

Reusable Foodware Ordinance: Outreach Update

November 19, 2021

The County of Marin has continued its efforts to develop a Reusable Foodware Ordinance and provide outreach to residents and businesses across Marin County. The goal of the Reusable Foodware Ordinance is a consistent, countywide ordinance to be adopted by Marin jurisdictions. If the model ordinance is adopted by all Marin cities and towns, the County will conduct enforcement on behalf of the cities and towns through its food service inspectors. Various outreach efforts were conducted by the County to garner feedback from residents and businesses in Marin County. Highlights from each of these efforts are listed below.

Food Vendor Grant Program and Technical Assistance	75 businesses called and 56 site visits completed across all jurisdictions. During site visits, businesses were informed of the ordinance features, provided outreach materials, and offered the opportunity to apply for the grant program and receive free technical assistance. 6 out of the 40 businesses visited were provided in-language Spanish assistance.
	11 businesses have been approved and are currently in the grant program . 3 out of the 6 Spanish speaking businesses are interested and have applied for the grant.
Food Vendor Survey Results <i>(provided in English + Spanish)</i>	97 responses
	Vendors are mostly concerned with cost, supply, and customer behavior change
	Vendors see the biggest benefits of this ordinance as less landfilled waste, reduced waste overall, and having more sustainable options for customers
	Over 50% of businesses support a \$0.25 charge
	68% do not think it would be difficult to switch to all reusables for dine in (of which 18% would want help from the County or cities)
Resident Survey Results <i>(provided in English + Spanish)</i>	338 responses
	95% are in favor of reducing plastic materials from going to landfill
	91% support Marin County requiring all food vendors use foodware that is either reusable or compostable
	79% support a County-wide cup charge
Business Workshop Meeting	Held on 9/15/2021 with over 45 attendees. Spanish translation services were offered at the meeting. The meeting was recorded and is publicly available on the County's website.
Resident Community Meeting	Held on 7/14/2021 with over 28 attendees. The meeting was recorded and is publicly available on the County's website.
20+ Meetings with Stakeholders	Stakeholders from across the County, including restaurant owners, various chamber of commerce groups (including the Council of Chambers), Latinx business leaders, disability advocates, haulers and processors, food inspectors, advocacy groups, etc.
1 Letter	Sent to all food vendors with information about the proposed ordinance, survey link, outreach flyer, and invitation to attend the business workshop meeting.
33 Public Comments	County received 33 public comments on the publicly available draft ordinance. Public comments on the ordinance have been accepted since February 2020.

The County Board of Supervisors will consider the ordinance in February 2022. Marin cities and towns must adopt the ordinance within 6 months of County adoption if they wish to benefit from County enforcement of the ordinance. Food Vendors covered by the ordinance would have 18 months after the Board of Supervisors adopt the ordinance before any enforcement would begin.