

# Single-Use and Takeaway Item Reduction Strategy – Phase 2 Consultation

September 24, 2019

Toronto City Hall, Council Chamber

# Agenda

## Activity

Welcome and Introductions

**Presentation** - Phase 2 Single-Use and  
Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Consultation

Questions and Comments

Event Adjourns

# Consultation Objectives

## Phase 1 Consultation (Fall 2018)

Identified the top priority single-use or takeaway items to reduce and the preferred approaches to reduce these items

## Phase 2 Consultation (Fall 2019)

To gather feedback on the proposed items, approaches and implementation timelines

# Consultation Overview



# Phase 2 Consultation Overview

## Public consultation

- Public Event
- Telephone/web Townhalls
- Online survey
- Email/phone comments
- Extensive print/digital communications campaign
- Polling

## External Stakeholder meetings

- Stakeholders: 300+ invited reps (accessibility, food, restaurants, health, social services, waste management, advocacy, environment, research, producers, manufacturers, businesses, retailers, property management, institutions)
- Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Circular Economy Working Group

## Internal Stakeholder meetings

- Internal meetings with all relevant City divisions
- Coordination with Corporate Real Estate Management
  - Council direction to report back with a plan to reduce single-use plastic items used in City facilities and events
- Information shared through other City Division networks

# Meeting Guidelines



**Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

**Public Record**

**Code of Conduct**

**Human Rights and Harassment Policy**

**Lobby Registrar**

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

# Questions and Comments

**Ask questions/make comments via microphone OR written comment card. Keep remarks brief (1 min or less) so as many questions/comments as possible can be shared.**

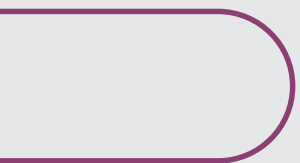
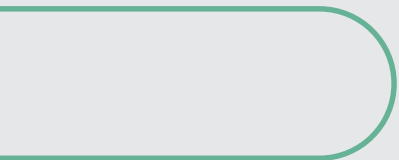
## **In Scope**

- ✓ Questions and comments about the bylaws being considered
- ✓ Feedback on potential impacts of bylaws
- ✓ Ideas on how to support successful implementation

## **Out of Scope**

- × General 311/Waste Wizard questions and comments
- × Questions and comments unrelated to presentation

# BACKGROUND





# Long Term Waste Management Strategy

- The Waste Strategy (July 2016) focuses on **reduction and reuse**
- **Public Engagement:** Educate Toronto's diverse communities on program changes, good waste management practices and encourage waste reduction and reuse.



# City 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

# Federal and Provincial Actions



## Federal Government

- Committed to exploring bans, restrictions, and extended producer responsibility schemes for plastic waste by 2021



## Provincial Government

- Prevent and reduce litter in our neighbourhoods and parks
- Reduce plastic waste going into landfills and waterways
- Move the Blue Box Program to extended producer responsibility
  - Producers will be responsible operationally and financially for the end-of-life management of Blue Box materials

# DEVELOPMENT OF SINGLE-USE AND TAKEAWAY ITEM REDUCTION STRATEGY



# What are Single-Use Items?

A single-use or takeaway item is any product designed for a single use after which it is disposed of, either into the garbage, Blue Bin or Green Bin.

Typically, these products are not designed for durability or reuse.

# Goal

Create a Single-Use and Takeaway Item Reduction Strategy that focuses on

Waste reduction of single-use and takeaway items, *regardless of which waste stream (e.g. garbage, recycling, organics) they are currently managed in*

not substitution with alternative materials



# Equity

Programs and policies must be **inclusive** and assessed for potential impacts on **equity-seeking groups** and **vulnerable residents** in Toronto.

**Impacts to accessibility** will be considered in this round of consultation as well as any future consultations on specific programs and policies

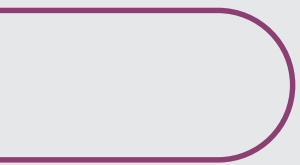
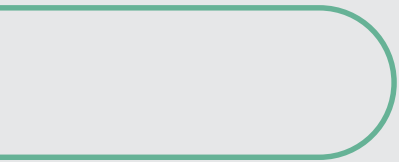
## 1) Access to Food

- some single-use and takeaway items support **accessibility for individuals with disabilities**
- **People on low income** could be negatively impacted if the bylaw requires individuals to incur additional charges

## 2) Civic Engagement & Community Participation

- Ensure all engagement activities have been made fully accessible
- Focused outreach and promotion of the consultation process to equity-seeking groups to increase opportunities for participation and input.

# REVIEW OF PHASE 1 CONSULTATION





# Phase 1 Consultation Activities

- Online survey (20,000+ respondents)
- Public event, webcast and webinar (240 participants)
- Four stakeholder meetings (30 participants)
- Direct email communications (7,000+ stakeholders)
- A polling survey of 1,000 Toronto residents was also completed to gather statistically significant data

# Phase 1 Consultation Results

- **70%+** very likely or somewhat likely to use a reusable option
- **75%** consistent strong support for mandatory approaches to reduce: plastic bags, expanded polystyrene foam and black plastic takeout containers
- All other items (i.e. straws, hot drink cups other takeout containers etc.) listed received support for **mandatory** (**52% - 63%**) or a **combination of voluntary and mandatory** (**24% - 35%**) approaches to reduction (with the exception of paper bags)
- Polling results reinforced the results of the online survey, however had typically lower levels of support

# Phase 1 Consultation Accessibility Feedback



- Types of single-use or takeaway items most important for accessibility:
  - Bendable straws for eating and drinking
  - Water bottles for hydration
  - Coffee lids for safety
  - Medical, health, and sanitary items
  - Packaging for prepared meals
- Apply equity lens to review policies and programs
- Ensure information is accessible, use braille, large text, contrasting colours
- Feedback was also provided by the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee in July 2019

# PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

Proposed Items, Approaches  
and Timelines



# Goal of Phase 2 Consultation

The City of Toronto is seeking feedback on:

1. Approaches being considered for reduction of specific single-use and takeaway items
2. Implementation considerations (e.g. timeline)

# Phase 2 Consultation Activities

## Comment Period

September 24, 2019 - November 4, 2019

Public  
Event &  
Webcast

Telephone  
Town Hall

Telephone  
Town Hall

Survey  
Closes

September

24

September

27

October

7

October

10

October

24

November

4

Stakeholder  
Meeting

Stakeholder  
Meeting

# Phase 2 Consultation Overview

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# Guiding Principles

Consistent with feedback during Phase 1 consultation, the following principles were drafted to guide the development of a proposed Reduction Strategy:

- reflect survey and polling data
- contribute to litter on streets and in waterways
- achieve a measurable environmental impact
- address materials which are not diverted (i.e. recycled or composted) or are not effectively diverted in Toronto's Blue Bin Recycling and Green Bin Organics Programs
- align with policies and programs being developed nationally and locally



# Development of Proposed Items and Approaches

Considered feedback from **Phase 1 Consultation**

Jurisdictional **scan**

**Reviewed available data** on single-use and takeaway items

Considered **operational challenges** related to identified materials and items

Considered availability of **alternatives** to the items evaluated

**Considerations** based on economic, social and environmental factors

# Proposed Items

- Single-Use Eating Utensils
- Single-Use Hot and Cold Drink Cups
- Expanded Polystyrene (Foam) Food Takeaway Containers and Cups
- Single-Use Plastic and Paper Bags
- Single-Use Straws



# Proposed Mandatory Approaches

- Mandatory approaches require a bylaw
- Proposed approaches being presented provide details of what could be included in a future bylaw
- A draft bylaw is known as a "bill" before it is enacted by Council
- A bill is prepared by the City Solicitor
- Bill is added to Committee and then Council agenda for consideration
- If passed by Council, a bill becomes a bylaw
- The bylaw will be added to the Municipal Code



# By-Request/ Ask First Bylaw

*Considering a **by-request / ask first bylaw** requiring that single-use eating utensils and straws be distributed to a customer only upon request*

## **Details of the proposed bylaw:**

- Customer would ask for item or the staff member would ask if the customer wants the item
- Businesses could be restricted to keeping items behind the counter or away from public access
- Delivery services could be required to include confirmation that the items are required for online and mobile food orders
- The bylaw would ensure no adverse effects for individuals who request single-use straws for accessibility/health reasons

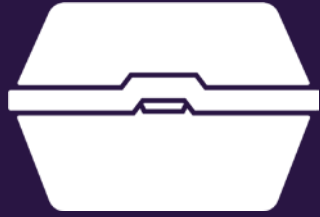


# Fee Bylaw

*Considering a bylaw requiring businesses to charge customers a **fee** per single-use hot/cold drink cup and plastic/paper bag*

## **Details of the proposed bylaw:**

- Fee would apply at any business that distributes single-use hot or cold drink cups
- Fee would apply at any business that distributes plastic and paper bags to customers used to carry out items
- Fee would apply to each single-use item



# Ban Bylaw

*A bylaw that would **ban** businesses from distributing and using expanded polystyrene (foam) food takeaway containers and cups*

## **Details of the proposed bylaw:**

- The bylaw would ban the distribution and use of containers or cups composed in part or in whole of foam for food/beverage service and takeaway



# Eating Utensils

## Why Eating Utensils?

- Utensils are a common litter item, plastic cutlery is 12<sup>th</sup> on the 2017 Toronto Dirty Dozen\* list
- Operationally, they cannot be recycled effectively at the recycling facility
- Eating utensils are on the preliminary list of items to be targeted for reduction by the federal government

## Why a by-request / ask first bylaw ?

- 68% of respondents from Phase 1 consultation indicated that one of the main reasons for using eating utensils was “Shop/restaurant gives them to me without asking”



# Single-Use Straws



## Why Straws?

- Straws are a very common litter item
- Straws are 5<sup>th</sup> on the 2017 Toronto Dirty Dozen\* list
- Plastic straws received the highest levels of support for reduction in Phase 1, 46% strongly supported its reduction

## Why a by-request / ask first bylaw ?

- Plastic straws have been identified as an accessibility device for some individuals
- Alternatives such as paper or reusable straws may not be a viable solution for all individuals who require them.





# Plastic and Paper Bags

## Why single-use PLASTIC bags were selected:

- Plastic bags are a common litter item
- Many Canadian cities have variations of bylaws that restrict distribution of plastic bags

## Why single-use PAPER bags were selected:

- Paper bags are a common litter item
- Reduction Strategy prioritizes reduction and is not about substitution with other materials

## Why a fee?

- Plastic bags received substantial support for reduction
  - 75% strongly supported a mandatory approach
- Previous plastic bag fee resulted in a reduction of plastic bags found in all waste streams, as well as litter
- Many local businesses continue to charge a fee despite the previous plastic bag fee bylaw being rescinded by City Council in 2012
- Ban on plastic bag may result in thicker plastic bags
- Plastic bags can be used to line Green Bins and encourage program participation



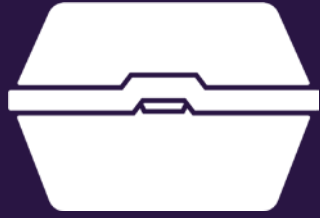
# Hot and Cold Drink Cups

## Why single-use HOT and COLD drink cups ?

- Single-use hot and cold cups are common litter items
- Operationally, they cannot be recycled in the City's current Blue Bin recycling system
- Hot cups are the most frequently used item with 11% of survey respondents using one every day or almost every day
- 63% respondents are very willing to use a reusable container

## Why a fee?

- Some local businesses already have in place reduction measures for hot drink cups (e.g. fee, incentive)
- Other cities have imposed fees on hot drink cups
- Readily available reusable alternatives exist
- Toronto has had a successful experience with seeing a reduction of a specific item with a fee bylaw



# Foam Food Takeaway Containers and Cups

## Why foam food takeaway containers and cups:

- There are readily available alternative containers designed for single use
- Operationally, foam is challenging to collect, process and market
- Foam food takeaway containers and cups are common litter items
- Foam materials are 8th on the Toronto Dirty Dozen List\*, at over 3500 pieces
- Received the most support for reduction in Phase 1
  - 84% of survey respondents and 39% from polling strongly support its reduction
  - Polling respondents indicated lowest opposition (only 4% strongly opposed)
- Other Canadian cities are implementing a ban on this item and the federal government has placed this item on a preliminary ban list

# Voluntary Approach for all Single-Use and Takeaway Items

## Showcase Best Practices

- Encourage self-reporting and sharing successes
- Bring your own reusable container programs

## Explore Pilots and Partnerships

- Pilot reusable food container programs and reusable water bottle filling stations

## Support Reduction Activities and Behaviour

- Pledge programs for residents and businesses
- Recognition awards

# Why a Reduction Strategy?



## Single-Use Eating Utensils\*

Over **2,069** pieces of plastic cutlery counted on Toronto shoreline



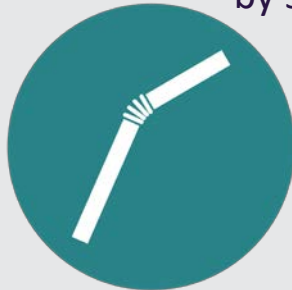
## Foam Takeaway Containers and Cups\*\*

Over **85M** units generated by single-family households



## Single-Use Hot and Cold Drink Cups\*\*

Over **39M** units generated by single-family households



## Single-Use Straws\*






**5,748** straws counted on Toronto shoreline



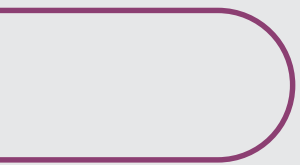
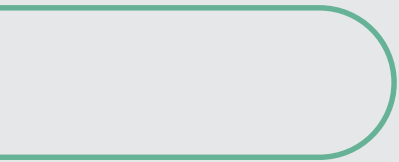
## Single-Use Plastic Bags\*\*

Over **400M** bags generated by single-family households

# Proposed Items and Approaches

Approach/ Item					
Fee		★		★	
Ask-First/By-Request	★		★		
Ban					★
Implementation Year	2021	2021	2022	2022	2022

# NEXT STEPS



# Post-Consultation Report Back

Phase 2 consultation outcome will be presented in a report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council in Q2 2020.

This report will recommend the proposed **Single Use and Takeaway Item Reduction Strategy** regulations, policies, and programs to reduce single-use and takeaway items in the City of Toronto including:

- Proposed Timelines for Implementation
- Resources and Budget Required
- Promotion and Education Support
- Voluntary Approaches
- Development of Metrics and any Future Programs



# Timeline



# Comment Period and Survey

**September 24 – November 4, 2019**

**Online survey: [toronto.ca/single-use](https://toronto.ca/single-use)**

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

**Comment Line: 416-392-3760**

**Public Event +  
Webcast**

September 24, 2019

**Tele-Town Halls**

October 10 &  
24, 2019

**Stakeholder  
Meetings**

September 27 &  
October 7, 2019