

PW31.10 Attachment 2

ATTACHMENT 2

Background Information – Addressing Single-Use Products and Packaging in Toronto

City of Toronto Authority to Regulate or Ban Single-Use and Takeaway Materials

Generally speaking, the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, grants the City broad authority to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the City's ability to respond to municipal issues. Included in these powers is the ability to enact By-laws which, amongst other purposes, address climate change, environmental well-being, economic well-being, social well-being, and public health. Where these issues arise for the City in delivering waste collection and processing services, the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, provides a foundation for City Council to consider either voluntary or mandatory approaches.

Voluntary Approaches

Voluntary approaches to reducing and/or eliminating single-use or takeaway products and packaging could include incentive programs to encourage retailers to use products that are more compatible with Toronto's Blue Bin Recycling Program, such as City Council authorized reductions to waste fees or commercial licensing fees. Other voluntary approaches include enhanced promotion and education campaigns targeting single-use materials or City-sponsored contests or other publicity opportunities to encourage use of more recyclable materials and reduce use of non-recyclable products. Some voluntary measures can be undertaken immediately based on staff recommendations, while other approaches, such as financial incentives, may require a new municipal By-law or amendments to existing municipal By-laws.

Examples of Voluntary approaches to reducing single-use or takeaway products and packaging could include:

- Distribution of letters/notices to all commercial or non-residential City customers reinforcing which single-use and takeaway products and packaging are not compatible with the City's Blue Bin Recycling program.
- Advocacy for strong Provincial and Federal legislation aimed at reducing and/or eliminating single-use and takeaway products and packaging. As per City Council direction from April 2018, a letter will be sent to the Federal government requesting a national strategy to reduce single-use plastics and plastics pollution.
- Updates to waste audit studies, including parks, public spaces, and commercial customers, to address data gaps for single-use or takeaway products and packaging.

- Enhanced outreach, promotion and education to target single-use and takeaway products and packaging.
- Establishing stakeholder working groups to develop comprehensive approaches to reducing/eliminating targeted materials.
- Placement of bins at City facilities or centres to facilitate collection of problematic materials

Regulatory or Mandatory Approaches

Mandatory measures could include imposing bans on certain products or packaging, enforced with fines or administrative penalties. Other mandatory approaches could require that notices be posted or distributed or certain educational programs occur where single-use or takeaway products are sold.

Bans on targeted single-use or takeaway products and packaging could take several forms, and may require enactment of a new or amended By-law. Bans can be implemented on waste materials collected by Solid Waste Management Services staff or by contractors on behalf of the City, waste materials processed or disposed of at City or contracted facilities, or on the local use of the targeted material at restaurants and retailers. To ensure such By-laws are properly enacted, there should be advance notice and an opportunity for public input. Moreover, consideration should be given to the timing and nature of future Provincial regulations issued under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*.