USC Materials Standards for Events

This document lays out standards for to-go food and beverage materials at USC. All service-ware must either be COMPOSTABLE or RECYCLABLE (as defined for USC below).

Definitions for USC Events:

- **Compostable**: Uncoated papers (cellulose fibers such as trees, bagasse, potato, banana leaf)
  - NO glossy, colored or waxed paper products.
  - NO compostable PLA- #7 plastics
  - Materials must be Certified Compostable. Acceptable product certifications include:
    - ASTM D-6400, BPI, Cedar Grove
- **Recyclable**: Clean and empty paper, metal, and glass materials. Single-use plastic beverage bottles are prohibited in compliance with USC’s Single-use Plastic Elimination–Beverage Bottles Policy.

Compliance Checklist:

*Reusable/refillable food and beverage options should be used whenever possible.*

For beverages:

- Beverage products and cups are either:
  - Reusable/refillable containers
  - Aluminum
  - Glass
  - Recyclable plastic cup with sip lid
  - Uncoated paper fiber or certified compostable products
    - Excludes PLA #7 plastic products and carton beverage products
- Lids, drink stirrers and straws are:
  - Uncoated paper fiber or wooden options
    - Excludes compostable PLA #7 plastic products

For Food:

- Service-ware is either:
  - Reusable products (any material)
  - Compostable- uncoated paper fiber or wooden options (ex. bagasse plates)
    - Excluding PLA #7 plastic products
- Cutlery is certified compostable
  - Wooden or paper based
- Napkins
  - Only brown napkins
    - Excludes white and black napkins

Items To Avoid:

- Styrofoam, Plastic to-go bags (including compostable plastic bags), “Recyclable” paper cups

Tips:

- Don’t stock bundles of items
  - Ex. Packages that have spoon, fork, knife, salt/pepper & napkin – oftentimes people will only use 1 or 2 items and dispose of the rest
- Stock to-go items that are the same materials
  - Ex. Compostable fiber-based bowl with compostable fiber-based lid instead of fiber-based bowl with recyclable plastic lid
- Stock only plastics #1 (PETE), 2 (HDPE) & 5 (PP)
  - These are the only types of plastic accepted by our waste hauler for recycling
- No compostable or biodegradable plastic products