



Scarborough Zero Waste, Scarborough, ON

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To: Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and Mayor Chow

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

On behalf of Scarborough Zero Waste, I am writing to express our strong support for the banning of single-use plastics in Toronto, including plastic bags, plastic takeout food ware, and foam products. We urge the City Council to take swift action in implementing a local ban regulation to ensure that Toronto leads the way in reducing plastic waste and protecting our environment.

Scarborough Zero Waste is a grassroots organization that has not just been a voice in taking a stand against waste reduction but we have also been putting our words into action within the Scarborough community. We are doing our best to engage and educate local restaurants and food establishments about the benefits of adopting reusable take-out containers as well as working with the organizers of the Taste of Lawrence and the Scarborough Folk Fest to incorporate more reusables during these events. Additionally, we organize several community clean ups each year and just this past April during Earth Week, we joined forces with the local BIA and did a clean-up in the Wexford-Maryvale neighbourhood. Over 55 people participated including Councillor Michael Thompson and MPP, Salma Zahid and one of the most notable observations this year was the absence of plastic bags in the waste collected. This is a testament to the federal ban of plastic bags as in previous years, this single use item was found throughout.

Please find attached to this letter a before and after photo of some of our group's efforts during this past spring's community clean-up. Coffee cups ranked as one of the top littler items found. Just think of what our green spaces would look like if single use items such as this were banned!

By enacting a bylaw to prohibit single-use plastic items, Toronto can make a substantial positive impact on the environment. Such a ban would not only help mitigate plastic pollution but also promote sustainable alternatives and encourage responsible consumer behaviour.

With other cities across Canada already implementing similar bans, Toronto has the opportunity to join the movement and demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship. By taking proactive measures at the local level, we can contribute to a cleaner and healthier future for our city and beyond.

We believe that by working together and prioritizing sustainability, we can create a more resilient and vibrant community for generations to come. Therefore, we urge you to support the proposal for banning single-use plastics in Toronto and to expedite the process of implementing necessary regulations.

Scarborough Zero Waste remains committed to supporting and collaborating with Council to create a cleaner, more sustainable Toronto so we thank you for your consideration of this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Julia Keech on behalf of Scarborough Zero Waste  
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Litter in the found in the Hyrdo Corridor  
Lawrence Ave E./Pharmacy Ave  
Ward #21 (before clean-up photo)



Hydro Corridor area cleared of littler Ward #21  
Lawrence Ave. E. /Pharmacy Ave  
(after clean-up photo)





Scarborough Zero Waste Annual Spring Community Clean Up, April 2024