



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM10.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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Promoting Reusable Food Serviceware at Toronto Restaurants - by Councillor Jaye Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Jaye Robinson, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in the third quarter of 2020 on the feasibility of implementing a requirement for all dining establishments to provide reusable food serviceware for eat-in customers to reduce the use of single-use plastics in Toronto's restaurant industry.

Summary

Toronto's Long Term Waste Management Strategy is an ambitious plan that includes strategies to promote resource conservation, reduce environmental impacts, and maximize the value of items before disposal. The Long Term Waste Management Strategy commits the City to a 70 percent long-term waste diversion target and supports our move towards a circular economy and zero-waste future. To advance these goals further, it is necessary to reduce the use of single-use items, such as disposable dishes, take-out containers, and plastic cutlery, in Toronto restaurants.

According to a recent report from the Province's Special Advisor on Recycling and Plastic Waste, up to 30 percent of items collected in blue boxes are sent to landfill. The production, consumption, and disposal of single-use plastics are particularly problematic as these items do not decompose easily.

As these items break down over time, the tiny particles or microplastics that are produced pollute our air, food, drinking water, and natural environments. In 2016, researchers estimated that 10,000 metric tons of plastic and microplastic debris enter the Great Lakes every year.

In April 2019, City Council voted to develop a plan to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic products in all City of Toronto facilities, events, and campaigns. In 2018, my motion directing City staff to develop a process to limit or eliminate single-use products, such as black plastics,

that are not accepted in the City's Blue Bin Recycling Program, was adopted. Throughout 2018, City staff sought feedback from Torontonians on how they think the City should reduce single-use and takeaway items. Over 20,000 residents participated in this initiative.

Many quick-service restaurants in Toronto have reduced their environmental impact by providing reusable food serviceware for eat-in customers. With encouraging developments at the federal and provincial levels, this is an opportunity to take further action to address plastic pollution in our City.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM10.1