

A²R³ REUSABLE CONTAINER PILOT

FAQ

What is A²R³?

Ann Arbor Reduce, Reuse, Return is a reusable container program, currently in the pilot phase. This program aims to reduce the amount of waste produced by restaurants in our community by providing restaurant patrons with reusable take-out containers.

Why switch to reusable containers?

In 2019, 55.7 million cubic yards of waste were added to landfills in Michigan. Over its lifespan, one reusable takeout container can save up to 1,000 others types of takeout containers from entering our landfills, an important step towards achieving zero waste goals.

What are the containers made of?

The containers are made of polypropylene (PP). This is the same material used in many single-serve containers, like yogurt cups. PP is an FDA-approved food contact material and is nonvolatile, meaning it will not react with any type of food.

Are the containers microwave-, freezer-, and dishwasher-safe?

Yes!

Can I eat hot food out of these containers?

Yes - the containers are made of polypropylene, which is nonvolatile, meaning it will not react with food. This material is an FDA-approved food contact material.

How are the containers cleaned?

We ask that customers return their containers clean; however, to ensure sanitization, the containers are run through industrial dishwashers at each restaurant before being reused.

What restaurants are participating?

Detroit Street Filling Station, El Harissa, Miss Kim, and Zingerman's Delicatessen are the four restaurants participating in the pilot program.

How can I suggest a restaurant to be added to the program?

If you own a restaurant and are interested in joining the program after the pilot concludes, please reach out to sustainability@a2gov.org with the subject "A2R3". Or, if you know of a restaurant you believe should be a part of the program, please encourage them to reach out to us!

Where can I return my containers?

Containers can be returned to the marked bins located at any of the participating restaurants: Detroit Street Filling Station, El Harissa, Miss Kim, and Zingerman's Delicatessen. Please make sure to clean your containers before returning them!

Can I keep the containers?

We ask that you please return all of your containers as soon as possible after you are finished with the food that was served in them. We have a limited number of containers in circulation and are relying on customers like you to return containers so we can continue the program!

How long does the pilot program last?

Through July 31st, 2021!