

# Addressing Single-Use and Takeaway Items in Toronto

October 2, 2018

19:00 – 20:30

BMO Conference Centre, 60 Leonard Ave, Toronto



# Introductions, Agenda and Objectives



Maogosha Pyjor  
Sr. Public Consultation Coordinator

# Agenda

Time	Activity
6:00	Open House
7:10	Presentation: <b><i>Addressing Single-Use and Takeaway Items in Toronto</i></b>  Charlotte Ueta, Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Services
7:45	Questions + Comments
8:15	Open House
8:30	Event Adjourns

# Transparency

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Please be advised that:

Information collected through this meeting is in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

All comments received at and after the meeting will be reviewed and considered. With the exception of personal information, comments will become part of the public record.

# Code of Conduct

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Please visit **[www.Toronto.ca/Lobbying](http://www.Toronto.ca/Lobbying)** for more information.

# Council Direction

This consultation is being held following City Council direction in July 2018 (PW 31.10) to:

- a) develop a work plan aimed to reduce the use of single-use or takeaway packaging or products by completing pre-consultation with residents and stakeholders in Fall 2018 and a report back in 2019
- b) develop a policy which would restrict use of plastic straws in the City of Toronto
- c) consult with affected businesses, community health groups and other organizations prior to the submission of the proposed policy which would restrict plastic straws and report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in 2019

# Consultation Objectives

Stage 1 consultation will take place in Fall 2018 to identify opportunities to reduce the generation of single-use and takeaway items in Toronto, including:

- Which single-use or takeaway items residents and stakeholders are most interested in addressing
- Preferred methods or approaches to reducing these items or promoting additional reuse

Stage 2 consultation will take place in 2019. It will focus more specifically on the implementation approaches to specific items identified in Stage 1.



# City of Toronto Consultation Process for Single-Use and Takeaway Items

**Notification +  
Comment Period  
Opens**

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**Public Event +  
Webcast**

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**Report to Public  
Works and  
Infrastructure  
Committee**

Winter/Spring 2019

**Stage 2 Consultation**

Spring/Summer 2019

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items + Accessibility

The City of Toronto recognizes that some single-use and takeaway items support accessibility for individuals with disabilities, and that programs and policies must be inclusive. Impacts to Accessibility will be considered as a component of this initial round of consultation as well as any future rounds examining specific programs and policies.

The Consultation Team is working with the City of Toronto's Accessibility Office in designing consultation activities, including an accessibility related stakeholder meeting.



## Contact:

[wastestrategy@toronto.ca](mailto:wastestrategy@toronto.ca)

**416-392-3760**

## Survey:

**[toronto.ca/wastestrategy](https://toronto.ca/wastestrategy)**

**Comments must be received by October 28, 2018  
to be considered.**

# Presentation



Charlotte Ueta

Interim Director, Policy, Planning and Support

# What Items are we talking about?

- A single-use or takeaway item is **any product designed for a single use after which it is disposed of**, whether into garbage or a waste diversion stream, as solid waste.
- Typically, these products are not designed for durability or reuse.



# How Did We Get Here?

In January 2018, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee referred an Item on Reducing the Use of Single-use Products to Solid Waste Management Services for consideration as part of the Long Term Waste Management Strategy

In April 2018, Solid Waste Management Services reported to City Council on challenges facing Toronto's Blue Bin recycling program:

- Delay in development of an amended Blue Box Program Plan – full EPR pushing costs back to producers
- Increasing contamination levels in Blue Bin recycling lower quality of material recovered
- New restrictions from international markets on the import of wastes

# Developing a Process

In response to the City's challenges with the Blue Bin Recycling program, City Council requested in April 2018 that:

- The Federal Government to develop a national strategy that addresses plastic pollution, including nine specific recommendations, and that City Council forward this motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Solid Waste Management Services develop a process to reduce and/or eliminate single-use or takeaway packaging to help achieve the City's goal to become a circular economy city as part of the Long Term Waste Management Strategy





# Toronto's Long Term Waste Management Strategy

- The Waste Strategy places renewed focus on reduction and reuse (July 2016)
- Public Engagement: Reach out to Toronto's diverse communities to educate on program changes, good waste management practices and encourage waste reduction and reuse.





# City of Toronto Efforts to Address Single-Use and Takeaway Items

**2007:** 70% waste diversion target set by City Council

**2008:** City Council adopts \$0.05 fee for plastic bags

**2009:** By-law adopted prohibiting retailers from distributing plastic bags not compatible with the Blue Bin Program

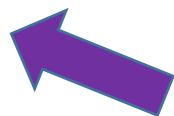
**2012:** Plastic Bag Fee is rescinded by City Council

**2009 – 2013:** Solid Waste advertising campaigns focus on reduce and reuse options

**2016:** Long Term Waste Management Strategy adopted by City Council

**2017/2018:** Addition of New materials to the City's Waste Diversion Programs Policy

**2018/2019:** Consultation takes place to address single-use and takeaway items



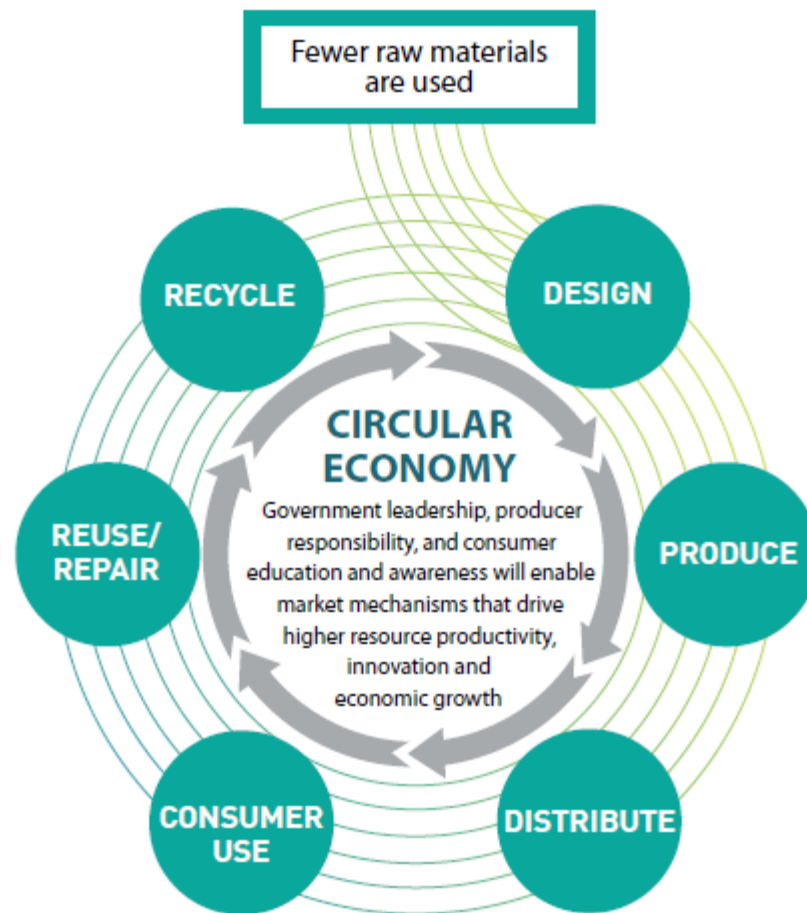
**We are here**

# What's Happening Elsewhere in Canada?

- Vancouver
  - 18 months of consultation
  - Plans to address single use and takeaway items using education, fees, and bans: plastic and paper shopping bags, polystyrene foam cups and take-out containers, disposable hot and cold drink cups, take-out food containers, disposable straws and utensils
- Victoria
  - Six months of Consultation; 12 month phase in period
  - Plans to address the following single-use item using bans and fines : plastic bags
- Montreal
  - Approximately one year of consultation; 18 month phase in period
  - Ban on light plastic shopping bags now in effect
    - Conventional plastic shopping bags (thickness less than 50 microns)
    - Oxo-degradable, oxo-fragmentable, biodegradable shopping bags of any thickness
  - Does not apply to restaurants

# Provincial Efforts on Single-Use and Takeaway Items

- Province of Ontario / Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
  - Recently enacted Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016 has accompanying Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy
  - Goals of Zero Waste Ontario and Development of Circular Economy
  - Suggest strategies include bans on materials, strengthening of EPR to encourage reuse



# Federal Efforts on Single-Use and Takeaway Items



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

- Federal Government

- Consultation on ***Moving Canada toward zero plastic waste*** (April 22, 2018 – September 21, 2018)
- 2018 Ocean Plastics Charter was adopted by G7 and focus of September 2018 G7 Environment Ministers meeting



- Federation of Canadian Municipalities






- June 2018 resolution requesting Federal Government address plastic marine litter
- September 2018 resolution requesting a Federal strategy to address single use items and plastics; in part due to Toronto's letter to FCM requesting a motion







# City Council Direction on Single-Use and Takeaway Items

- In July 2018, City Council directed staff to:
  - develop a work plan aimed to reduce the use of single-use or takeaway items by completing pre-consultation with residents and stakeholders in Fall 2018 to identify items for targeted reduction and solicit input on policy tools with a report back in 2019
  - develop a policy which would restrict plastic straws in the City of Toronto by the end of the first quarter of 2019
  - consult with affected businesses, community health groups and other organizations prior to the submission of the proposed policy which would restrict plastic straws and report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in early 2019

# Examples of Single-Use and Takeaway Items

Item	Description	Image
Disposable Hot To-Go Cups	Most disposable hot to-go cups are made of paper and lined with plastic or wax.	
Disposable Cold To-Go Cups	Most disposable cold to-go cups are made of paper and lined with plastic or wax.	
Plastic Bags	A type of bag or pouch made of thin and flexible plastic film.	
Paper Bags	A type of bag or pouch made of paper.	
Disposable Cutlery	Disposable utensils used for eating including forks, spoons, knives, chopsticks, and stir sticks.	

# Examples of Single-Use and Takeaway Items

Item	Description	Image
Black Plastic Containers	Plastic containers that are coloured black.	
White or Clear Plastic Containers	Plastic containers that are coloured white or clear.	
Plastic Straws	Used for drinking hot or cold liquids.	
Expanded Polystyrene Foam Containers (Styrofoam)	Polystyrene is the "number 6" plastic.	

# Challenges of Single-Use and Takeaway Items

- Single-Use and Takeaway Items are the main contributors to litter in the City of Toronto
- Many single-use and takeaway items are incorrectly placed into the Blue Bin Recycling Program
- More than 1000 tonnes of paper cups (hot and cold) are generated in Toronto's single-family homes annually
- Volumes of single-use and takeaway items managed as waste are growing over time
- In 2017, SWMS collected more than 3,000 tonnes of litter around the City

It is estimated that:

- Canadians use more than 1.6 billion coffee cups annually
- Most marine litter (about 80%) enters the water from land as a result of improper management
- Since 1994, 700,000 volunteers have collected over 1.2 million kg of waste from shorelines across Canada while participating in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup



# Possible Approaches – Mandatory

Mandatory approaches may include fees, bans, or signage with or without enforcement. Generally speaking, changes to the Toronto Municipal Code are required to mandate approaches to waste management. The City of Toronto Act, 2006, grants the City broad authority to enact bylaws which address waste reduction. Examples of mandatory approaches could include, but are not limited to:

- A "By-Request" Bylaw - commercial establishments should only distribute single-use and takeaway items such as straws or cutlery upon request from the customer
- A Signage Bylaw - commercial establishments are asked to post information for customers on how to reduce their use of takeaway items
- A Disposal Ban at City transfer stations and landfills, where loads exceeding a threshold for designated single-use and takeaway items may be charged an additional fee

# Possible Approaches – Voluntary or a Combination

Voluntary approaches may include City programs, incentives or rewards, or education and promotion campaigns focussed on reducing use of single-use or takeaway items. Examples could include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary posting of signage to encourage reusable products, or to provide information for customers on how to reduce their use of single-use or takeaway items
- Single-use or takeaway item waste reduction plans for registered commercial establishments

A combination of mandatory and voluntary approaches would include a combination of fees, bans, or signage, or education based approaches to reducing single-use or takeaway items.

# Online Survey

1. Online Survey open from September 24 – October 28, 2018
2. Discussion Questions deal with:
  - **Why do you use single-use or takeaway items?**
  - **What single-use or takeaway items do you want to see reduced?**
  - **What approaches do you prefer?**
  - **Opportunity to provide individual feedback**

Feedback regarding reduction of single-use and takeaway items can be provided via **online survey:** [www.toronto.ca/wastestrategy](http://www.toronto.ca/wastestrategy)

Comments submitted via online survey or email must be received by **October 28, 2018** to be considered.

**You can also submit feedback via email to: [wastestrategy@toronto.ca](mailto:wastestrategy@toronto.ca)**

# Closing Remarks & Next Steps



Charlotte Ueta

Interim Director, Policy, Planning and Support

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# Questions







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