



LE'S PHO TAI: SWITCHING TO COMPOSTABLES SAVES 1,464 POUNDS OF PLASTIC WASTE FROM LANDFILLS EACH YEAR

Le's Pho Tai owner, Dominic [right] with outreach staff.

A case study of the City of Shoreline's reusable and compostable service ware incentive program.

Customer background

Le's Pho Tai has been serving Vietnamese cuisine for a decade and the current owner, Dominic, took over in 2022. Dominic loves to see their many regular customers as well as new faces that come into the shop. Although the work is hard and the hours are long, they enjoy the business and being able to provide work for their employees.

Packaging challenges and opportunities

As many businesses have experienced, finding compostable bags and containers can be expensive and confusing. It's hard to understand whether something is compostable or not.

Since [Ordinance 990](#) went into effect on June 1, 2024, Dominic wanted to make sure Le's Pho Tai was in compliance but wasn't sure how to switch to compostables.

Savings

Before:

Le's Pho Tai used about **1,000 Styrofoam clamshells and bowls** every month.

After:

By switching to compostables, they **saved an estimated 1,464 pounds of plastic waste** from the landfill each year.



How the City of Shoreline helped

Dominic was grateful to see the City step up to help small businesses when outreach staff visited him. He found the informational flyers and the list of approved compostable items they provided to be the most helpful. Dominic's customers are split almost equally between dine-in and takeout, requiring a higher demand for food containers than many other businesses. Le's Pho Tai already had reusable service ware for customers dining in, so the team from Shoreline suggested focusing on takeout service ware.



A before and after of a Shoreline team's visit: Le's Pho Tai switches from single-use plastic and Styrofoam take out containers to approved compostable items.

"I love projects like these" said Dominic, referring to efforts that help reduce waste and protect the environment. He continued, "but at the same time, it's difficult to find the right compostable products since the concept is so new."

Outreach staff walked Dominic through his options, discussing cost, timing, and approved compostable products. Since then, Le's Pho Tai has switched from using Styrofoam to compostable 3-compartment clamshells.

"You guys are really helpful, and I appreciate it!"

Questions about acceptable compostable products?

Cedar Grove

(877) 994-4466

Info@CGcompost.com

Recology

(206) 763-4444

RKCWasteZero@Recology.com



Visit ShorelineWA.gov/Compost or scan the QR code to view a list of approved compostable products, fill out a waiver form, or get more support.

Switch to reusable and compostable service ware

All Shoreline businesses serving or selling food are required to use:

- ▶ Reusable items for on-site dining
- ▶ Commercially compostable products for takeout and to-go orders

Questions? Contact:

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