California and Seattle Legislation on Compostable Products

Mark Williams - BioBag
BioBag Around the World

US Warehouse and Production: San Leandro, CA
“Addressing the confusing landscape of Compostable Products”
Not talking shopping bag bans but...  

- Intent is to get people using reusable bags...result is often that reusable bags get made of PE 3-4 times thicker!  
- Fees turn a cost center into a profit center for retailers.  
- Why have compostable shoppers in a community without curbside organics (that allows compostables).
Contamination in Vermont
September 2017
COMPOSTABLE IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES
Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. Not suitable for backyard composting.

CERT # SAMPLE
California Law

- Shall not sell a plastic product in this state that is labeled with the term “compostable,” “home compostable,” or “marine degradable” unless, at the time of sale, the plastic product meets the applicable ASTM standard specification or the Vincotte OK Compost HOME certification.

- Shall not sell a plastic bag in this state that is labeled with the term “biodegradable,” “degradable,” or “decomposable,” or any form of those terms, or in any way imply that the bag will break down, fragment, biodegrade, or decompose in a landfill or other environment.

Jack Macy
Degradable Polyethylene

- 97+% Polyethylene with organic or metallic additives that cause the film to degrade.

- EU Commission on Oxo’s

- FTC Green Guides
Seattle Law

- Prohibits all Seattle retail stores from providing customers with PE bags that are tinted green or brown.

- Allows stores to provide approved compostable bags, and they must be colored green or brown.

Sego Jackson
Seattle switched PE produce bags from green to blue.
Disposable Packaging Bans

- The use of plastic utensils, plastic straws, and plastic cocktail picks will be prohibited in Seattle effective July 1, 2018. Compliant options include durable or compostable utensils, straws, and cocktail picks.

- Compliant straws include those made of compostable paper or compostable plastic. Utensils banned include disposable plastic forks, plastic spoons, plastic knives, and plastic cocktail picks.
Avoid confusion and contamination... copy others legislation!

**California Law:**

https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/environment/ag_website_environmental_claims.pdf

**Seattle Law:**

See you there?

mark@biobagusa.com   (800) 959-2247

http://biobagusa.com/about-biobag/regulations/