

Guidance on Foodservice Ware and Accessory Items Product Alternatives for Businesses

Webinar

Monday June 7, 2023

10:30 – 11:30 a.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.

Introduction

Agenda



TIME (minutes)	TOPIC
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Webex Basics
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation 1: City of Toronto's Reducing Single-Use Program
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation 2: City of Toronto's Recycling Process
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation 3: City of Toronto's Organics Process
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question and Answer Period

Webinar Objectives

1. Meet the project teams
2. Overview the City's Reducing Single-Use Program
3. Overview the City of Toronto's Recycling Process
4. Overview the City of Toronto's Organics Process
5. Give an opportunity for you to ask questions

Introductions

City of Toronto

Solid Waste Management Services:

- Anthony Krmek
- Marie-Helen Brillinger
- Catherine Garrick
- Derek Sawyer

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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.

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.

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
2. Accept reusables from customers
3. Provide reusables for dine-in service
4. Eliminate problematic materials

Objective #2:

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

Recognition Program

1. Directories

- 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.

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.

Resources and Supports for Businesses

Supports for businesses

- Share information and resources with 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.



Resources and Supports for Businesses



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

Reducing Single-Use and Takeaway Items Guide

NEW: Reducing Single-Use and Takeaway Items Guide

Reducing Single-Use & Takeaway Items Guide

Product alternatives guide for Toronto food service businesses











The City of Toronto remains committed to helping residents and businesses reduce waste and litter from single-use and takeaway items. Reducing single-use and takeaway items supports the City's [Long Term Waste Management Strategy](#) and aspirational goals of a zero waste future and circular economy.

resources and energy to produce, collect and dispose of. These items often end up in landfill or as litter, which can pose risks to the environment and animals.

We would like to thank Toronto residents and businesses for their feedback and support for waste reduction heard during the City's public consultations on single-use and takeaway items in 2018, 2019 and 2022, as well as for their waste reduction efforts to date and moving forward. Together, we can keep more waste out of landfill and benefit the environment.

The City's Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy targets reducing single-use and accessory items made from all types of materials, not just plastics. Single-use and takeaway items require valuable



	CUPS Cold Beverages Hot Beverages	CONTAINERS Hot and/or Wet Prepared Food Dry Prepared Food	ACCESSORY ITEMS Utensils Other
BEST	Reusable ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept reusable cups from customers Provide reusable cups for dine-in service Choose durable reusable cups that can withstand repeated cleaning according to Toronto Public Health standards Consider a deposit-return or cup-sharing program Choose durable reusable cups that can be recycled at end of life 	Reusable ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept reusable containers from customers Provide reusable serviceware for dine-in service Consider membership in a container-sharing program or offering your own branded reusable containers for sale Choose durable reusable containers that can withstand repeated cleaning according to Toronto Public Health standards Choose durable reusable containers that can be recycled at end of life 	Reusable ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute only upon request Provide reusable utensils, including chopsticks, for dine-in service Serve condiments such as ketchup and mustard in reusable cups or dispensers 
GOOD	Recoverable ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose cups that are made with a single plastic such as High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and Polypropylene (PP) or paper fibre material, not lined or layered with other materials Choose recyclable plastic lids Choose cup sleeves made with recyclable paper Check with your waste collection service provider to ensure any alternatives are accepted by them in their recycling or organics program 	Recoverable ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose aluminum containers and recyclable lids Choose products made from a single plastic such as High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and Polypropylene (PP) or paper fibre material, not lined or layered with other materials Check with your waste collection service provider to ensure any alternatives are accepted by them in their recycling or organics program 	Recoverable ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute only on request Use paper straws that are not lined with other materials such as plastic Check with your waste collection service provider to ensure any alternatives are accepted by them in their recycling or organics program 
AVOID	Problematic materials ✗ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid cups and lids that are labelled as compostable or biodegradable Avoid black plastic and foam cups and lids  	Problematic materials ✗ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid containers and lids labelled as compostable or biodegradable Avoid foam and black plastic containers 	Problematic materials ✗ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid single-use plastic utensils (any colour) Avoid utensils labelled as compostable or biodegradable Avoid pre-packaged single-use utensils bundled with other items such as napkins 

Federal Single-Use Plastic Prohibition Regulations introduced restrictions on

- checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware, stir sticks and straws starting December 20, 2022
 - ring carriers starting June 20, 2023
- flexible straws packaged with beverage containers starting June 20, 2024

Quick Facts

- Reusable products are the lowest waste option.
- Paper products coated with plastic or wax cannot be composted in the City's Green Bin organics program or recycled in the City's Blue Bin recycling program. These products should be disposed of in the garbage unless otherwise advised by your waste collection service provider.
- Most paper fibre products are compatible with the City's Green Bin organics program if soiled with food or drink residue.
- Compostable and biodegradable plastic items, such as cups, containers and utensils, are not accepted in the City's Green Bin organics program or Blue Bin recycling program. These products should be disposed of in the garbage unless otherwise advised by your waste collection service provider.

Resources

City of Toronto customers can check the Waste Wizard at toronto.ca/wastewizard or via the TWaste app to find out if alternative products are accepted in the City's Blue Bin recycling and Green Bin organics programs.

Learn more about why compostable and biodegradable products are not accepted in the City's organics and recycling programs at toronto.ca/single-use.










For more ReduceWasteTO Reducing Single-Use program information and resources, visit toronto.ca/reducingsingleuseprogram.

For more information on the Federal Single-Use Plastic Prohibition Regulations, including guidance documents and fact sheets, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste/single-use-plastic-overview.html>

Disclaimer: This guide is not intended to provide information about food safety practices nor provide legal advice on applicable food safety laws and requirements. All premises that manufacture, process, prepare, store, handle, display, distribute, transport, sell or offer for sale food must comply with the Ontario Food Premises Regulation (O.Reg.493/17) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.



Reducing Single-Use and Takeaway Items Guide

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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/reducingsingleuseprogram
- 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



Thank you!

Contact Information:

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

Email: WasteStrategy@toronto.ca

Telephone: 416-392-3760

City of Toronto's Recycling Process

Catherine Garrick

Processing Operations (Blue Bin & Depot Materials)



Transition of the Blue Box Program to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Provincial Regulation O. Reg. 391/21 transitions the Blue Box Program from a model of shared industry funding to one of producer responsibility where they are financially and operationally responsible for managing blue box materials
 - Applies to blue box materials from residential sources, public space recycling, schools and long-term care facilities ONLY. Does NOT apply to Industrial, Commercial and Institutions.
- The City of Toronto is not legislated to provide recycling services as of July 1, 2023, however the City entered into an agreement with a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) and is contracted to deliver recycling services between July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025

Transition of the Blue Box Program to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Starting July 1, 2023, the City will no longer be responsible for the processing of the recyclable materials collected by the City, however the City's Blue Bin Recycling Program and list of accepted materials will remain unchanged until the end of 2025
- The City's role in servicing eligible sources post-2025 is unknown, however the City will continue to support City customers on proper participation in waste diversion programs

Why we do not want these at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

1. Difficult to capture
2. Difficult to market

Polystyrene



Compostable Plastics



<https://www.walmart.ca/en/ip/Eco-EPCC16GS-Compostable-Corn-Clear-Plastic-Cups-Cold-16-Oz-Clear-Green-Stripe-1000-CT/PRD30B4XRJDE0TX>

Black Plastic



<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/12/black-plastic-recycling-supermarkets-waste/>

Challenges with Polystyrene

- Why is it difficult to capture at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF)?
 - Size – too large or too small
 - It is lightweight and buoyant
 - Polystyrene is hand sorted
- Often contaminated with food residue
- There is no reliable market for Polystyrene
- There are different colours and grades of Polystyrene



Challenges with Black Plastics



<https://www.plasticsforchange.org/blog/category/black-plastic-is-not-recyclable-in-canada-some-restaurant-owners-are-seeking-different-plastic-suppliers>

- Cannot be sorted mechanically at the material recovery facility because the optical sorting technology cannot efficiently sort it
- No stable market for the volume of black plastic generated in Toronto

Conveyor Belts



<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220525-what-can-and-cant-be-recycled>

- Black plastics cannot be detected on conveyor belts
- Lighter items such as polystyrene will be covered by heavier items

Challenges with Compostable Plastic

- Compostable plastics are plastic items that will break down, or compost, under specific conditions
- The most common type of compostable plastic is known as polylactic acid, or PLA, which is made of starches derived from sources like corn or sugarcane
- Compostable is **not** the same as recyclable
- Considered as contamination, end markets do not want it



<https://www.walmart.ca/en/ip/Eco-EPCC16GS-Compostable-Corn-Clear-Plastic-Cups-Cold-16-Oz-Clear-Green-Stripe-1000-CT/PRD30B4XRJDE0TX>

Quality Control - Optical Sorter

- Using cameras, light and pressurized air, machines are used to clean up material more efficiently
- Detects polystyrene, but due to small size, weight and buoyancy, pieces of polystyrene would get blown away and it will be difficult to recover
- Will not detect black plastics
- Compostable plastics can be detected by the optical sorter, but markets do not want it
- Example: PET and Thermoforms



<https://www.cpgrp.com/project/mss-cirrus-plasticmax/>

Quality Control – by humans

- Large items will get hand picked at pre-sort line
- Smaller items will have to rely on machines
- Contaminants and other materials that do not belong on the lines will be hand picked



Thank you for your time!



Catherine Garrick
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Processing Operations Solid Waste
Management Services City of
Toronto



City of Toronto Compostable Plastics Challenges

Derek Sawyer, Supervisor Organic Processing Operations



AD Facilities are not Composting Facilities

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) – in the absence of oxygen

- Sealed in enclosed tanks
- Contaminate screening done at front end.
- End product is a digested solids that can be registered as fertilizer
- Production of renewable methane gas is benefit in terms of GHG emissions

Composting – in the presence of oxygen

- Can be done in enclosed facilities or outdoor windrow
- Contaminate screening done at front or back end or combination of both
- End product is finished compost for a variety of applications

Anaerobic Digestion (AD)



Composting



Compostable Plastics vs Traditional Plastics

Similar Characteristics

- Both are very similar in physical appearance
- Both react very similar in City's AD preprocessing systems
- Both are screened out the same in City preprocessing systems
- Compostable plastics are **NOT** accepted in City's Green Bin organics program for these reasons

Traditional Plastic



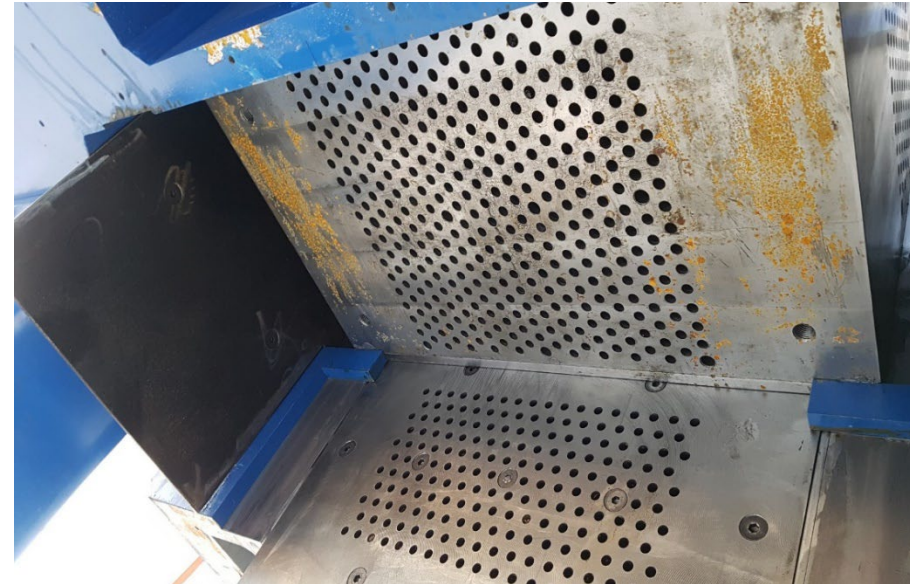
Compostable Plastic



Dufferin Organics Pre-Processing System

Cross Section of OREX Press Chamber

- Contaminate removal at front of process before digestion
- Plastics do not pass through press
- Only liquefied organics pass through perforations in chamber



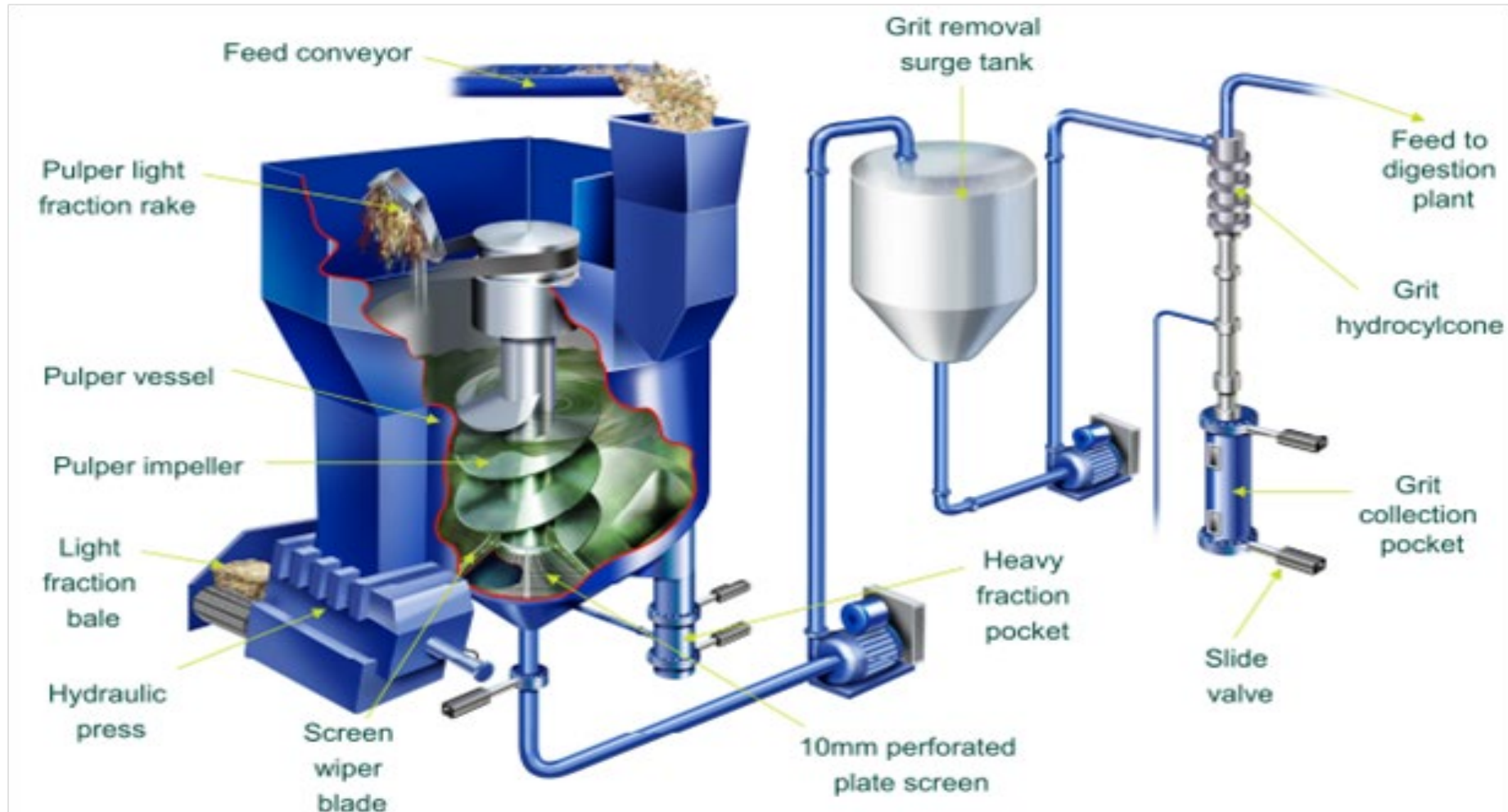
Residue Rejection from Dufferin OREX Press

- Residue is ejected from the OREX chamber
- Compostable plastics are contained in the mix of solid residue



Disco Hydro Pulper

Plastics Captured in Light Fraction Rake



Disco Residue Disposal

- Plastics cannot be distinguished between “compostable” and “traditional plastics”
- Preprocessing systems treat all plastics the same
- Biogas potential of compostable plastic is limited



Polystyrene

- Very Brittle and Light
- Small pieces passing through system can contaminate end product.
- Small pieces can accumulate at top of digester



Extruded Organics

- Organics high in volatile solids are desired for optimum biogas production
- Compostable plastics are designed under specifications for composting facilities and not AD facilities
- Even then, the time required to break down compostable plastic may exceed the operating parameters of most facilities



Dewatered Digester Solids

- Quality of end product is important
- Small pieces of hard plastic whether compostable or not can be classified as “Sharps” in a quality analysis



Thank you!



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