

SUSTAINABILITY

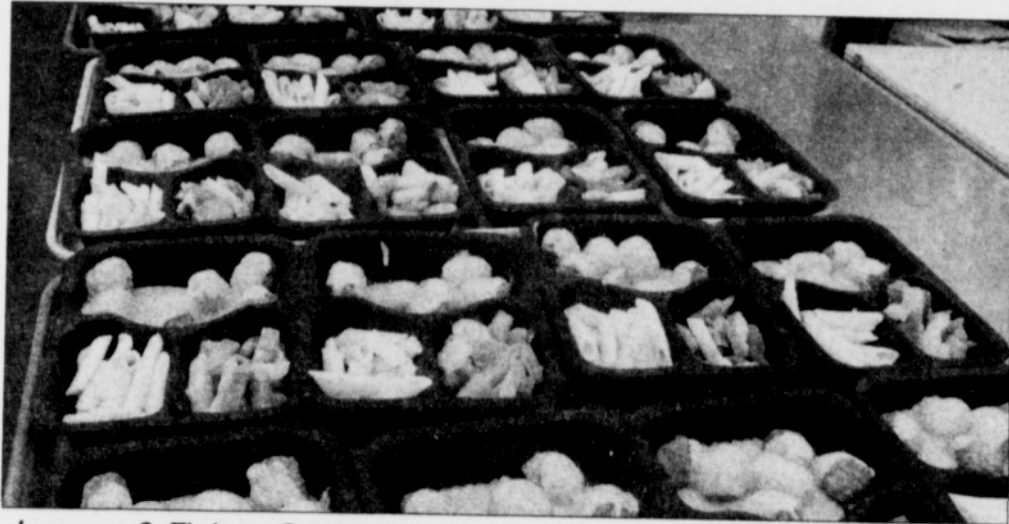
Better on the Environment

Meals-On-Wheels switches to compostable bamboo trays

Portland's Loaves & Fishes Centers is the first Meals-On-Wheels operation in the country to adopt the daily use of compostable bamboo trays for its meals.

Manufactured by Bamboo Eco-Enterprises in Clackamas, the black three-compartment trays were manufactured specifically for Loaves & Fishes Centers to meet the specifications of existing equipment located in their central kitchen.

The trays are used for the hot portion of the 2,700 meals sent out each weekday to homebound se-



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niors throughout the greater metropolitan area.

Loaves & Fishes Centers used Styrofoam trays for its meals for more than 30 years and switched to a recyclable tray a few years ago.

"We knew we needed to get away from a polystyrene product, but until recently, there was not another product on the market that held heat as well and was cost-effective," said Food Services Manager Tom Maier. "The recyclable tray we used for a few years was very expensive

and the seniors did not recycle them. This new compostable tray is cost effective, better on the environment and is more visually appealing than the trays we were using previously."

Each compostable tray costs 17.6 cents per unit, compared to 14 cents a unit for Styrofoam and 24 cents a unit for the recyclable tray.

Maier estimates that the bamboo tray will save the nonprofit organization up to \$39,000 a year in packaging costs.

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