



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATTN: Events Calendar Editor & Business Features Editor

### CALENDAR BRIEF

May 10, 2022

2:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar sign-up at <https://lafayettechamber.org/takeout>

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is hosting a free educational event for restaurant owners interested in learning about how to reduce trash associated with their takeout business. Sign up to learn cost-savings tips and tricks to green your restaurant. Experts will also share info about two new state bills that support the use of reusable containers for restaurant takeout and restrict the use of plastic straws and other throwaway items.

### PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

#### **Lafayette Chamber offers green takeout education for restaurants**

In response to growing concerns around the waste created from take-out dining, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is hosting an educational event on May 10 for restaurant owners interested in learning about how to reduce trashy takeout.

“Since the pandemic our community has come to rely increasingly on takeout and unfortunately that means a lot of single-use containers are going into our landfills,” explained Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. “This is a problem that can be addressed through various strategies, including reusable and compostable containers thanks to some new state legislation that has passed allowing BYO containers.”

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has a long history of being a leader when it comes to green business practices and is certified through the California Green

Business program and its own certification program. It's working with the city's environmental task force on initiatives throughout the city, so the trashy takeout educational program is just the latest in a string of efforts to green Lafayette.

The chamber with the support of environmental volunteers is hosting the free educational event on Zoom on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. with sign-ups available through its Website [lafayettechamber.org/takeout](https://lafayettechamber.org/takeout). Attendees will hear from a panel of experts advising on cost-saving strategies designed to help businesses save money by reducing dependence on the single-use throw-away takeout containers as well as save our planet by implementing systems to pack takeout in reusable containers. A nifty FAQ 1-page tips and tricks sheet about relevant food safety health codes will be distributed to all attendees.

Plastic pollution is a growing crisis and restaurant goers are increasingly uncomfortable with the wastepprint created by their love of takeout! By accepting reusable containers and putting in place other waste-reduction systems, restaurants can save thousands of dollars annually.

"I'm thrilled to see the chamber taking steps to rally our restaurants in favor of reusable containers," said resident Nancy Hu, who is a member of the city's Environmental Task Force. "There are a lot of misconceptions when it comes to how to manage reusables in commercial kitchens. I think this Zoom educational event is going to make people realize how easy reusable containers are and how much money restaurants can save!"

Event will include brief presentations by several experts in eco-friendly restaurant practices and waste management as well as educate about two new state policies -- AB 619 focused on allowing BYO reusables and AB 1276 restricting restaurants from providing single-use foodware accessories to customers unless specifically requested. Enforcement provisions, including fines of up to \$300, begin June 1, 2022.

To sign up to attend, go to <https://lafayettechamber.org/takeout>. Questions or a request for additional interviewees, please contact [info@lafayettechamber.org](mailto:info@lafayettechamber.org).