



Green 13
% 491 Beresford Ave.
Toronto M6S 3B8

May 1, 2024

To: Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and Mayor Chow
Via email: iec@toronto.ca

Re: IE 13.7 - Update on Stage 2 of the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Strategy

Green 13, active since 2008, is based in Ward 4. We are residents concerned about the impact humans are having on our climate and environment. Our goals are to: increase public awareness about climate and other environmental concerns; encourage public discourse on sustainability; advocate for policy and behavioural change; and, build resilience in our community.

We are writing to urge you to move quickly to stop single-use plastic pollution in our city, by using local regulations and by-laws to ban the worst plastics.

Last summer we supported youth hired through Canada Summer Jobs in surveying restaurant managers about their use of single use takeaway items, with the long term goal of reducing litter at its source. This work, we felt, was particularly timely given the City's Reducing Single-Use and Takeaway Items program, and the federal government's ban on the sale of six different disposable plastic items.

We know that European cities are well ahead of Toronto in solving this problem of single-use and takeaway items, and suggest the City study those successful strategies. We believe the City can support small businesses in being more sustainable. We urge you to move quickly to ban the worst single-use plastic items - like black plastic, foam containers and cups, and plastic as a key part of single-use reduction strategy. This in turn will curb the blight of trash, wind-blown, strewn throughout our prized shared green spaces.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and urge you to take the necessary actions.

Rita Bijons
Co-Chair, Green 13 green13@green13toronto.org