

# Zero Waste Zone

## New Volunteer Information Sheet



The Friends of Salem Saturday Market, the Salem Saturday Market staff, and the market vendors want to **thankyou** for volunteering! The Zero Waste Zone can't be the success it is without dedicated and passionate volunteers like you. Thank you!

### **About the Zero Waste Zone Project:**

- The Zero Waste Zone is a volunteer-supported project of the Friends of Salem Saturday Market. Its goal is to minimize waste generated at the market.
- The project has earned two "Recycler of the Year" awards in 2011, one from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, and another from the Mid-Valley Green Awards.
- Food vendors use only recyclable or compostable serving materials found on the *Allowed Products List*, as well as reusable utensils. Market shoppers will visit a Zero Waste Station to dispose of any items. Zero Waste Zone volunteers assist shoppers with their disposal needs and questions.

### **The Role of a Zero Waste Zone Volunteer:**

- Help market shoppers place disposable items in the proper collection container in a friendly and courteous manner.
- Remove misplaced items and place in proper containers using EZ reach grabber. (Refer to banners or the *Allowed Products List* for guidance as needed.)
- Assist market staff with the set up and tear down of the waste stations.
- Be sure to always check-in and check-out at the **Salem Saturday Market Information Booth** to pick up supplies and so your volunteer hours can be properly recorded.

*We provide aprons and gloves for volunteers to use if needed.*

*These items are kept at the SSM Info Booth. Please return any borrowed items before leaving.*

### **What volunteers should bring:**

- A full water bottle and snacks, or cash to purchase items from food vendors
- Weather appropriate clothes and shoes
- Optional & encouraged: A friend to have as a volunteer buddy :)

### **Answers to Common Questions**

***What is the Allowed Products List?*** A list of approved disposable items that vendors at the market can use to serve food. A copy is stored at each Zero Waste Station and is available at [www.friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org](http://www.friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org)

***Can I recycle or compost like this at home?*** Generally speaking, yes, Salem residents can recycle or compost the same food items that we do at the market in their mixed recycling and food waste roll carts. However, at home, the paper serving ware and compostable plastic items must be discarded in the garbage. Ours have been specially approved by our garbage hauler. Marion County Curbside Recycling brochures should be available at the Friends booth to give away to the public.

***What happens to the compost?*** It's brought to a commercial composting facility near Corvallis (called Pacific Regional Compost Facility) by our garbage hauler, Allied Waste, where it goes through a 90-day composting process and is turned into a nutrient-rich soil enhancer. Bulk quantities can be purchased from Allied Waste.

***Why are standard coffee cups put in the garbage?*** Unless a coffee or hot liquid cup is specifically made for composting, it is garbage. Standard hot cups (as from Starbucks or Dutch Bros.) have a lining made with petroleum-based plastic. This makes the cup a composite material of both plastic and paper, which is non-ideal for recycling or composting. Compostable hot cups have a lining made from biodegradable material (such as potato or corn starch) and can be safely composted in a commercial composting operation.

## About the Zero Waste system



**Compost** - All food (cooked, raw, meat, dairy, etc.) and organic waste (including paper serving ware items, newspaper, and cardboard) can be placed in the “**compost**” container. Typically, any **brown plastic items** (straws, utensils) are compostable and can go in the **compost**. Plastic items marked “**#7 PLA**” can usually be composted. They will usually be marked with a large brown or green stripe. *The compost bin should be lined with a large green or white bag.*



**Recycle** - Mixed recycling for rigid plastic containers marked #1 - #7 and scrap metal such as cans or clean aluminum foil. Typically, any **clear plastic items** will go in the **recycle**, while **brown plastic items** are to be composted. Before items can be recycled, any food or other non-recyclable contaminants must be removed. **Styrofoam is not recyclable (often marked #6) and should be placed in the garbage.**



**Silverware** – Collection container for metal silverware. We have contracted with a food vendor to provide weekly washing services in a commercial kitchen. Metal flatware is washed, sanitized, stored, and supplied to vendors each morning and picked up in the afternoon.



**Glass** – Bottles and jars (not broken, no lids) can be recycled with **glass**. Deposit bottles made of glass can also be placed with the other **deposit bottles & cans**, as long as precaution is taken so that they don't break.



**Deposit Bottles & Cans** – Single use beverage containers (such as soda pop bottles and cans) that can be returned for a \$0.05 deposit refund. A volunteer from a local non-profit, typically Friends of Felines, will pick them up at the end of the day.



**Garbage** – A catchall for items that cannot go into the other containers, or are too contaminated to be recycled or composted. **Serving materials (including disposable coffee cups) brought in from outside the market should go in the garbage.** If we don't know for certain if it's a compostable item, it should *not* go in the **compost**. All pet waste should go in the **garbage**. *The garbage bin should be lined with a large black bag.*

### Questions about the project:

Email [zerowaste@friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org](mailto:zerowaste@friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org) or call (503) 877-FSSM

### Questions during your volunteer shift:

Ask a Salem Saturday Market staff member or a Zero Waste Zone Supervisor.



# Thanks for volunteering!