

# The City of Toronto's Reducing Single-Use Program

**Webinar**

**November 23, 2022**

**3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**



# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

# Recording



This webinar is being recorded only for the purpose of creating a summary of the question and answer period that will be shared with all participants.

# Introduction

# Reducing Single-Use Program

## Stage 1 – City of Toronto’s Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy

### Agenda

TIME (minutes)	TOPIC
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Webex Basics</li></ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview Single-Use and the City’s Reduction Strategy</li><li>• Discuss available supports and resources</li><li>• Outline steps to participate and take action</li><li>• Summarize the City’s ongoing education campaign</li></ul></li></ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question and Answer Period</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wrap-up</li><li>• Next Steps</li></ul>

# Webinar Objectives

1. Meet the project team
2. Introduce and learn about the City's Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy
3. Provide you with resources and actions to reduce single-use waste
4. Give an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide feedback

# Introductions



## Project Team:

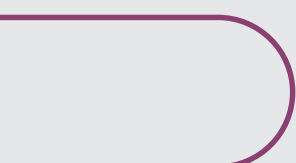
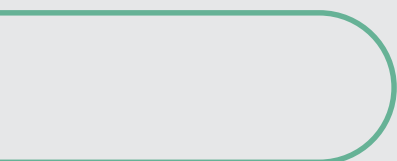
### **Solid Waste Management Services:**

- Annette Synowiec, Director
- Michael Skaljin, Manager
- Fenicia Lewis-Dowlin
- Scott Cameron
- Marie-Helen Brillinger

### **Public Consultation Unit:**

- Alyssa Cerbu
- Michele Blackwood

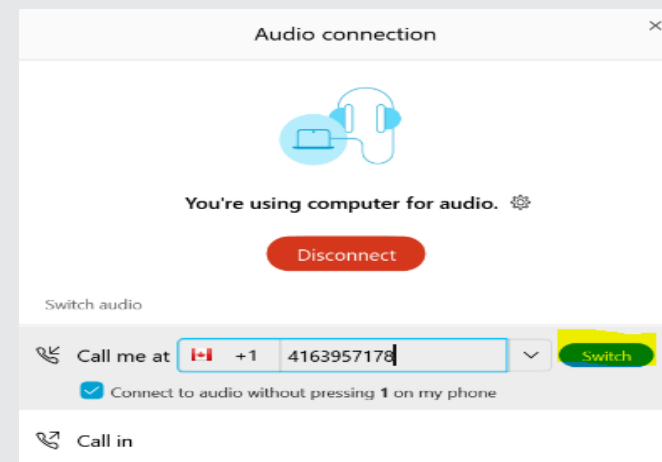
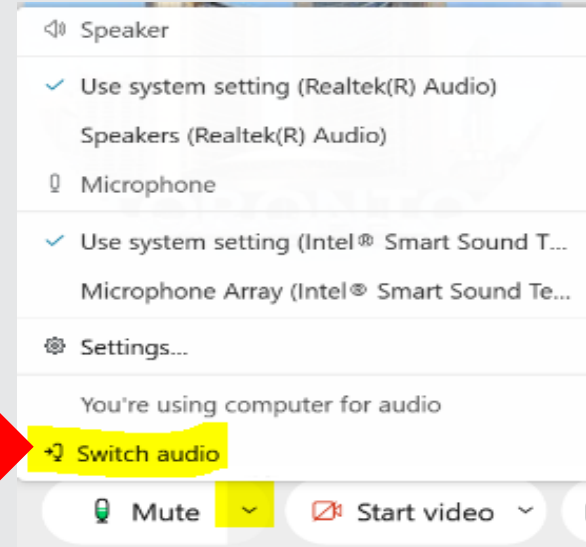
# Webex Basics





# Webex Audio Trouble?

1. Click **the arrow** beside your mute button
2. Click **“Switch audio”**
3. Use **“Call me”** function
  - Enter your phone #
  - Webex will call your phone
  - No long distance charges



# Audio still not working?

## Call Into the Meeting

Dial: **416-915-6530**

When prompted for a meeting number  
enter:

**2455 403 2590**

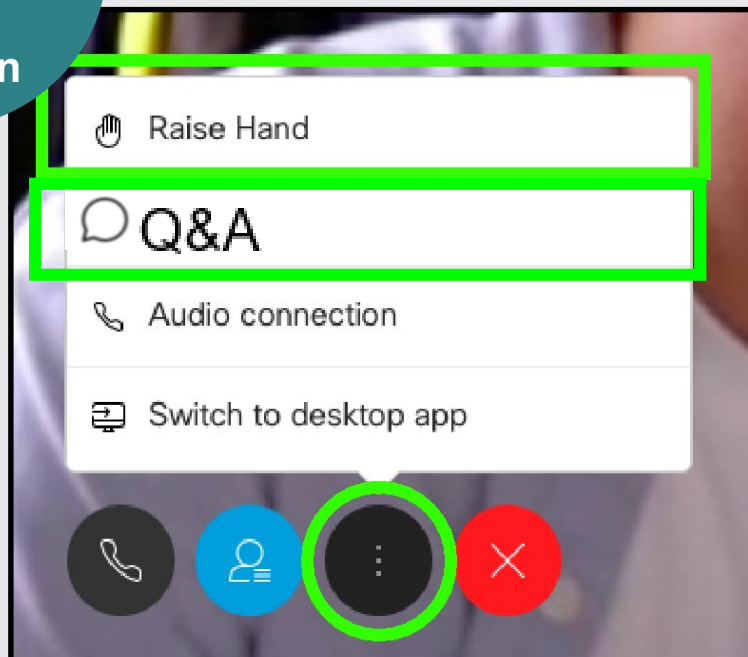
# Participating by Computer



## Via the internet browser

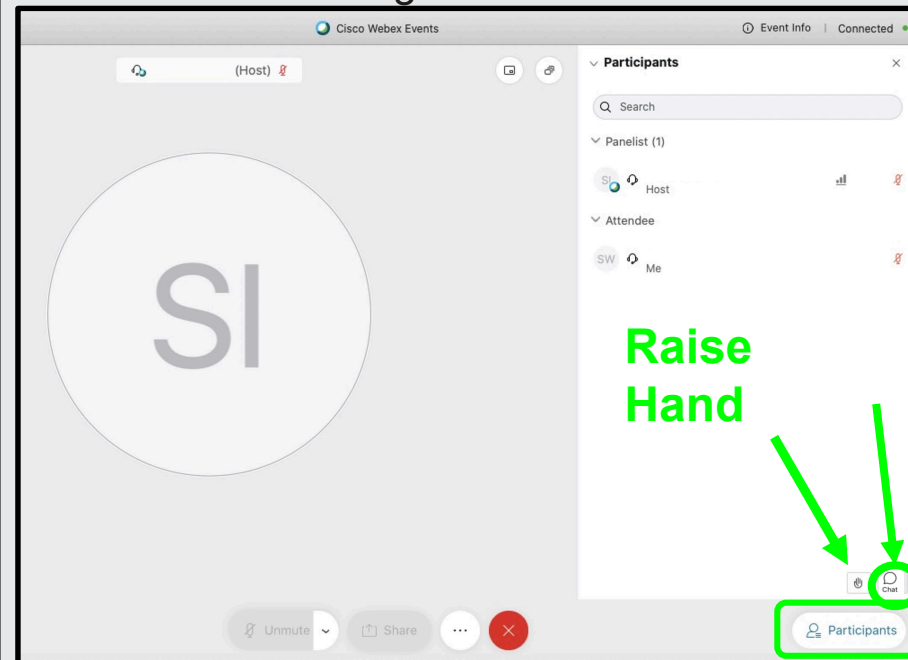
Click the “...” button at the bottom of the video window and select “Raise Hand” or “Q&A”.

Raise your hand or type your question



## Via the Webex App

Click the Participants button at the bottom of the video (the Participants panel will open to the right). Then click the “Raise Hand” or “Q&A” button at the bottom right.



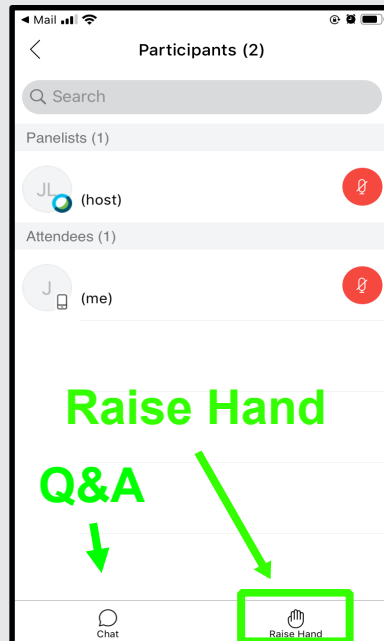
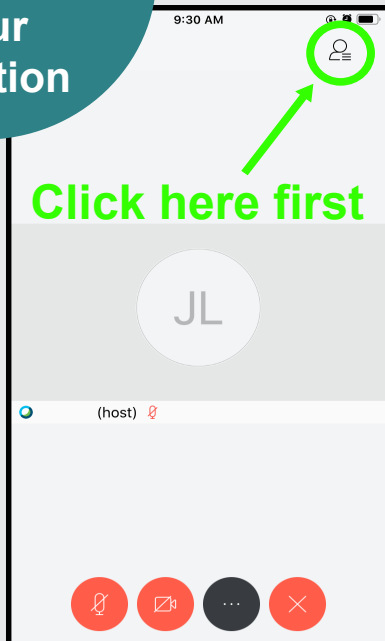
# Participating by Smart Phone or Tablet



## For smartphones

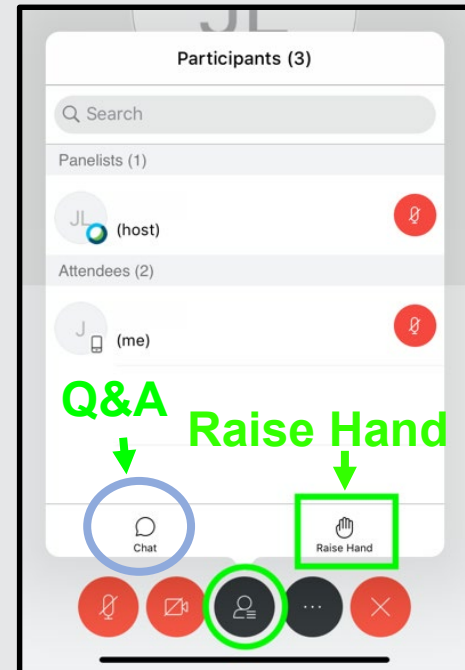
Click the Participants panel button at the top right corner of the screen. Then click “Raise Hand” or “Q&A” at the bottom right of the screen.

Raise your hand or type your question



## For tablets

Click the Participants panel button at the bottom of the screen. Then click the “Raise Hand” or “Q&A” button at the bottom right.



# Raising your hand by Phone



- To raise your hand virtually, **key in \*3.**
- The Host will see a hand up beside the last four digits of your phone number
- During the Q&A period, the Host will unmute you and let you know that you can speak

# Code of Conduct

## Be Patient:

Virtual meetings don't always run as smoothly as planned.

## Be Brief:

Limit yourself to one question or comment when called on to speak.

## Be Respectful:

The City of Toronto is an inclusive public organization. Discriminatory, prejudicial or hateful comments and questions will not be tolerated and you will be removed from the meeting.



**We want to hear from you –  
all questions are good questions!**

# City of Toronto Reducing Single-Use Program



# Reducing Single-Use Program

## Stage 1 – City of Toronto Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy



### What are single-use and takeaway items?

- A single-use or takeaway item is any product designed to be used once, after which it is disposed of, either into the garbage, Blue Bin (recycling) or Green Bin (organics).
- Typically, these products are not designed for durability or reuse.



# Reducing Single-Use Program

## Stage 1 – City of Toronto Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy



### Why is the Reducing Single-Use program important?

- There is a **growing movement** globally and within Canada to reduce single-use items that increasingly contribute to environmental degradation.
- The program supports the City's Long Term Waste Management Strategy and aspirational goals of a zero waste future and circular economy.
- By reducing the distribution of single-use items, businesses can reduce items that end up in landfill or as litter, which can pose risks to the environment, animals and people.

# Reducing Single-Use Program

## Stage 1 – City of Toronto Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy



### Why is the Reducing Single-Use program important?

- Connecting businesses with service providers can help reduce waste and let residents know of the practices being taken by participating businesses, and share where residents can shop to reduce their own waste.
- City Council has endorsed actions to address reducing single-use and takeaway items (2018) and to develop a program to support businesses to adopt voluntary measures (2021).
- The Reducing Single-Use program is aligned with Government of Canada Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations that take effect starting December 20, 2022 and will help you prepare for any potential future City restrictions or bylaws regarding the reduction of single-use and takeaway items.

# City of Toronto Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy



# Background

2018

2019

2020

2022

Toronto City Council directed Solid Waste Management Services staff to develop a Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy.

First phase of consultations to determine the items to be prioritized for reduction.

Second phase of consultations to determine the bylaw approaches and implementation timelines.

The reduction strategy was put on hold as the City focused its efforts on emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stakeholders and the general public provided feedback to help inform the City's decisions on a proposed bylaw to reduce single-use and takeaway items.

# The City's Reducing Single-Use Program



In June 2021, Toronto City Council approved the updated **Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy – Stage 1**, taking into consideration the social, financial, and health-related impacts on Toronto residents and businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# The City's Reducing Single-Use Program



Three program objectives:

1. Voluntary measures
2. Recognition
3. Education and support for the public

# Objective #1:

To encourage and enable businesses to take small, **voluntary** steps to eliminate the unnecessary use of single-use and takeaway items in their day-to-day operations.

# Ways to Take Action

## 1. Ask-first, by-request

This measure requires service staff to:

- ask the customer if they need the single-use item and to provide the item to the customer only after the customer confirms that they need the item – including requests made by online ordering platforms, or
- wait for the customer to request the single-use item.

Items are considered single-use and/or takeaway if they are disposable, regardless of material type and waste stream. Examples include: straws, eating utensils, chopsticks, napkins, cup sleeves, condiment packets, and beverage trays.



# Ways to Take Action

## 2. Accept reusables from customers

Examples include:

- Food-safe beverage cups
- Food-safe containers for prepared food
- Reusable shopping bags
- Reusable produce containers

Best practices include offering customer discounts and making use of reusable container programs offered by service providers.

# Ways to Take Action



## 3. Provide reusables for dine-in service

Includes:

- Foodservice ware (e.g., plates, cups)
- Eating utensils
- Napkins

As many reusable options as possible for accessory disposable food items that facilitate the consumption of prepared food.

# Ways to Take Action



## 4. Eliminate problematic materials

Includes:

- Compostable plastic serviceware
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam foodservice ware
- Black plastic foodservice ware

# Objective #2:

To recognize and celebrate businesses that are demonstrating leadership in reducing single-use and takeaways items

# Recognition Program



## 1. Directory

- Feature food and non-food service establishments taking action to reduce single-use and takeaway items.
- Includes service providers offering business solutions that reduce the use and distribution of food-related single-use and takeaway items.

## 2. Case studies

- Profile program participants that are industry leaders in reducing single-use waste in their own business operations, business-to-business solutions and/or services that reduce the use and distribution of food-related single-use and takeaway items.

# Recognition Program

## 3. Supports for businesses

- Share information and resources to businesses to help them prepare for federal restrictions and any potential future City restrictions or bylaws on the reduction of single-use and takeaway items.
- Host webinars to guide businesses on approaches they can adopt to reduce food-related single-use and takeaway items, facilitate sharing of best practices, support network building, and provide opportunities to explore partnerships.



# Recognition Program

## 4. Program web page

- Post resources such as e-posters, fact sheets, and practical tips to help businesses take action.
- Provide public health guidance for staff of food services on safe acceptance of reusables from customers (e.g., food containers, cups and bags).
- Provide updates on the City of Toronto's web page: [toronto.ca/single-use](https://toronto.ca/single-use)

### Reduce single-use items in your business

**Ask first**  
Place straws, cutlery, napkins, condiments and stir sticks behind the counter. Ask your customers first if they want them.

Add an option to your website or delivery app so customers can request the straws, cutlery and condiments that they need when they order.

**Choose reusables**  
Encourage customers to bring a reusable bag, beverage cup or takeout containers for food, drink and other products. Provide reusable cups and containers for dining in. Consider offering or participating in a reusable container program or service.

**Is it recyclable?**  
Some materials, like black plastic, cannot be recycled in the City of Toronto's recycling program. Choosing materials that can be recycled, such as clear clamshell containers and non-black coloured plastics, can help divert waste from landfill.

**Go foam free**  
Polystyrene "foam" containers can have serious impacts on human health and the environment, and are difficult and costly to recycle. Many businesses have successfully transitioned from using foam cups and takeout containers to recyclable alternatives or a reusable container program.

**No compostable plastics in the Green Bin**  
Plastic items labelled as compostable or biodegradable are not accepted in recycling or the Green Bin. Reusable items are a better step towards reducing waste.

**TORONTO**  
toronto.ca/single-use

# Objective #3:

Public education to encourage the use of reusable cups and containers



# Ongoing Public Education, Engagement, and Awareness

- Raise general public awareness.
- Promote single-use waste reduction and support organized community efforts to reduce waste.
- Solidify the message that waste-reduction and a transition to zero-waste will be achieved through collaborative efforts with the entire community.

## Let's choose to reduce single-use items

### Say "no thanks"

Only accept single-use items like cutlery, napkins, condiments and straws if you need them, whether in store or online.



### Plan ahead

Bring your own bags, cups and containers to pick up takeout, and ask restaurants if they have reusable containers that you can borrow or rent.



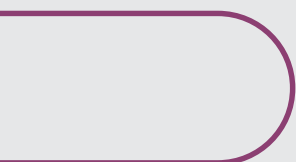
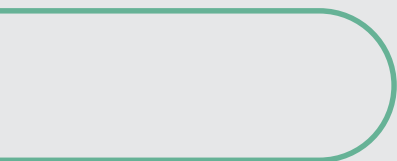
### Bring your own

Use reusable bags and travel mugs.



Bring food storage containers when dining out in case you have leftovers, and ask for a reusable cup or dish when dining in.

# Next Steps



# Get Involved: Become a Program Participant

Exciting opportunities for businesses to register and to become an official Program Participant.

- Complete and submit an online application form by visiting: [www.toronto.ca/single-use](http://www.toronto.ca/single-use)
- Upon approval as a Program Participant,\* your business will receive **branded promotional materials** to display in your place of business including official window clings and posters

\*Terms and conditions apply



# Stay Informed

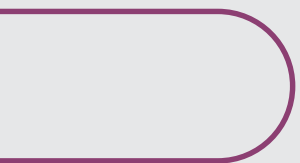
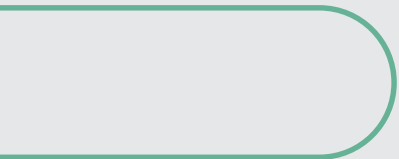
## The following webinars may be offered in the future:

- Best Practices in Accepting Reusables from Customers
- The Federal Regulation on Single-Use Plastics
- Guidance on Compostables – w/ Introduction to the Sustainable Food Serviceware and Accessory Guide
- Implementing a Reuse Program
- Alternatives to Styrofoam and Black Plastics
- My Waste Reduction Journey

The **Directory** and **Case Studies** will be posted on the Reducing Single-Use web page in December 2022. For more information visit:

[www.toronto.ca/single-use](http://www.toronto.ca/single-use)

# Questions



# Thank you!

## Contact Information:

You may contact us for more information or to provide feedback:

Email: [WasteStrategy@toronto.ca](mailto:WasteStrategy@toronto.ca)

Telephone: 416-392-5807