

IE5.9 - Attachment 2

ATTACHMENT 2

Questions from Phase 1 Consultation – Online Survey Regarding Single-use and Takeaway Items

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In July 2018 (PW31.10), City Council directed Solid Waste Management Services to:

- Consult with residents and stakeholder groups on single-use plastics and takeaway packaging items for targeted reduction, and solicit input on policy tools.
- Develop a work plan aimed to reduce the use of single-use or takeaway packaging or products.
- Develop a policy to restrict plastic straws in the City of Toronto.

These activities support recommendations established in the City's Long Term Waste Management Strategy (Waste Strategy, adopted by City Council in July 2016), which places priority on reducing waste and minimizing the amount sent to landfill.

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A single-use or takeaway item is any product designed to be used once after which is it disposed of, whether into the garbage, Blue Bin (recycling) or Green Bin (organics).

Many single-use and takeaway items can be challenging to manage. For example hot and cold drink cups are lined with plastic or wax that makes it difficult and costly to recycle and small items like straws and lids are difficult to sort.

Some single-use products are often made in whole or part of plastic materials. When improperly managed, plastic materials can make their way into our water bodies and natural areas. Plastic materials do not degrade naturally and can persist in the environment for a very long period of time.

Recently, international recycling markets have placed significant restrictions on the type of waste they will accept. These restrictions have affected the North American waste industry, making it even more challenging for cities like Toronto to find markets to accept our recyclable materials.

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Examples of single-use and takeaway items the City could consider policies and programs to encourage reduction of include:

- Disposable cups (hot or cold)

- Shopping or takeaway bags (paper or plastic)
- Plastic food takeout containers (black, clear, or white)
- Disposable cutlery
- Plastic straws
- Expanded polystyrene foam containers (Styrofoam)

Approaches to reduce single-use or takeaway items could be mandatory, voluntary, or a combination of both. Participants are strongly encouraged to suggest other items or approaches which may not be listed as examples.

Survey Questions

1. Do you represent or work for any of the following groups?

- The municipal government of the City of Toronto
- A retail store
- A restaurant
- An environmental organization
- A health organization
- A waste management company
- A manufacturer or producer
- None of the above

2. How frequently do you use the following single-use or takeaway items?

Options: Every day or almost every day; A couple times a week; A couple times a month; A couple times a year or less; Never

- Disposable Hot To-Go Cups, such as coffee cups
- Disposable Cold To-Go Cups, such as pop cups
- Plastics Bags
- Paper Bags
- Black Plastic Containers
- White, Clear, or Any Colour Plastic Containers
- Disposable Cutlery
- Plastic Straws
- Styrofoam Containers

3. Please indicate up to three (3) reasons why you use single-use or takeaway items:

- There are no reusable options provided to me by the restaurant or shop
- The shop or restaurant does not permit me to use my own reusable items
- It is easy to dispose of disposable single-use or takeaway items
- Disposable single-use or takeaway items are convenient and save time
- The shop or restaurant gives them to me without asking
- I make unexpected purchases
- To support accessibility needs related to a disability

- I don't know
- It is a hassle to carry reusable items with me
- Other, please specify

4. How likely would you be to use an alternative reusable item instead of the disposable option?

Options: Very likely; Somewhat likely; Only a little bit likely; Not at all likely; I already use this all the time, I can't use it more

- Reusable bags, instead of plastic or paper bags
- Reusable straws, instead of disposable straws
- Reusable food containers, instead of disposable plastic containers
- Reusable cold beverage container, instead of a disposable cold beverage cup
- Reusable hot beverage container, instead of a disposable hot beverage cup

5. The City of Toronto is considering strategies to reduce or restrict the use of certain types of single-use and takeaway items in order to minimize the amount of waste that the City of Toronto has to manage.

Indicate whether you would support or oppose the reduction of the following items in the City of Toronto:

Options: Strongly support; Somewhat support; Neither support nor oppose; Somewhat oppose; Strongly oppose

- Disposable Hot To-Go Cups
- Disposable Cold To-Go Cups
- Plastic Bags
- Paper Bags
- Black Plastic Containers
- White, clear, or other colours of Plastic Containers
- Disposable Cutlery
- Plastic Straws
- Styrofoam Containers
- Other, please specify

6. Considering the following single-use and take-away items, indicate whether you believe that the City of Toronto should use Mandatory, Voluntary, a Combination of mandatory and voluntary approaches, or none of these approaches to reduce the use of these items?

Options: Mandatory approaches to reduce use; Voluntary approaches to reduce use; A combination of mandatory and voluntary approaches; None of these options; Don't know

- Disposable Hot To-Go Cups
- Disposable Cold To-Go Cups

- Plastic Bags
- Paper Bags
- Black Plastic Containers
- White, clear, or other colours of Plastic Containers
- Disposable Cutlery
- Plastic Straws
- Styrofoam Containers
- Other, please specify

7. In July 2018, City Council requested staff develop a policy to restrict use of plastic straws in the City of Toronto. Plastic straws can effectively increase accessibility for some individuals with disabilities. Which approach(es) to managing the use of plastic straws do you believe the City should develop?

- a. Mandatory approaches, as outlined in Question 3
- b. Voluntary approaches, as outlined in Question 3
- c. Combination of voluntary and mandatory approaches, as outlined in Question 3.
- d. Not Sure
- e. None

8. Please provide any additional comments that the City of Toronto should consider regarding the use, restriction, and reduction of single-use and takeaway items.