



## “Single-Use Product Regulations” Ordinance ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

### ALTERNATIVES for PLASTIC STRAWS AND UTENSILS

#### What is working?

Popular, high-quality examples include stainless steel, agave, paper, bamboo, pasta, seaweed, hay, grass, phade (PHA), vegetable fibers, and more. In fact, many options on the market now look and feel exactly like plastic – no more soggy straws!

Here are some links to good products:

- Agave straws: <https://avolutions-inc.myshopify.com>
- Paper straws: <https://aardvarkstraws.com>
- Veggie fiber straws/utensils: <https://theveggiestraws.com>
- PHA straws: <https://www.goodstartpackaging.com/pha-marine-degradable-straws/>
- Phade (PHA) straws: <https://www.phadeproducts.com/straws/>
- Hay straws/stirrers: <https://www.haystraws.com/pages/shop-hay-straws-home-and-wholesale>
- Hay cutlery: <https://www.haystraws.com/pages/shop-hay-straws-home-and-wholesale>
- Bamboo cutlery: <https://store.worldcentric.com/store/cutlery/bamboo-cutlery>
- Pasta straws: <https://stroodles.co.uk>
- Seaweed straws: <https://www.loliware.com/straw>
- Plant straws/cutlery: <https://holycitystrawcompany.com>
- Grass straws: <https://freshstraws.com>
- Agave/wheat/reed straws: <https://crewsupplyco.com/products/bulk-straws>

#### What isn't working and what is non-compliant?

Certain products on the market claim to be “sustainable”, but they are not actually a sustainable alternative and are non-compliant per our ordinance. Many products – primarily cPLA and PLA – claim to be compostable but are not actually compostable in normal composting conditions. Here are products that aren't working out in our community:

- Anything made of plastic
- Any straw or utensil made of polylactic acid (cPLA or PLA)
  - Most common example of cPLA/PLA includes the “EcoChoice” brand
  - Note – many cPLA/PLA products are deceptively labeled as “Compostable”, but studies show these products are extremely hard, if not impossible, to compost
  - Please see the following link for non-compliant options:  
<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/search/ecochoice.html?category=635&filter=material:cpla-plastic:pla-plastic&multi=true>

### ALTERNATIVES for POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

#### What is working?

Much like utensils and straws, the best alternatives are made from plant-based materials. Examples include paper, sugarcane, foil, bamboo, reusable plastics, and more.

#### What isn't working?

Anything made from expanded polystyrene food containers are no longer compliant in Upper Merion. Other polystyrene containers (#6 plastic) are also not compliant per the ordinance since there are very few recycling centers that process polystyrene.

For any questions or clarifications regarding a product your business may be considering, please feel free to reach out to [UMT.EAC@gmail.com](mailto:UMT.EAC@gmail.com) for guidance.