand our policy on compostable packaging and to help raise awareness of the emerging issues.

Sincerely,

Angelina Peone
Recycling Coordinator
Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

CC: Tim Rose, P.E., M.P.A., Executive Director
CC: Charles Whittaker, Director of Operations and Safety
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All compostable packaging must be approved by the Agency to ensure that it meets the following standards.

- **Acceptable items must be certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)** with ASTM D6400 and D6868 specifications.
- **Acceptable items must be current in the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) online database** www.products.bpiworld.org
- **An educational program must be in place to prevent and control any contamination of food scraps** by the users of the collection program. Training should include verbal or written directions, posters, stickers, etc. at the point of collection.
- **To the greatest extent possible, compostable packaging should be clearly labeled certified compostable, or otherwise should be easily identifiable as compostable such as having imprinting, color marks, etc.**

Please be advised that the Agency will continue to accept compostable packaging that is approved by the Agency, and that the Agency is striving to phase out all service ware packaging that is not BPI certified compostable. You should also be aware that the licensing and certification on a number of BPI products is no longer valid effective December 31st 2019 and that the Agency does not wish to accept any packaging that has had its licensing certification be eliminated by the Biodegradable Products Institute.

Thank you for your attention and for sharing our commitment to producing the best compost product possible. Your cooperation is essential to support our program. UCRRA recognizes the effort required to inform your customers or program participants of these developments and make the necessary changes. In an effort to demonstrate our support of your program, the Agency may allow a grace period to make any necessary changes. Please contact the Agency’s Recycling Coordinator at 845-336-0600 or email APEO@UCRRA.ORG should you have any questions about this memo.
## 2. COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS...FACT OR FICTION?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MYTH</strong></th>
<th><strong>TRUTH</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Packaging labeled ‘plant-based’ ‘eco-friendly’ or ‘biodegradable are compostable in industrial facilities’</td>
<td>There is little regulatory oversight over the use of branding or marketing claims as “biodegradable” “plant-based” “eco-friendly” and “compostable.” However, a certified compostable product has been scientifically tested for biodegradation (conversion of organic carbon to CO2), and disintegration (physical break down), and undergoes a technical analysis for heavy metals, and other laboratory tests to confirm no adverse impacts on the ability of compost to support plant growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compostable products break down completely in industrial composting facilities</td>
<td>Even certified compostable products are tested in a laboratory setting, and don’t always replicate ‘real-world’ applications. Many compostable products are heat resistant up to 190 degrees, whereas active composting temperatures typically reach 150-160 degrees. Some compostable products can take up to 190 days to fully degrade, whereas our active composting process is only 30 days, plus 60 days of curing. This means we have to remove partially degraded materials during the screening process and reintroduce them into new aeration zones several times before they fully decompose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compostable products are a better choice and are good for the environment</td>
<td>Durable, reusable items are always better than disposable items! Compostable products may require more fossil fuel energy use, release more greenhouse gases, or result in more toxicity than their non-compostable counterparts (Oregon DEQ). Handling packaging causes inefficiencies in our composting process, which also uses more energy and resources. Packaging designed for water and grease resistance may contain chemicals that can transfer into finished compost. BPI certification ensures no added chemicals are in their products.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)?
The BPI is a non-profit association with the largest certification program for compostable products and packaging in North America. [The BPI] logo verifies that products and packaging have been independently tested and verified according to scientifically based standards. Compostable products certified by BPI hold the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) technical standard based on pass/fail criteria for compostability using test methods and third party verification.

What are ASTM specifications?
ASTM D6400 covers labeling of polymers and finished products designed to be composted in industrial facilities. ASTM D6868 covers labeling of finished products that incorporate polymers as coatings or additives with paper, fiber, or other substrates designed to be composted in industrial facilities. BPI uses 6868 for uncoated paper, fiber, multi-layer flexible packaging, coffee pods, etc.

Why did BPI expire licensing on certain products?
Concerns around toxicity of fluorinated chemicals led BPI to change its certification program to eliminate fluorinated chemicals. BPI certified products not meeting the new requirements will be phased out by the end of 2019. Learn more at https://bpiworld.org/Fluorinated-Chemicals

How can I comply with these changes?
If foodservice ware compostable products are currently included in your food scraps collection program, please contact the Agency Recycling Coordinator to discuss your plan to phase out or discontinue any non-certified packaging. Notify the Recycling Coordinator of any changes or new products used in response to this memo.

We encourage you to share or forward this memo to the entire team. Guidance for searching for accepted items on the BPI website is provided on the following pages. Please note that all loads of food scraps are inspected as they are received by the Agency. You can expect ongoing feedback about the quality or contamination of your loads.
4. **USING THE BPI WEBSITE**

Visit [www.products.bpiworld.org](http://www.products.bpiworld.org) for a searchable database of thousands of certified compostable products. If you’re searching for a specific company or product name, try using the search bar feature to type in the product name or browse based on the specific type of packaging.

If you’re browsing to look at all options, you may also scroll down and use the Products Category feature.
Click on LIST OF PRODUCTS to view the certified products manufactured by that company.

Use the NAME, CATEGORY, AND SUBCATEGORY listings to identify the desired item in the database. For each item, be sure to record the SKU identification code, Product Name/Description, Brand/Company, and note any *Coloring or *Imprinting on the item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>SKU</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Subcategory</th>
<th>Color &amp; Printed/Unprinted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CB13</td>
<td>Compostable Can Liners, 24x425m, 15 gallon, 0.88ml, Green, 25 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags</td>
<td>Lt. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CB33</td>
<td>Compostable Can Liners, 30x359m, 30 gallon, 1.2ml, Green, 25 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags</td>
<td>Lt. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CB59</td>
<td>Compostable Can Liners, 33 x 396, 39 gallon, 0.9ml, Green, 25 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags</td>
<td>Green Printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CB45</td>
<td>Compostable Can Liners, 34x458m, 32 gallon, 1.0ml, Green, 20 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Compostable bags, Kitchen Waste Bags</td>
<td>Lt. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CLBS</td>
<td>Large Compostable Shopper Bag - 10 Gallon</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Compostable bags</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CBMS</td>
<td>Medium Compostable Shopper Bag - 7 Gallon</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Compostable bags</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-CB65</td>
<td>Compostable Can Liners, 42x486m, 46 gallon, 1.0ml, Green, 20 bags per roll, 5 rolls per case</td>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>Yard Waste bags, Compostable bags</td>
<td>Lt. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-SB24BASE</td>
<td>Renewable &amp; Compostable Salad Bowl BASE - 24oz.</td>
<td>Foodservice</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Uncolored Unprinted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-SB32BASE</td>
<td>Renewable &amp; Compostable Salad Bowl BASE - 32oz.</td>
<td>Foodservice</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Products</td>
<td>EP-SB54BASE</td>
<td>Renewable &amp; Compostable Squat Salad Bowl BASE - 48oz.</td>
<td>Foodservice</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Clear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact the company directly to coordinate any purchase orders or product questions.

Contact the Biodegradable Product Institute with any questions about using the database.

1-888-BPI-LOGO (274-5646)
Compostable Organics
THESE ITEMS ARE ACCEPTABLE

All food scraps and food residuals: uneaten food and food waste residuals including peelings, shavings, ends, cores, cooked or uncooked food scraps

BREAD  DAIRY  TEA BAGS
EGG SHELLS  COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS  MEAT  PASTA
FRUIT  BONES  VEGETABLES

When in doubt, ask! Call 845-336-0600

Compost Contaminants
ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

Non-food items including: plastics, glass, metal, cardboard, papers, waxed paper, produce stickers, rubber bands, twist ties, mesh food bags, condiment wrappers, grease, cooking oil, etc.

UTENSILS  LATEX GLOVES  BULK LIQUIDS
CARDBOARD  ALUMINUM FOIL  PIZZA BOXES  STRAWS
BREWERY WASTE  COATED PAPER PRODUCTS  ANIMAL MANURES