



Conditional PLA Coated Paper - Pilot Acceptance

In September of 2007, Cedar Grove Composting issued a position paper (see below) excluding poly coated paper cups, plates and food service containers from its composting program. In that position paper, Cedar Grove committed to working with manufacturers on options to the standard petroleum-based poly-coated items.

In follow up to this position, Cedar Grove Composting is issuing a conditional pilot acceptance of the PLA coated paper items listed below. Products in this conditional pilot acceptance have met technical substrate specifications prescribed by the biodegradable specialist. To learn more about the specification for cups eligible for this category, please contact Cedar Grove's biodegradable specialist at micheler@cgcompost.com

Position Statement

Exclusion of Poly Coated Cups, Plates and Food Containers

September 5, 2007

Cedar Grove Composting takes pride in the collaborative efforts of businesses, agencies, and collection firms and private citizens in offering one of the most extensive organics recycling programs in the United States. As the organics recycling program in the Puget Sound continues to evolve, Cedar Grove Composting is committed to communicating within this collaborative network to ensure the program's long-term success.

In pioneering the processing of organics over several years, Cedar Grove continues to accept most kitchen-related paper items (waxed cardboard, paper napkins, towels, and pizza boxes). However, Cedar Grove has concluded that a majority of coated paper foodservice items (cups, bowls, take-out boxes) in the commercial marketplace are heavily coated with plastic. **Coatings on paper cups and foodservice containers contain significant levels of plastic, and these items must now be categorized as "plastic". Thus, they are no longer acceptable as "paper" in Cedar Grove's program.** Cedar Grove has always banned plastic from its composting program. Plastic will not break down in the process, and poly-coated paper items have the potential to lessen the quality of the finished compost.

With that, we are asking our customers and the agencies to work with us on keeping plastics out of the commercial composting program by excluding poly-lined paper cups, plates and take-out containers from the compost containers until further notice.

We are encouraged by the development of new PLA coated cups that are BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute) certified and are currently in testing at Cedar Grove. With that, we fully anticipate that alternatives to poly-lined products will be available in the near future, *and we encourage you to request these alternatives from your suppliers.*

Thank you for your continued support, and keep recycling!

For questions or comments about this correspondence, please e-mail

info@cgcompost.com