

table talk

Smart Food Packaging, Heirloom Tomatoes, A Baker With a Green Thumb, Beer in Monterey, Wine and Food in Carmel, A New Location for Great Burgers and The Hippest Place to Hang in Sand City



Passion Purveyors, owned by Carol Swanson, offers a range of compostable, sustainable packaging, utensils and cups for restaurants—such as East Village Coffee Lounge in Monterey—or just a big party feast.

Giving the Green Light to Sustainable Food Packaging

For owner and founder Carolyn Swanson, the idea for starting her own eco-friendly company lit up in her mind like a light bulb (the CFL kind, of course).

Combining her restaurant fervor and environmental know-how, the 29-year-old started Passion Purveyors, a green goods distributor dedicated to helping the food service industry create less waste. Since December of last year, the Pacific

Grove-based company has already supplied more than 45 local food service outlets with sustainable and compostable packaging materials created from renewable agricultural resources like sugarcane, reed, bamboo, palm, corn and potato.

"Nature's way of getting rid of food and things is composting. When I heard about compostable food service packaging, I just thought that was perfect," says Swanson.

From deli containers and cutlery to trash bags, Passion Purveyors has tracked down products made from plants and vegetables that compost in less than 120 days, as opposed to conventional petroleum-based products. With free doorstep delivery and with no minimum order, restaurants, hotels, schools, and even individuals planning a birthday party or simple picnic can take advantage of Passion Purveyors' services.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and that just makes it that much easier," adds Swanson. Not only has this innovator found a way to help reduce landfill waste, but she has also sought out programs that help businesses save on utility and garbage costs. Specifically, one funded program replaces costly light bulbs and shows people how to clean the coils in freezers and refrigerators to save energy. By making a few minimal modifications, Swanson says she sees costs reduced "anywhere from \$25 to \$225 a month in electricity charges."

With Passion Purveyors' competitive pricing and rapidly growing customer base, "I feel like we're on the pulse of the industry and we'll be able to bring on new products, new services, and keep this local area for the food service a step ahead," says Swanson.

For more information, visit www.passionpurveyors.com or call 831/383-9215.

—Katie Perry