

REUSABLE TAKEOUT CONTAINER PILOT PROGRAM



Join the City of Encinitas in the new, pilot reusable takeout container to waste less from land to sea! Each action the community takes, no matter how big or small, makes a difference in moving towards zero waste.



Why a reusable program?

Throughout the pandemic, it became evident how much waste is generated by takeout meals. In an effort to continue moving towards zero waste while supporting local business, the City is teaming up with local restaurants for a reusable takeout container pilot program.

Why Zero Waste?



Less pollution in our environment and on our beaches



Saves restaurants money on takeout containers and can reduce their trash bill



Less resource consumption from single-use containers leads to fewer greenhouse gas emissions



Saves the community money and preserves the environment by delaying the need to create more landfills

How Restaurants Can Participate

Please contact recycling@encinitasca.gov to express interest in joining the reusable takeout container program. The City of Encinitas will provide reusable containers, a program implementation guidance document, outreach materials, and other support needed. Restaurant management will then be responsible for training staff and embedding program within restaurant operations. Once the program is rolled out, customers will sign up and the restaurant will collect a \$5 joining fee. The restaurant will be required to reimburse the City on a monthly or quarterly basis. The City will promote participating restaurants on their website, social media, and other outreach platforms. Lastly, the restaurant will provide on-going feedback to the City about the program and how it can be improved.

City Provides

- Reusable containers
- Flyers and signage for program outreach
- Guidance for program implementation
- Participating restaurant promotion

Restaurant Responsibilities

- Training staff
- Implementing program
- Making customers aware of the program
- Washing containers
- Tracking program sign-ups
- Reimbursing the City for program fee

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions are potential questions customers may ask about the program

Q: How do I exchange my container for my next meal?

A: Bring your container to a participating restaurant. Make the cashier aware that you are dropping your container off at the contact-free container return station. The cashier will then let the kitchen know to prepare your meal in a new, washed and sanitized container.

Q: Does the container need to be clean when I return it?

A: The container doesn't have to be spotless, since restaurants do wash and sanitize every returned container, but we do ask that you at least rinse out food debris and residue before returning it. Dirty containers with old food or mold in them will not be accepted.

Q: Are reusables safe given COVID-19?

A: Every meal comes in a sanitized container, every time! You may leave dirty containers at the contact-free container return station and restaurant staff will handle dirty containers in accordance with COVID safety guidelines.

Q: What if I lose a container or token?

A: If you lose a container and wish to continue participating in the program, we ask that you repay the program joining fee to cover the cost of the lost container. If you lose a token, let the cashier at a participating restaurant know and you can be provided with another free of charge.

Q: What if my container is broken?

A: Please bring broken containers to a participating restaurant for proper recycling, and you will be provided with a new container at no cost.



Learn how the City is getting to zero waste at encinitasca.gov/Trash-Recycling