



2018 Brigantine Farmers Market Sustainability Policy

The Brigantine Farmers Market is more than a marketplace for fresh, locally-grown agriculture and locally-made food and artisan products. It is a place for community meeting and an avenue for social change. Because we are committed to sustainability, and we are working hard to reduce the overall waste generated from this event, our market encourages **“eco-friendly”** and **“reusable”** rather than **“disposable”** materials in the following ways:

1). **The market is “single-use plastic bag-free.”** A single-use plastic bag is defined here as a plastic bag provided to a customer at a point of sale to transport food or merchandise from the establishment. No single-use plastic bags, including ‘biodegradable’ plastic bags, will be permitted at the market. The only exception will be for fish/seafood/meat and other pre-approved vendors that package their product on ice or in liquids. Paper bags are acceptable, and vendors may charge a nominal fee for these bags.

2). **The market prohibits the sale or distribution of packaged water.** Water bottle filling station and water fountains are nearby.

3). **Rather than using plastic and Styrofoam cups, plates, and take-out containers,** we strongly encourage you to use Eco-friendly alternatives to these products including:

- Eco-friendly beverage containers: (a) “Reusable” – (ex: glasses, ceramic mugs, stainless steel canteens); (b) “Biodegradable” or “Recyclable” – (ex: paper cups made from post-consumer recycled content).
- Take-out containers: Cardboard containers can be found at Amazon.com, Sysco Philadelphia and Penn Jersey Paper.
- **The 2019 Brigantine Farmers Market will be free of Styrofoam packaging.**

4). **In 2018 the Brigantine Farmers Market becomes an environment free of plastic straws and plastic tasting spoons.** We thank you for replacing plastic straws and tasting spoons with Eco-friendly alternatives such as:

- Paper and/or bamboo straws from companies like Aardvarkstraws.com, Target, and Dollar Tree.
- “Biodegradable” – Corn-based utensils, wooden popsicle sticks

5). **We also strongly encourage you to replace plastic serving utensils (forks, knives, spoons) with Eco-friendly alternatives including:**

- “Biodegradable” – Corn-based utensils, wooden popsicle sticks
- “Recyclable” - Paper utensils from companies like Ecotensil.com

WE CAN’T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH OUR FARMER’S MARKET POLICY!

Ideally, our collective pursuit of sustainable practices will encourage our customers to develop good habits like using reusable items such as bags, coolers, canteens, straws and flatware. This inherently *reduces* waste and minimizes our carbon footprint, giving *small* changes a chance to make a **BIG** difference!