

Attachment 2: Supporting Information and Data

The following information details consultation, audit data, and jurisdictional scans that provide rationale for recommendations provided in the Update on Stage 2 of the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy (Update Report) on including additional items in Municipal Code Chapter 702, Single-Use & Takeaway Items (SUTI Bylaw) that takes into consideration the Government of Canada's (Government) Single-Use Plastic Prohibition Regulations (Federal Regulations). Also included is jurisdictional information on restricted events and large event venues to accompany recommendations in the Update Report on requiring restricted events to adhere to the Ask-First/By-Request requirement of the SUTI Bylaw.

Plastic Manufactured Items Under the Federal Regulations

Plastic Shopping Bags

Solid Waste's public consultations in 2019 and 2022 indicated strong support for retail business establishments to charge their customers a minimum amount for a plastic shopping bag, at 89 per cent and 66 per cent, respectively. However, Solid Waste did not recommend a by-law requiring a retail business establishment to charge their customers a minimum amount for a plastic shopping bag since the sale, and distribution for free, of plastic bags was prohibited under the Federal Regulations, effective December 20, 2023.

As per the City's 2022 Litter Audits, non-retail plastic shopping bags increased to 4 per cent of all items surveyed, up from 2.1 per cent in 2020. Similarly, among large litter items surveyed, there was an increase to 1.3 per cent in 2022 from 0.6 per cent in 2020. Plastic retail shopping bags, however, decreased to 1.6 per cent in 2022 from 4 per cent in 2020. This is possibly a result of the Federal Regulations. In advance of the Federal Regulations coming into effect, a number of large retail business establishments had already eliminated the distribution of plastic shopping bags, including Walmart,¹ Metro (including Food Basics),² Loblaw Companies Ltd (including Shoppers Drug Mart, No Frills, Real Canadian Superstore, and Fortinos),³ and Sobeys (including Farm Boy).⁴ A total of 21 plastic shopping bags were recorded in the two-week observational litter audit conducted in 2024.

¹ See "Walmart Canada says goodbye to single-use plastic bags," - <https://www.walmartcanada.ca/newsroom/2022/04/21/walmart-canada-says-goodbye-to-single-use-plastic-bags>

² See "Metro eliminates single-use plastic shopping bags in all its food stores and pharmacies," - <https://corpo.metro.ca/en/media/newsroom/2022/METRO-eliminates-single-use-plastic-shopping-bags.html>

³ See "Loblaw to eliminate all single-use plastic shopping bags from its stores by early 2023," - <https://www.loblaw.ca/en/loblaw-to-eliminate-all-single-use-plastic-shopping-bags-from-its-stores-by-early-2023/>

⁴ See "Sobeys removing plastic bags from its stores on Friday," <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/say-goodbye-sobeys-bags-1.5444451>

As of 2018, about 66 per cent of countries in the world had regulated the distribution of free plastic shopping bags.⁵ Several Canadian municipalities have adopted a bylaw that imposes a ban on plastic shopping bags, namely: Montreal, on January 1, 2018, which expanded to include retail business establishments in August 2022; St. John's, on July 1, 2020; Halifax, on October 30, 2020; Winnipeg, on January 1, 2021; Victoria, on April 15, 2021; Regina, on February 1, 2022; Vancouver, on April 1, 2022; Edmonton, on July 1, 2023; and Banff, on January 1, 2024.

Environmentally, while plastics may break down, the rate at which they degrade can be slow. As noted in the Draft Science Assessment on Plastic Pollution, "single-use plastics make up the bulk of plastic litter that is found in freshwater environments." Plastic shopping bags are one of the most common litter items collected on Canadian shorelines.⁶

Plastic Ring Carriers (or Six-Pack Ring Carriers)

In the City's 2022 Litter Audits, plastic ring carriers accounted for 0.2 per cent of all plastics litter items, and 0.1 per cent of large litter items. Large litter surveys showed plastic ring carriers ranked 23rd out of 28 plastic categories. As with plastic shopping bags, plastic ring carriers can degrade very slowly in the environment.⁷ No plastic ring carriers were recorded in the two-week observational litter audit conducted in 2024.

Plastic Foodservice Ware: Black Plastic and Expanded and Extruded Polystyrene Foam

A general public online survey conducted by Solid Waste staff in 2019 found that 64 per cent of respondents felt black pigment plastic items should be included in the City's Reduction Strategy, while 95 per cent of respondents supported a ban on expanded polystyrene (foam) food takeaway containers and cups.⁸

In the City's 2022 Litter Audits, polystyrene trays, clamshells, cups, and plates increased to 3 per cent in 2022, from 2 per cent in 2020. As a large litter item, they increased to 0.9 per cent in 2022, from 0.6 per cent in 2020. Large litter surveys showed polystyrene trays, clamshells, cups and plates ranked 14th, 19th, 20th and 27th respectively out of 28 plastic categories.⁹ In the observational litter audit, there were 10 items of polystyrene foodservice ware recorded along with 10 pieces/debris of polystyrene foodservice ware.

⁵ See UN Environment Program – Single-use Plastic Bags and their Alternatives - <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31932/SUPB.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁶ See Government of Canada – Draft Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/draft-science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html>

⁷ See Government of Canada – Draft Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/draft-science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html>

⁸ See Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy - Phase 2 Public Consultation Report - February 2020 - <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-166835.pdf>

⁹ See City of Toronto – 2022 Litter Audits - www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/8915-CityofTorontoLitterAudit2022FINALAODA.pdf

Several Canadian municipalities have imposed a ban on expanded and extruded polystyrene foam cups and containers, including: City of Guelph, effective since January 1, 2023;¹⁰ in the City of Edmonton, effective since July 1, 2023; and will come into effect in the City of Winnipeg, starting on January 1, 2025.¹¹

Operationally, expanded and extruded polystyrene foam is challenging to manage, as it breaks apart easily and is voluminous, yet the lightest of materials.¹² As per the Strategy Matters report, polystyrene foam containers and cups are easily replaceable by standard plastic food containers or, in some applications, fiber containers.¹³

Although Phase 2 of the Reduction Strategy did not explicitly consult on black plastic, there was strong support from the survey, public events, tele-townhall events and polling, for the City to address this item. Comments received through the online survey, public events and tele-townhalls revealed Toronto residents supported the City in addressing black plastic takeout food containers. As noted above, third-party polling results found 64 per cent of residents believed the City should include black plastic food containers in the Reduction Strategy and 80 per cent of respondents believed that it should be placed on the City's top two priorities for expanding the Reduction Strategy to other materials.¹⁴

Regarding both expanded and extruded polystyrene foam and black plastic, Solid Waste did not recommend a by-law requiring further restrictions, as these items have been prohibited under the Federal Regulations, effective December 20, 2023.

Single-Use Plastic Straws

A general public online survey conducted by Solid Waste staff in 2019 found that 92 per cent supported an Ask-First/By-Request requirement on single-use straws.¹⁵

In the City's 2022 Litter Audits,¹⁶ plastic straws accounted for 4.6 per cent of all plastic litter items, down from 11.7 per cent in 2020, and accounted for 1.5 per cent of Large Litter items, down from 3.6 per cent in 2020.¹⁷ Large Litter surveys showed plastic

¹⁰ See City of Guelph - Guelph Council Approves Single-Use Items Bylaw -

<https://guelph.ca/2022/09/guelph-council-approves-single-use-items-bylaw/>

¹¹ See City of Winnipeg - City of Edmonton Charter Bylaw 20117 - Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw, section 6 - <https://pub-edmonton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=163591>

¹² See City of Toronto – Reasons to Reduce Single-Use - <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/long-term-waste-strategy/reducing-single-use-takeaway-items/>, and <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/95ef-DS-23-0001-ReducingSingleUseGuide-WEB-FINALAODA.pdf>

¹³ See Strategy matters – Technical Memorandum No.1 -

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-166833.pdf>

¹⁴ See City of Toronto – Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Phase 2 Consultation

Report – February 2020 - <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-166835.pdf>

¹⁵ See Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy - Phase 2 Public Consultation Report -

February 2020 - <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-166835.pdf>

¹⁶ See City of Toronto – 2022 Litter Audits - www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/8915-CityofTorontoLitterAudit2022FINALAODA.pdf

¹⁷ See City of Toronto – 2022 Litter Audits - www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/8915-CityofTorontoLitterAudit2022FINALAODA.pdf

straws ranked 19th in the top 20 Litter items and ranked 6th out of 28 plastic litter categories. 20 plastic straws were observed in the observational litter audit.

Reducing single-use plastic straws will reduce its prevalence as litter, which are seen in the City's Litter Audits, and will benefit the environment and contribute to a cleaner and healthier city, reducing the amount of items entering landfill and polluting natural spaces.

Straws ranked 12th on Ocean Wise's 2022 Shoreline Cleanup Dirty Dozen list.¹⁸ Also, the prevalence of "compostable" and "biodegradable" plastic alternative straws creates confusion and leads to an increase in contamination in both the recycling and organics waste diversion streams.

Several Canadian municipalities have imposed an Ask-First/By-Request requirement on single-use straws as part of their single-use and takeaway items reduction strategies, namely Banff,¹⁹ Calgary,²⁰ Edmonton,²¹ and Winnipeg.²²

Single-Use Plastic Cutlery

A general public online survey conducted by Solid Waste staff in 2019 found that 93 per cent supported an Ask-First/By-Request requirement on single-use eating utensils.²³

A consultant procured by Solid Waste²⁴ in 2019 to determine recommendations for addressing single-use and takeaway items noted that plastic cutlery was present in Toronto as water litter and street litter. Plastic cutlery can also easily break into smaller pieces, resulting in multiple fragments that are nearly impossible to fully recover once in the environment and may contribute towards microplastics.

In the City's 2022 Litter Audits, single-use plastic cutlery (straws excluded) accounted for 3.2 per cent of all plastics litter items, down from 3.9 per cent in 2020,²⁵ and accounted for 1 per cent of Large Litter items, down from 1.2 per cent in 2020. Large Litter surveys showed spoons, forks, and knives ranked 13th, 15th and 24th, respectively, out of 28 in the plastic litter category. 54 items of plastic cutlery were recorded in the observational litter audit.

¹⁸ See Ocean Wise – "Ditching" the Dirty Dozen - <https://ocean.org/blog/ditching-the-dirty-dozen/>

¹⁹ See Town of Banff – Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw - <https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/15039/Single-Use-Item-Reduction-Bylaw-468>

²⁰ See City of Calgary – Single-Use Items Bylaw - <https://www.calgary.ca/waste/residential/single-use-items.html?redirect=/singleuse>

²¹ See City of Edmonton – Single-use Item Reduction - https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/garbage_waste/single-use-items

²² See City of Winnipeg - The Waste Reduction and Prevention Amendment Act (Reducing Single-Use Plastics) - <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-4/b244e.php>

²³ See Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy - Phase 2 Public Consultation Report - February 2020 - <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-166835.pdf>

²⁴ See City of Toronto – Reasons to Reduce Single-Use - <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/long-term-waste-strategy/reducing-single-use-takeaway-items/>, and <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/95ef-DS-23-0001-ReducingSingleUseGuide-WEB-FINALAODA.pdf>

²⁵ See City of Toronto – 2022 Litter Audits - www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/8915-CityofTorontoLitterAudit2022FINALAODA.pdf

An increase in the prevalence of "compostable" and "biodegradable" plastic cutlery alternatives creates consumer confusion and leads to an increase in contamination in both the City's recycling and organics waste diversion streams.²⁶

Several Canadian municipalities have imposed an Ask-First/By-Request requirement on single-use plastic cutlery as part of their single-use and takeaway items reduction strategies, namely Banff,²⁷ Calgary,²⁸ Dawson City,²⁹ Edmonton,³⁰ and Montreal.³¹

Plastic Stir Sticks

The City's 2022 Litter Audits and the Multi-Family Audits did not classify stir sticks, stirrers, drink plugs, swizzle sticks, etc., nor were plastic stir sticks found during the City's Fall 2023 Single-Family audit. However, 10 plastic stir sticks were found in the 2024 observational litter audit.

Several Canadian municipalities have imposed an Ask-First/By-Request requirement on stir sticks as part of their single-use and takeaway items reduction strategies, namely Banff,³² Calgary,³³ Winnipeg,³⁴ and Montreal.³⁵

Exemption of Restricted Events under the SUTI Bylaw

Restricted Events/Large Event Venues

Many Restricted Events, such as the Toronto Zoo and Art Gallery of Ontario, have already taken initiatives in tackling single-use and takeaway items, from piloting wooden cutlery and using refillable travel mugs for hot beverages in dine-in establishments,³⁶ to eliminating plastic water bottles and adding signage above recycling and waste bins to

²⁶ See City of Toronto – Important information about coffee pods and compostable and biodegradable items - <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/houses/what-goes-in-my-blue-bin/>

²⁷ See Town of Banff – Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw - <https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/15039/Single-Use-Item-Reduction-Bylaw-468>

²⁸ See City of Calgary – Single-Use Items Bylaw - <https://www.calgary.ca/waste/residential/single-use-items.html?redirect=/singleuse>

²⁹ See City of Dawson – Single-use Plastics Bylaw, Bylaw No. 2019-10 - <https://www.cityofdawson.ca/Home/DownloadDocument?docId=847a340b-faac-4d3d-ab3a-7d6811af0ee3>

³⁰ See City of Edmonton – Single-use Item Reduction - https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/garbage_waste/single-use-items

³¹ See City of Montreal – Single-use Plastics: What you need to know about legislation - [Single-use plastic: What you need to know about legislation | Ville de Montréal \(montreal.ca\)](https://ville.montreal.ca/fr/Single-use-plastic-What-you-need-to-know-about-legislation)

³² See Town of Banff – Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw - <https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/15039/Single-Use-Item-Reduction-Bylaw-468>

³³ See City of Calgary – Single-Use Items Bylaw - <https://www.calgary.ca/waste/residential/single-use-items.html?redirect=/singleuse>

³⁴ See City of Winnipeg - The Waste Reduction and Prevention Amendment Act (Reducing Single-Use Plastics) - <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-4/b244e.php>

³⁵ See City of Montreal – Single-use Plastics: What you need to know about legislation - [Single-use plastic: What you need to know about legislation | Ville de Montréal \(montreal.ca\)](https://ville.montreal.ca/fr/Single-use-plastic-What-you-need-to-know-about-legislation)

³⁶ See Toronto Zoo – Toronto Zoo Plastics Statement - https://www.torontozoo.com/conservation/plastics/TZ%20plastic%20statement_05-13_website.pdf

prevent contamination.³⁷ Solid Waste will continue to encourage retail business establishments that fall under the category of Restricted Events and are exempt from some of the SUTI Bylaw to implement 'bring-your-own' programs and, where possible, accept the use of reusables, subject to the establishment's internal policies and guidelines.

Several municipalities in Canada have extended their single-use and takeaway items bylaws to include large events. Beginning July 1, 2023, events in the City of Edmonton expecting more than 1,500 attendees are required to comply with the single-use bylaw, namely accepting customers' reusable cups and charging a minimum fee for paper shopping bags or reusable shopping bags. The City of Edmonton also requires events to serve dine-in drinks in reusable cups.³⁸ In Banff, beginning July 1, 2023, businesses and event organizers serving food or beverages must have a written policy to accept reusable cups and containers that customers bring to the business or event.³⁹

In the United States, the City of Seattle, through a public-private partnership with Seattle Public Utilities called *Reuse Seattle*, implemented the first city-wide reusable system to be featured at music venues throughout the city.⁴⁰

³⁷ See Art Gallery of Ontario - <https://ago.ca/node/36001#:~:text=We're%20also%20running%20a,what%20goes%20in%20each%20bin>

³⁸ See City of Edmonton – Single-use Item Reduction - https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/garbage_waste/single-use-items

³⁹ See Town of Banff <https://banff.ca/1273/Single-Use-Items-Reduction-Strategy>

⁴⁰ See Reuse Seattle - <https://reuseseseattle.org/>