



Etobicoke Climate Action

Nov. 28, 2023

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, City of Toronto:

As residents of Etobicoke and members of Etobicoke Climate Action, we are concerned about the growing problem of single-use plastic and the impact it has on our health and the environment. We have participated in litter pick-ups in our parks and will continue to do so, but we see new litter return soon enough.

We can't recycle our way out of this problem and switching to other disposable materials isn't a solution. We need to make a real shift away from wasteful single-use and focus on reuse.

Etobicoke Climate Action wants Toronto to follow the lead of other jurisdictions in Canada and around the world and pass policies that will help local restaurants and food businesses shift from harmful single-use disposables to reusable alternatives. We know that our friends at UofT Trash Team, Toronto Environmental Alliance and Green Neighbours Network of Toronto have canvassed restaurants and retailers about switching away from wasteful single-use containers and utensils, and they now know that this change will save them money. They only need to learn that everyone will be playing by the same rules, and that those rules are clearly and consistently followed. Some mentoring and modest funding for small independent businesses may assist expedite this needed shift.

We support TEA and Reusable Toronto's call for action, and I urge you to:

- 1) Move quickly on an 'ask-first' regulation to reduce unnecessary accessory foodware
- 2) Help reduce takeout foodware waste by requiring acceptance of customer-cups
- 3) Make a plan to require restaurants to provide reusable cups and foodware for dine-in orders
- 4) Make a plan to require reusable cups and foodware at venues and events
- 5) Support reusable, returnable takeout programs
- 6) Follow through on your commitment to lead by example and shift to zero-waste reusables in City facilities
- 7) Support small restaurants with training and microgrants to adopt reusables

That local research we mentioned above shows that Toronto restaurants are ready to reduce waste, and seeking guidance and support from the City on how best to adapt to new federal plastics bans. Now is a critical time to reduce single-use plastics and support businesses in reducing waste, adopting reusable options for take-out and dine-in.

We all want to live in a beautiful Toronto and that means we have to stop this waste and its despoiling of our ravines, parks, and streets.

Respectfully
Brian MacLean

ETOBICOKE CLIMATE ACTION

Website: www.EtobicokeClimateAction.ca

E: info@EtobicokeClimateAction.ca

Twitter & Instagram: @EtobicokeCA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EtobicokeClimateAction

Youtube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCkSLJOs9dCuJhUjKGAx3Wg