



BENTON TO GO:

Taking the Waste Out of Take-out

WHAT IS IT?

- A reusable take-out container PILOT program, for Corvallis-area restaurants and your customers!

WHY?

- Reduce your packaging costs
- Prevent disposable, single-use waste
- Prevent wasted food on the customer end
- Free advertising in program materials, website, etc.
- Public encouraged to support your restaurant for participating



8" x 8" x 2.5"

HOW IT WORKS at time of purchase

- Restaurants purchase containers and *tokens for **\$3.50 each** - *first 10 restaurants receive addit. 20% discount*
- Restaurants promote reusable container option with provided posters, small sign on counter, etc.
- Interested customer purchases initial container from restaurant for ****\$7.00 each** (with or without meal).
- Customer returns rinsed container to any participating restaurant, to receive EITHER:
 - ⇒ Purchased meal placed in a *fresh, sanitized container* OR
 - ⇒ Token for future container with future meal (the token represents their "buy-in")

HOW IT WORKS upon return

- Upon container return, restaurant verifies acceptability (debris-free, not gross)
- Restaurant ensures participating customer has *either* a token *or* a container after transaction
- Customer may return container or token to any participating restaurant

****Token is similar in size and material to a credit card, and is EQUAL TO container in value and cost.***

*****\$7.00 price point is required to participate; restaurant may NOT charge more or less.***

WHAT'S THE COST TO PARTICIPATE?

There are TWO bulk pricing options, each with bundled containers and tokens:

- | | |
|---|---|
| A) Buy 50 containers + 25 tokens @ \$3.50 each | B) Buy 25 containers + 12 tokens @ \$3.50 each |
| = \$260, less a 20% Early Adopter Discount | = \$130, less a 20% Early Adopter Discount |
| = \$208 your cost, \$525 your gross (75 @ \$7 each) | = \$104 your cost, \$259 your gross (37 @ \$7 each) |

Remember! You're selling initial program buy-in to customers for \$7 each, so, your net exceeds your cost.

BENTON TO GO—FAQs

HEALTH CODE FAQs

- **Is Benton County Health Department aware of this?**

- ⇒ YES, we are consulting with them to develop this project.
- ⇒ Restaurants will also be asked to sign participation contracts, committing to container sanitizing regulations.

- **How do we safely accept the rinsed containers?**

- ⇒ Use a system that works best for your location, whether a bus tub, collection box, or simply handed to cashier.



- **How do we wash/sanitize/store containers?**

- ⇒ Wash them the same as you would pots/pans, washable utensils and dishware. **Dry completely first**, then stack and store.
- ⇒ Containers are designed for reuse and are “Eco-Lab tested for 1000 washes.”

TOKEN FAQs

- **What if a customer brings a token, instead of a container?**

- ⇒ Treat tokens the same as a container: exchange for a fresh, sanitized container with their purchased meal.

- **Can a customer return a container to get a token instead?**

- ⇒ YES! Restaurants ensure the program stays supplied by encouraging customers to bring back containers sooner than later.

- **What do we do with tokens between uses?**

- ⇒ We suggest sanitizing and keeping tokens behind/under counter or inside register. They have the same value as containers.

- **Can a customer buy JUST a token (i.e. as a gift) instead of a container?**

- ⇒ YES because the restaurant’s initial cost of containers and tokens is the same.

- **If we run out of tokens, who do we contact?**

- ⇒ Email participating restaurants (BentonToGo@googlegroups.com) to seek out a trade with another restaurant that has many containers (quantities of containers and tokens on-hand will ebb and flow, depending on customer participation).

- **What if a customer loses their token or container?**

- ⇒ Restaurant staff should clarify to customer at time of purchase: it’s *the customer’s* responsibility to hold onto containers or token between uses, as proof of buy-in at next meal purchase. If either are lost, it cannot be tracked and a new one must be purchased.

CONTAINER FAQs

- **Can we purchase additional containers?**

- ⇒ YES, through our program—we have a special purchasing arrangement with the manufacturer. Contact us below.
- ⇒ Additional containers may be purchased *without* tokens, but at a non-bundled rate.

- **What if a customer tries to exchange an orange “OSU Eco2Go” box?**

- ⇒ Do NOT accept these. Do NOT exchange for a container or token, as they are separately-funded programs. Benton To Go are **green**.

- **Why these particular containers?**

- ⇒ The 8” x 8” size accommodates both smaller and larger meals that restaurants serve.
- ⇒ The stackable/nestable containers are made in Oregon from durable, BPA-free #5 polypropylene with 20-30% recycled materials. They are leak resistant, “microwave / freezer / dishwasher safe” and UL-certified. FDA- and NSF-approved.

- **Will there be other reusable take-out ware?**

- ⇒ Possibly—our team is looking into adding cups and bowls in the future.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS, etc.:

Contact ToGo@sustainablecorvallis.org and we will direct your outreach to the team. **Happy restaurants and happy customers matter to us—your feedback during this pilot stage is crucial to its future success. Thank you!**

Benton To Go is a collaborative effort of Ants on Log Café, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, Benton County, Oregon State University Dining, City of Corvallis, First Alternative Co-op, and community volunteers.