

# IE5.9 - Attachment 1

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Executive Summary – Public Consultation Report on Phase 1 Consultation Regarding Single-use and Takeaway Items

#### Outline of Phase 1 Consultation

Phase 1 consultation took place from September 20, 2018 to October 28, 2018 to identify opportunities to reduce the generation of single-use and takeaway items in Toronto, including:

- Which single-use or takeaway items residents and stakeholders are most interested in addressing.
- Preferred methods or approaches to reducing these items or promoting additional reuse.

City Council Meeting on July 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 30, 2018, direction on Item PW 31.10 entitled 'Options to Address Single-Use Items, Misleading Advertising, and Textile Waste in the City of Toronto):

- 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 formally known as Public Works and Infrastructure Committee now called 'Infrastructure and Environment Committee' in 2019.

The definition presented for a single-use or takeaway item was:

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

A wide range of activities was used in Phase 1 consultation:

- Online Survey: From September 20, 2018 to October 28, 2018 with more than 20,000 responses.
- Public Launch Event, including live Webcast: October 2, 2018 with more than 160 participants.

- Webinar: October 4, 2018 with more than 80 participants.
- Stakeholder Meetings: From October 11 to October 26, 2018 with more than 30 participants representing a variety of impacted sectors:
  - Food and Restaurants
  - Retail and Manufacturing:
  - Environmental or Community Non-Government Organizations and Academia
  - Accessibility Organizations
- Print and Online Notification and Communications: From September 20 to October 28, 2018, including:
  - Seven print publications
  - Webpage hosted at [www.toronto.ca/wastestrategy](http://www.toronto.ca/wastestrategy)
  - Email and stakeholder lists and updates
  - 1.85M social media impressions

In total, 20,512 individuals participated in consultation, including 95% from Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

### **Summary – What We Heard – Online Survey**

Top 3 single-use/takeaway items used most frequently (every day / almost every day):

1. Plastic Bags (45%)
2. Hot To-Go Cups (44%)
3. White, clear or colour plastic containers (40%)

Top 3 reasons for using single-use/takeaway items:

1. Shop/restaurant gives them to me without asking (68%)
2. No re-usable options provided (68%)
3. I make unexpected purchases (52%)

More than 70% of survey respondents were very likely or somewhat likely to use a reusable option instead of the disposable product for ALL items listed.

The majority indicated similarly strong levels of support (87% - 93%) for reduction of all items listed - with the exception of paper bags. Items supported include:

- Expanded Foam Containers
- Plastic Bags
- Black Plastic Containers
- Disposable Hot To-Go Cups
- Disposable Cold To-Go Cups
- Plastic Straws

- Disposable Cutlery
- White, Clear, or other plastic container

Respondents expressed consistent strong support (75%, 1% variation) for mandatory approaches to reduce: plastic bags, black plastic, and Expanded Foam 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).

### **Major Themes Emerging from Phase 1 Consultation**

**Accessibility, equity, and health:** Impacts to accessibility and equity must be considered to ensure programs and policies don't create additional burdens.

*Plastic straws are a necessary accessibility item for many people. Any By-law must include continued, universal access for those who need them.*

**Approaches and alternatives:** The City should be more aggressive with its policies, and be a stronger leader. There is strong support for mandatory approaches to reduction, and general support for voluntary and a combination of voluntary and mandatory approaches.

*A mandatory approach (By-laws, Penalties and Fees) should be used as much as possible. Signs, voluntary measures and motivations should be an additional, complementary approach to raise awareness.*

**Evaluation:** Evidence is required to identify which items should be targeted for reduction based on defined metrics including environmental impact, accessibility and equity.

*Use evidence based data analysis to determine what plastics get to water bodies and at what proportion and focus on the highest number.*

**Implementation:** A phased approach is required to implement new programs and policy to encourage and allow people and businesses to adapt to change.

*Consider phases: voluntary, then a hybrid approach, then a mandatory approach to reduction of single-use and takeaway items. Convenient alternatives must be offered and considered.*

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Producers, manufacturers and businesses have a role in reducing waste through their purchasing, packaging, and full extended producer responsibility. The City has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership, and needs to clarify how additional revenues will be used, and how enforcement will be achieved.

*Toronto should work with its municipal partners to leverage the provincial government and federal government to act for a more effective and economic set of policies to reduce single-use and takeaway items. Toronto cannot go it alone.*

## **Summary of Feedback from Stakeholder Engagement Meetings**

Four stakeholder engagement sessions were held from October 11, 2018 to October 26, 2018 to discuss options to reduce single-use and takeaway items with the following sectors. We heard from these groups specifically that:

- Use of single-use items has gone up significantly over past five to ten years.
- There are perceived challenges related to meeting health and safety regulations for reusable items.
- New regulations require a phased in approach to implementation, including a mix of mandatory and voluntary approaches.
- To support implementation consistent messaging and education for the public, producers, and vendors is necessary, and supply chains need to be ready to meet demand with products that comply with new regulations.
- Single-use items required for accessibility (like straws and lids) should be exempt from new regulations.
- Environmental, equity, and health criteria can help determine which items to target for reduction.
- A national or provincial strategy would be easier to comply with.