

SATURDAY MORNING MARKET

SAFE WASTE POLICY

OUR INTENTION

The intention of the St. Petersburg Saturday Morning Market (SPSMM) is to be a leader in implementing a variety of practices that protect our environment and our waterways.

This includes:

- Educating our customers about the impact of plastics on our surrounding waterways and informing them about how they can make a meaningful difference in reducing plastic waste.
- Implementing practices that reduce or eliminate the use of single-use plastics and other harmful waste.

OUR 2019 - 2020 SEASON PLAN

We are implementing new practices in phases. In October of 2019 we will ban the use of:

- single-use plastic shopping bags
- styrofoam food containers
- disposable plastic straws.

In subsequent phases, we will address other initiatives such as:

- Eliminating the use of single-use plastic glasses and bottles.
- Eliminating the use of plastic eating utensils
- Decreasing the amount of plastic packaging.
- Increasing the amount of compostable packaging.

Shopping Bags

Eliminating plastic shopping bags is a major challenge and goal. We know that there have been over 6000 plastic shopping bags distributed weekly in the past. The following are actions to implement this policy:

Communications

- We will regularly communicate with customers through newsletters, social media and website content about our new practices.
- We'll Inform customer onsite through signage, handouts, and vendor discussion to remember to bring a reusable shopping bag with them.

Reusable Bags

- The Market will buy inexpensive (under a dollar) SMM branded reusable shopping bags, and resell them at-cost to vendors.
- Vendors can then sell them for a \$1.
- We also have vendors who sell quality artisan shopping bags (e.g. It's Our Nature, Spring Green).

Paper bags

- Paper bags could be used, where needed to replace plastic bags.
- We'll be working with vendors individually who have unique challenges (such as wet products, frozen food, etc.) to create workable solutions.

Straws & Styrofoam

Food and beverage vendors will need to eliminate all Styrofoam food containers and plastic straws.

In addition to our policy, the City of St Pete will begin enforcing a ban on straw and Styrofoam in December of 2019.

Product Resource Lists

The Market has created a product resource list to provide referrals to purchase acceptable replacement products for the banned items. The Resource list is posted on our website, under '*Vendor Resources*'.