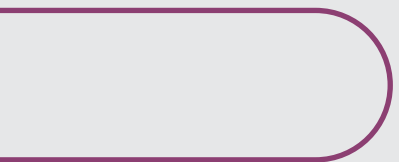
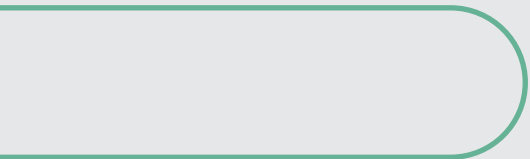


Single-Use & Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy

City of Toronto



Why do we need a Reduction Strategy?



Single-Use Eating Utensils*

Over **615** pieces of plastic cutlery counted on Toronto shoreline



Foam Takeaway Containers and Cups**

Over **85M** units generated by single-family households



Single-Use Hot and Cold Drink Cups**

Over **39M** units generated by single-family households



Single-Use Straws*

1,485 straws counted on Toronto shoreline



Single-Use Plastic Bags**

Over **400M** bags generated by single-family households

* Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, 2021 Toronto Summary

** 2018 Audit, 200 households

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Background

- In 2018, City Council directed Solid Waste Management Services staff to develop a Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy.
- In 2018, conducted first phase of consultations to determine the items to be prioritized for reduction.
- In 2019, conducted second phase of consultations to determine the bylaw approaches and implementation timelines.
- In May 2020, the Reduction Strategy was put on hold as the City focused its efforts on the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Stage 1

- In June 2021, Toronto City Council approved the updated Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy – Stage 1 taking into consideration the social, financial, and health-related impacts on Toronto residents and businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Voluntary Measures Program.** To encourage and enable businesses to be a part of the zero waste, circular city transition that Toronto is aspiring to be by taking steps to eliminate the unnecessary use of single-use and takeaway items in their operations.

Program Components

Supports for businesses

- Resources such as e-posters and practical tips to help businesses take action
- Resource of public health regulations & guidance for food premises regarding accepting a customer's reusable container (food container, cups & bags)
- Updates provided on the City of Toronto's webpage: toronto.ca/single-use

Reduce single-use items in your business



Ask first
Place straws, cutlery, napkins, condiments and stir sticks behind the counter. Ask your customers first if they want them.



Add an option to your website or delivery app so customers can request the straws, cutlery and condiments that they need when they order.

Choose reusables
Encourage customers to bring a reusable bag, beverage cup or takeout containers for food, drink and other products. Provide reusable cups and containers for dining in. Consider offering or participating in a reusable container program or service.



Is it recyclable?
Some materials, like black plastic, cannot be recycled in the City of Toronto's recycling program. Choosing materials that can be recycled, such as clear clamshell containers and non-black coloured plastics, can help divert waste from landfill.



Go foam free
Polystyrene "foam" containers can have serious impacts on human health and the environment, and are difficult and costly to recycle. Many businesses have successfully transitioned from using foam cups and takeout containers to recyclable alternatives or a reusable container program.



No compostable plastics in the Green Bin
Plastic items labelled as compostable or biodegradable are not accepted in recycling or the Green Bin. Reusable items are a better step towards reducing waste.





toronto.ca/single-use

Program Components

- Webinars
 - Provide businesses with details on the resources available
 - Facilitate discussions with businesses on challenges and opportunities
- Recognition for businesses
 - Case studies of businesses that take leadership in waste reduction
 - Zero waste business directory
 - Re-useable suppliers directory
- Public Education Campaign
 - Raise residents' awareness and cultivate behaviour change toward adoption of reusables as a lifestyle choice.

Let's choose to reduce single-use items

Say "no thanks"

Only accept single-use items like cutlery, napkins, condiments and straws if you need them, whether in store or online.



Plan ahead

Bring your own bags, cups and containers to pick up takeout, and ask restaurants if they have reusable containers that you can borrow or rent.



Bring your own

Use reusable bags and travel mugs.



Bring food storage containers when dining out in case you have leftovers, and ask for a reusable cup or dish when dining in.

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Stage 2

- In February/March 2022, the City of Toronto held public and business consultations for feedback on revisions to proposed bylaw approaches, implementation timelines, and fee amounts.

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Bylaw Proposed Approaches



Items		Proposed Approaches & Timing
Single-Use Accessory Food Items (i.e. Straws, Utensils, Condiment Packets, Stir Sticks, Napkins etc.)	 	Ask First / By Request for all material types
Single-Use Bags (Paper & Plastic) & Reusable Bags		Fee
Single-Use Cups (Hot & Cold)		Fee
Takeout Food Containers (Expanded Polystyrene, Black Plastic)		No restriction as timing would coincide with Federal timing

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