

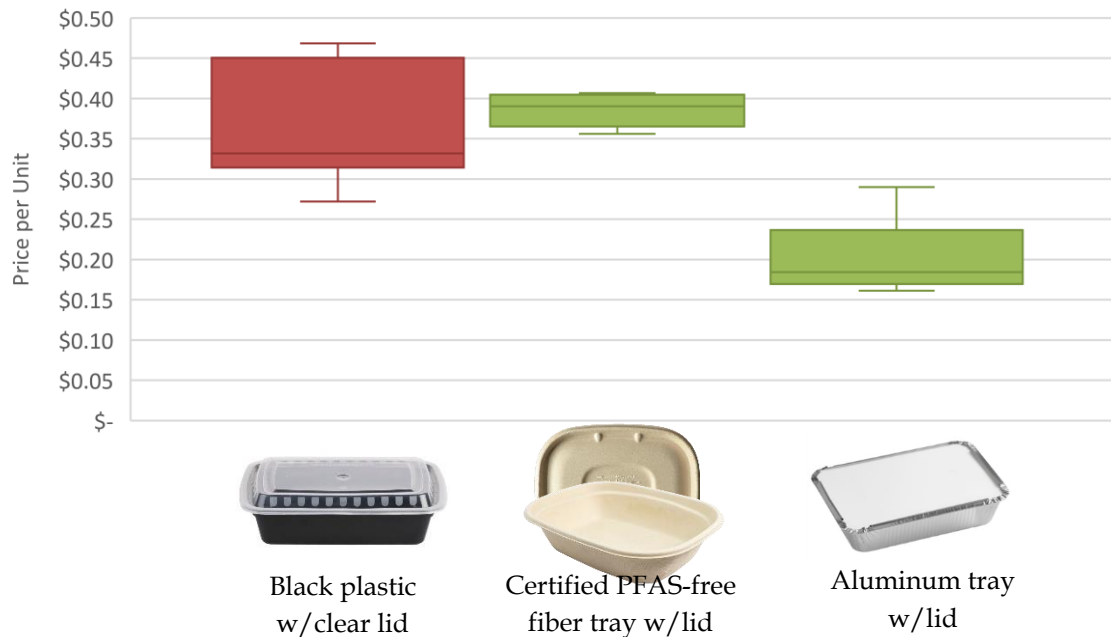
FOOD SERVICE WARE PRICE COMPARISON

This document compares the typical per-item price range of commonly used disposable food service ware items. While this is not an exhaustive price survey, it provides preliminary insight into financial implications of the proposed food service ware regulations on food providers. Several types of disposable food ware from the City’s “[Dirty Dozen](#)” list of common contaminants in the recycling stream are included, such as black plastic, hinged “clamshell” containers, and hot and cold beverage cups. Transitioning these items to compostable, fiber-based materials or recyclable aluminum will reduce recycling contamination and landfilled waste. Proposed Food Service Ware Ordinance noncompliant items are shown in red and compliant in green.

Box-and-whisker plots divide the data into quartiles. The typical per-item price range is the middle two quartiles, 25th through 75th percentile values of all prices surveyed. The line inside the box is the median. The lines or “whiskers” above and below the bar show the maximum and minimum prices found. The data sets exclude statistical outliers.

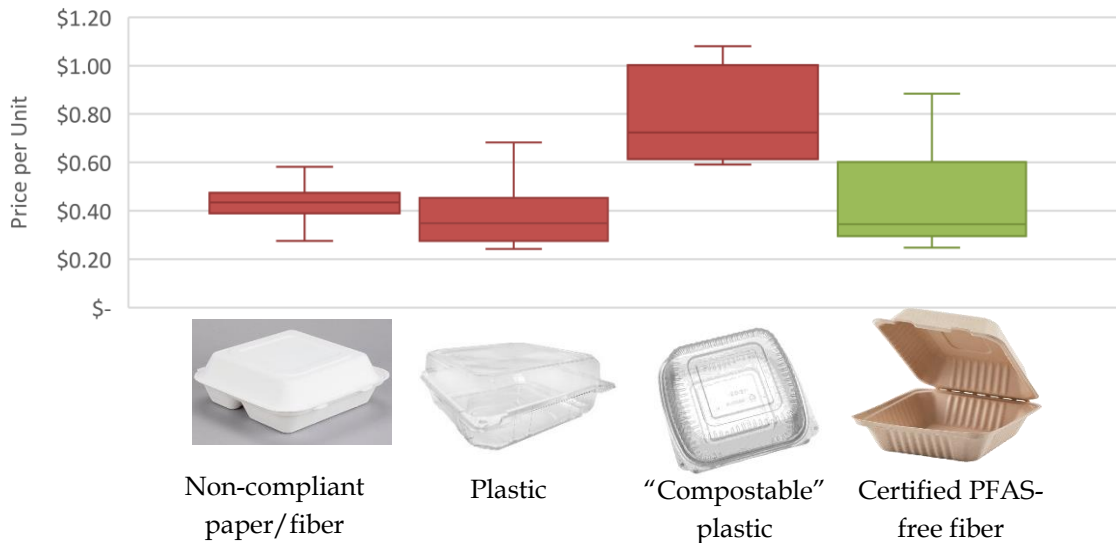
1. Rectangular Tray with Lid (approximately 9”x6”)

Black plastic trays with clear lids are a commonly used type of take-out food packaging. As shown, aluminum trays are a cost-effective, compliant alternative for this type of container, with significant per-item savings over black plastic.



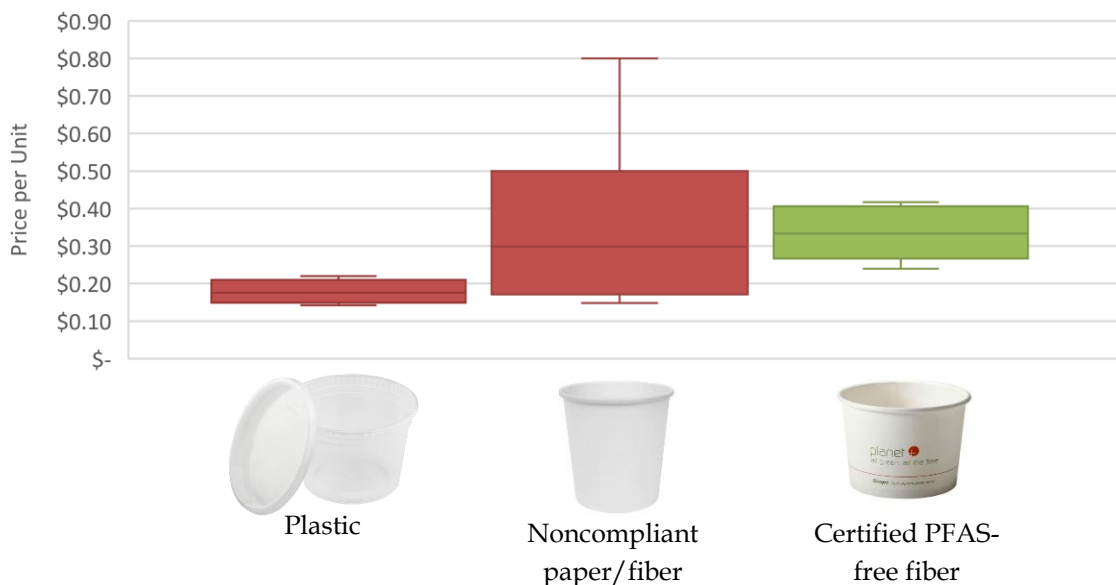
2. Large 9"x9" Hinged Container ("Clamshell")

The median price for certified PFAS-free fiber clamshells is the same as that of plastic, though the typical price ranges differ. Compostable plastic is the most expensive option, so food providers currently using these items will save money by switching to compliant fiber-based alternatives.



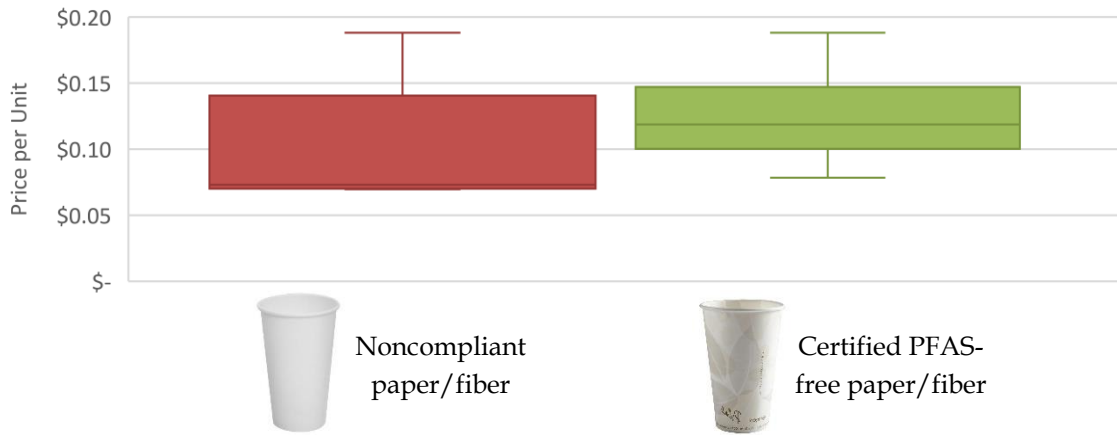
3. Food Containers/Soup Cups (16 oz)

These products are often used to hold soups and other hot, liquid-based items for take-out orders. In this category, plastic containers were significantly cheaper than compliant alternatives, meaning food vendors will likely experience increased costs to comply with the proposed Food Service Ware Ordinance regulations.



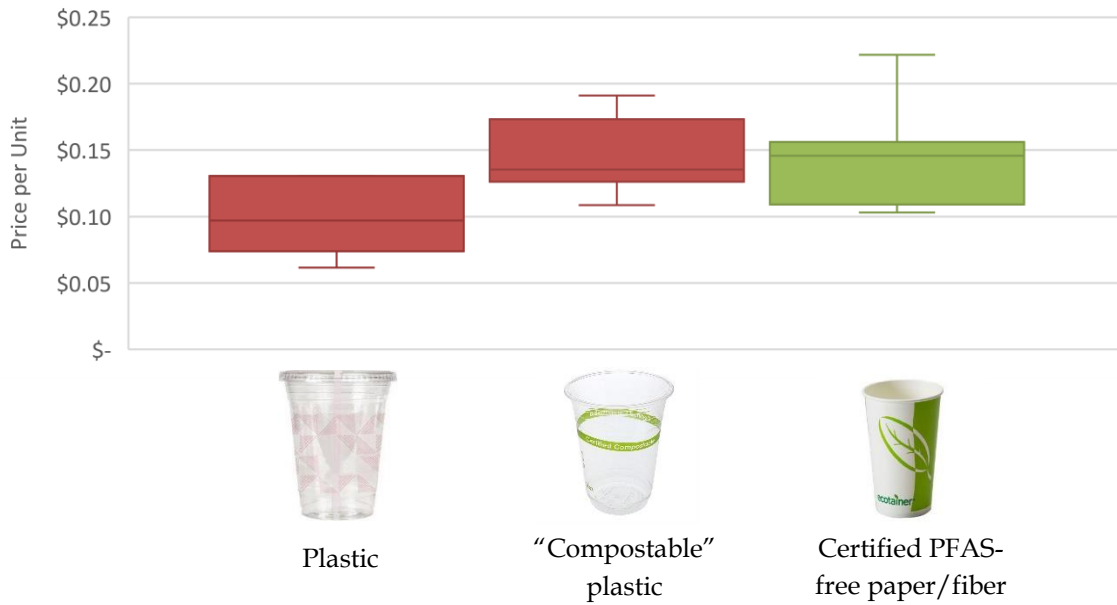
4. Hot Beverage Cups (16 oz)

There are only two primary material types for hot beverage cups: paper that is not certified as PFAS-free, and certified PFAS-free paper or fiber. While certified options are slightly more expensive, many of the cheaper noncompliant products may no longer be allowed when California’s PFAS ban takes effect in 2023.



5. Cold Beverage Cups (16 oz)

Cold cups are available in both plastic and fiber options. Under the proposed Food Service Ware Ordinance, clear plastic cups will no longer be allowed. Food providers are likely to encounter increased costs in transitioning cold cups to compliant fiber-based options, unless they currently use compostable plastic.



Overall Trends:

- The impacts of switching to compostable, certified PFAS-free or recyclable aluminum disposable food service ware is likely to be a mix of cost increases and cost savings, depending on the specific food ware item and compliant alternatives.
- Compostable plastic is the most expensive option for many products. Businesses using compostable plastic can save money switching to compliant fiber items.
- This research revealed large variation in price for the same products across different distributors, so food providers should obtain quotes from multiple distributors when searching for compliant food service ware items.
- Confusing labeling and “greenwashing” of noncompliant plastic and fiber products make it more complicated for food vendors to identify compliant products. For example, some petroleum-based plastic items are labeled “eco-friendly” since they use less plastics than similar products or contain recycled material, but they are not compliant with the proposed ordinance.