

Restaurant Purchasing

What is Certifiably Green Denver?

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

Reusable, recyclable, and bulk products can save you money while reducing waste and environmental impact.

Reusable Linens and Dinnerware

Compare true costs. Your initial investment in reusables, over time, may prove much more economical than the continued purchase of disposables.

- Use cloth instead of paper napkins, tablecloths and paper towels.
- Laundering reusable linens is typically less in the long run than purchasing disposable items.
- Use reusable coasters (or nothing at all) instead of paper napkins when serving beverages.

Bulk Products

Buying in bulk can reduce your solid waste generation and it is more economical. By purchasing in bulk, you are not paying for excess packaging that will be discarded; you are only paying for the product you will use.

- Use health department approved, refillable condiment dispensers instead of individual packets.
- Serve beverages from a beverage gun or dispenser, buy bar mixes in concentrate form, and buy milk in 5-gallon dispenser boxes.



Recycled and Recyclable Products

Paper Products

If possible ask your supplier for cups, take-out containers, napkins, and paper towels and toilet tissue that contain at least 35% post-consumer paper. Additionally, seek unbleached fiber containers, or fiber containers bleached with chlorine alternatives, such as hydrogen peroxide or ozone. Using post-consumer materials saves natural resources while diverting materials from the landfill.

Plastic Products

When purchasing products in plastic containers, consider whether the container is easily recycled. There are seven different types of plastic, just check the number of the bottom of the container. Most recycling companies will accept all plastic containers 1-7.

Like paper, some plastic products such as trash can liners are available that contain varying amounts of post-consumer recycled materials. Often these products are cheaper than virgin plastic because they did not require petroleum or energy to produce that virgin products require. Recycling plastics rather than producing new plastic from virgin materials can reduce energy consumption by up to 75% per ton recycled.

Suppliers

Always consider durability as a cost consideration when buying equipment and other products. See the table below for a listing of some suppliers of recycled and compostable serviceware.

- Buy products in returnable, reusable containers. These must be approved for use in food establishments.
- Ask suppliers to minimize packaging.
- Choose vendors who take back products after their shelf life is over.

Takeout Containers

Consider the end-use of your takeout products – are your customers likely to have composting or recycling service available? If not, select products made of recycled materials, otherwise purchase compostable or recyclable products.

- Compostable products should be certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) and may be made of paper, plant fiber (Sugar Cane, Rice or Bamboo), or derived starch (Potato, Corn, Wheat, and/or Potato Starch)
- Recyclable Plastic Containers typically are made of #1, #2 and #5.
- Purchase bags made of recycled paper or plastic, or 100% compostable bags.
- Buy utensils made out of compostable materials.

Paper or Plastic Suppliers	Company Information	Products Available
Eco-Products 303- 449-1876 www.ecoproducts.com	All products contain recycled materials and accepts returned shipping materials for reuse/recycle	Utensils, paper cups and to-go containers, trash liners composed of recycled and/or plant-based materials, recyclable or compostable.
Sysco 303-458-4000 www.sysco.com	National Supplier	Earth Plus line made of 100% recycled material and bleach free process. Bulk condiments, concentrated beverage syrup, bulk meat and shelled eggs.
Western Paper Distributors 303-371-4000 www.westernpaper.com	Provides 3 rd party certified products. Products delivered in recyclable corrugated cardboard	Napkins, paper towels and toilet paper, composed of recycled material, Recyclable plastic cups and to-go containers, trash liners, concentrated, non-toxic all purpose cleaners.
Green Restaurant www.greenstaurant.com	Online wholesaler focused on eco-friendly food service products	Food Service Disposables including compostable biodegradable plates, hot cups, cold cups, utensils, trash and storage bags, paper goods and cleaning products.

Helpful Resources

See the Certifiably Green Denver website for more helpful resource sheets:

www.denvergov.org/CGD

Please note that the business listings are provided for informational purposes only. It is not an endorsement by Certifiably Green Denver or of any business or service. If you are a service provider and would like to be added to this list, or to update information on this list, please phone Certifiably Green Denver at 720-865-5457.

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