

Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction

Annette Synowiec

Interim Director of Policy, Planning & Support

July 12 ,2019



Agenda

- Direction From City Council on Single-use and Takeaway Items
- Phase 1 Consultation – Fall 2018
- Scheduled Phase 2 Consultation – Fall 2019
- Question & Answer

How Did We Get Here?

In January 2018, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee referred an Item on Reducing the Use of Single-use Products to Solid Waste Management Services for consideration as part of the Long Term Waste Management Strategy

In April 2018, Solid Waste Management Services reported to City Council on challenges facing Toronto's Blue Bin recycling program:

- Delay in development of an amended Blue Box Program Plan – full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) pushing costs back to producers
- Increasing contamination levels in Blue Bin recycling lower quality of material recovered
- New restrictions from international markets on the import of wastes

Developing a Process

In response to the City's challenges with the Blue Bin Recycling program, City Council requested in April 2018 that:

- The Federal Government develop a national strategy that addresses plastic pollution, including nine specific recommendations, and that City Council forward this motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Solid Waste Management Services develop a process to reduce and/or eliminate single-use or takeaway packaging to help achieve the City's goal to become a circular economy city as part of the Long Term Waste Management Strategy



City Council Direction on Single-Use and Takeaway Items

This consultation is being held following City Council direction in July 2018 (PW 31.10 – Options to Reduce Single-use and Takeaway Items) to:

- a) develop a work plan aimed to reduce the use of single-use or takeaway packaging or products by completing pre-consultation with residents and stakeholders in Fall 2018 and a report back in 2019
- b) develop a policy which would restrict use of plastic straws in the City of Toronto
- c) consult with affected businesses, community health groups and other organizations prior to the submission of the proposed policy which would restrict plastic straws and report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in 2019

Phase 1 Consultation – Fall 2018












Phase 1 Consultation – Objectives

- For consultation purposes, a single-use or takeaway item was presented as:

"any product designed for a single-use after which it is disposed of, whether into garbage or a waste diversion stream, as solid waste. Typically, these products are not designed for durability or reuse."

- The objectives of Phase 1 consultation were to obtain input and feedback on:
 - Which single-use or takeaway items should be addressed by future policies and programs;
 - The preferred methods or approaches (through mandatory or voluntary approaches, or a combination thereof) to reduce these items; and
 - Additional opportunities to promote reuse.

Examples of Single-Use and Takeaway Items

Item	Description	Image	Item	Description	Image
Disposable Hot To-Go Cups	Most disposable hot to-go cups are made of paper and lined with plastic or wax.		Black Plastic Containers	Plastic containers that are coloured black.	
Disposable Cold To-Go Cups	Most disposable cold to-go cups are made of paper and lined with plastic or wax.		White or Clear Plastic Containers	Plastic containers that are coloured white or clear.	
Plastic Bags	A type of bag or pouch made of thin and flexible plastic film.		Plastic Straws	Used for drinking hot or cold liquids.	
Paper Bags	A type of bag or pouch made of paper.		Expanded Polystyrene Foam Containers (Styrofoam)	Polystyrene is the "number 6" plastic.	
Disposable Cutlery	Disposable utensils used for eating including forks, spoons, knives, chopsticks, and stir sticks.				

Possible Approaches – Mandatory

Mandatory approaches may include fees, bans, or signage with or without enforcement. Generally speaking, changes to the Toronto Municipal Code are required to mandate approaches to waste management. The City of Toronto Act, 2006, grants the City broad authority to enact bylaws which address waste reduction. Examples of mandatory approaches could include, but are not limited to:

- A "By-Request" Bylaw - commercial establishments should only distribute single-use and takeaway items, such as cutlery, upon request from the customer
- A Signage Bylaw - commercial establishments are asked to post information for customers on how to reduce their use of takeaway items
- A Disposal Ban at City transfer stations and landfills, where loads exceeding a threshold for designated single-use and takeaway items may be charged an additional fees

Possible Approaches – Voluntary or a Combination

Voluntary approaches may include City programs, incentives or rewards, or education and promotion campaigns focussed on reducing use of single-use or takeaway items. Examples could include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary posting of signage to encourage reusable products, or to provide information for customers on how to reduce their use of single-use or takeaway items
- Single-use or takeaway item waste reduction plans for registered commercial establishments

A combination of mandatory and voluntary approaches would include a combination of fees, bans, or signage, or education based approaches to reducing single-use or takeaway items.

Phase 1 Consultation – Activities

- Stakeholder engagement activities undertaken during Phase 1:
 - Online survey (Fall 2018, 20,000+ respondents)
 - Public event, webcast and webinar (240 participants)
 - Four stakeholder meetings (30 participants)
 - One of these meetings was with people with accessibility requirements or people representing those with accessibility requirements
 - Information shared via Accessibility Office and 60+ organizations
 - Extensive print and digital advertising campaign, including 1.85 Million social media impressions
 - Direct email communications to 7,000+ stakeholders
- A polling survey of 1,000 Toronto residents was also completed by Ipsos to gather statistically significant data

Phase 1 Consultation – Results

- In the Phase 1 consultation, 20,512 individuals participated with 95 per cent of individuals residing in Toronto or the GTHA
- Results from online survey include:
 - +70% of survey respondents were very likely or somewhat likely to use a reusable option for all items listed
 - Consistent support for mandatory measures and voluntary approaches to reduce many items. Respondents expressed consistent strong support (75%, 1% variation) for mandatory approaches to reduce: plastic bags, expanded polystyrene foam and black plastic takeout containers
 - All other items listed received support for mandatory (52% - 63%) or a combination of voluntary and mandatory (24% - 35%) approaches to reduction (with the exception of paper bags)
- Results from Ipsos polling reinforced the results of the online survey, however had typically lower levels of support

Phase 1 Consultation – Accessibility Feedback

- High levels of engagement received regarding potential accessibility impacts
- Types of single-use or takeaway items most important for accessibility:
 - Bendable straws for eating and drinking
 - Water bottles for hydration
 - Coffee lids for safety
 - Medical, health, and sanitary items
 - Packaging for pre-prepared meals
- An equity lens should be used to review policies and programs, for example a litter-less lunch can place a burden on women and primary caregivers who shop for, pack, and clean up their children's' meals, and reusable items can be high-cost. People with low-incomes may also be impacted by restrictive approaches.
- There are perceived 'laws' and liability concerns when patrons bring their own containers, and confusion around health and safety regulations
- Don't want people with disabilities to be reason that certain policies or programs aren't put in place
- Other items like water bottles, and cigarette butts should be dealt with before straws
- Ensure information is accessible, use braille, large text, contrasting colours

Scheduled Phase 2 Consultation – Fall 2019



Considerations for Development of Phase 2 Workplan

- Consistent with feedback received during Phase 1 consultation, a proposed Reduction Strategy will consider and prioritize policies and programs which, in no prioritized order:
 - Address materials which are not recyclable or are not effectively recycled in Toronto's Blue Bin Recycling Program
 - Target materials which are known to contribute to street litter and marine litter
 - Reflect survey and polling data on preferred approaches and items to target
 - Achieve a measurable environmental impact
 - Are harmonized or consistent with policies and programs being developed nationally and locally to reduce single-use or takeaway items

Staff Development of Proposed Policies and Program for Phase 2 Consultation

- Staff are working to develop a proposed work plan by:
 - Reviewing public comment in October/November 2018
 - Identifying public and stakeholder priorities for future programming to address these items and materials
 - Analysing results of survey and polling data
 - Conducting a jurisdictional scan

Staff Development of Proposed Policies and Program for Phase 2 Consultation (continued)

- Staff are working to develop a proposed work plan by:
 - Reviewing available data
 - Considering operational challenges related to identified materials and items
 - Considering readily available alternatives to the items evaluated
- A external consultant has been retained to help inform and develop a set of considerations and evaluation criteria for selecting Reduction Strategy approaches, and refine any associated policies and programs.

Phase 2 Consultation Plan

- Objectives of Phase 2 consultation will be to:
 - Share results of Phase 1 Consultation and communicate how single-use and takeaway items were selected and prioritized for action
 - Solicit feedback on priority materials to be addressed via mandatory measures
 - Timeline for implementation and degree of restriction to be primary focus for items addressed via mandatory measures.
 - Present voluntary measures to address other items
- Outreach and Engagement Activities will remain similar to the approach taken in Phase 1 Consultation
 - Tele-townhall(s) will help achieve accessibility objectives
 - Focus on youth engagement

Current Draft of Proposed Phase 2 Consultation Process – Q3/Q4 2019



Final report on Development of Single-use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy

- The outcome of Phase 2 consultation will be presented in a report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council in Q1/Q2 2020.
- This report will recommend regulations, policies, and programs to reduce single-use and takeaway items in the City of Toronto will include:
 - Proposed Timelines for implementation
 - Resources Required
 - Promotion and Education Support
 - Voluntary Measures
 - Development of Metrics and Future Programs

Questions & Answer



Thank you!



Contact Information:

Annette Synowiec

Interim Director of Policy, Planning &
Support, Solid Waste Management
Services

City Hall

100 Queen St. W.

25th Floor, East Tower

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Annette.Synowiec@toronto.ca