

Single-Use and Takeaway Item Reduction Strategy – Phase 2 Consultation

October 11, 2019

Toronto City Hall, Committee Room #1

What are single-use and takeaway items?

A single-use or takeaway item is any product designed for a single use after which it is disposed of, either into the garbage, Blue Bin or Green Bin.

Typically, these products are not designed for durability or reuse.

Accessibility

The City of Toronto recognizes that:

- some single-use and takeaway items support accessibility for individuals with disabilities
- programs and policies must be inclusive
- impacts to accessibility will be considered in this round of consultation as well as any future consultations on specific programs and policies

Background

- The Waste Strategy (July 2016) focuses on reduction and reuse
- Public Engagement: Educate Toronto's diverse communities on program changes, good waste management practices and encourage waste reduction and reuse.

Federal and Provincial Actions

Federal Government

- Committed to exploring bans, restrictions, and extended producer responsibility schemes for plastic waste by 2021

Provincial Government

- Prevent and reduce litter in our neighbourhoods and parks
- Reduce plastic waste going into landfills and waterways
- Move the Blue Box Program to extended producer responsibility
 - Producers will be responsible operationally and financially for the end-of-life management of Blue Box materials

Goal and Objectives

- Create a “Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy” for Toronto
- Reduce the generation, use and/or disposal of designated items, regardless of which waste stream (e.g. garbage, recycling, organics) they are currently managed in
- Goal of the Reduction Strategy is to reduce single-use and takeaway items not substitution with alternative materials

Phase 1 Consultation – Accessibility

- 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 prepared meals

Phase 1 Consultation – Accessibility

- An equity lens should be used to review policies and programs
- Ensure information is accessible, use braille, large text, contrasting colours
- Do not have accessible-focused consultation; include accessibility in all consultation

Phase 1 Consultation – Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Not a matter of convenience, but health and safety
- Glassware as an alternative container could be dangerous if dropped
- If incentives are used, this could be barrier
- Provide list of alternatives

Phase 2 Consultation Details

- Comment Period – September 24 – November 4, 2019
- Public Event & Webcast – September 24, 2019
- Stakeholder Meetings:
 - September 27, 2019
 - October 7, 2019
- Telephone Town Halls
 - October 10, 2019
 - October 24, 2019

Notification and Communications

- Information shared with internal City divisions
- Extensive city-wide print and digital advertising campaign
- Eblast to Waste Strategy contact list, 7,000+ contacts
- Invitations to stakeholder meetings sent to 300+ organizations, including 100+ accessibility and social service providers
- Requests to share information through additional stakeholder networks sent to range of City contacts (including TAAC and Clerks Accessibility Network)

Goal of Phase 2 Consultation

The City of Toronto is seeking feedback on:

1. Approaches being considered for reduction of specific single-use and takeaway items
2. Implementation considerations (for example timeline)

Proposed Reduction Strategy

- Several possible approaches are being considered, including timelines to implement policies
- Seeking public and stakeholder feedback on the proposed items and approaches
- Nothing is decided and this is the opportunity to provide input into shaping the future Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy

Guiding Principles

- Address materials which are not recyclable or are not effectively recycled in Toronto's Blue Bin Recycling Program
- Target materials known to contribute to litter on streets and in waterways
- 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

Items Being Considered

2021

- Single-Use Eating Utensils
- Single-Use Plastic and Paper Bags

2022

- Single-Use Hot and Cold Drink Cups
- Expanded Polystyrene (Foam) Food Takeaway Containers and Cups
- Single-Use Straws

Approaches Being Considered

By-request / ask first bylaw requiring confirmation from the customer that the item is wanted

- Eating utensils
- Single-use straws

Fee bylaw requiring businesses to charge customers per item

- Single-use plastic and paper bags
- Single-Use Hot and Cold Drink Cups

Ban bylaw that would prohibit businesses from distributing and using item

- Foam food takeaway containers and cups

Voluntary Approach for all Single-Use and Takeaway Items

Showcase Best Practices

- Encourage self-reporting and sharing successes
- Bring your own reusable container programs

Explore Pilots and Partnerships

- Pilot reusable food container programs and reusable water bottle filling stations

Support Reduction Activities and Behaviour

- Pledge programs for residents and businesses
- Recognition awards

Implementation Process

2019

- Phase 2 consultation (September 24 to November 4)
- Staff review feedback from consultation
- Staff conducts ongoing research and jurisdictional scan, and prepares staff report to inform potential future bylaw

2020

- Q2 - Present findings from Phase 2 consultation to Committee and Council for consideration
- Work with other City Divisions (for example Municipal Licensing and Standards) to coordinate and implement work plan to initiate change

Implementation Process (cont.)

2020

- Work with stakeholders, affected businesses and others, to prepare for upcoming bylaw
- Promote, educate and communicate change to residents, businesses, etc.
- Q3/Q4 – If Approved, City Solicitor prepares a bill (draft bylaw)

2021

- If bill is passed by Council, by law will be drafted, presented, approved & enter into effect.

Consultation Contact

For more information contact us at:
wastestrategy@toronto.ca
416-392-3760

For the on-line survey go to:
toronto.ca/single-use

Comments must be received by November 4, 2019 to be
considered

Questions

Annette Synowiec

Interim Director Policy, Planning & Outreach

annette.synowiec@toronto.ca

Charlotte Ueta

Manager Solid Waste Policy & Planning

charlotte.ueta@toronto.ca