

# Understanding the New Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

Webinar

February 22, 2024

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.

# Recording



This webinar is being recorded only for the purpose of creating a summary of the question and answer period.

# Introduction



# City of Toronto, Solid Waste Management Services

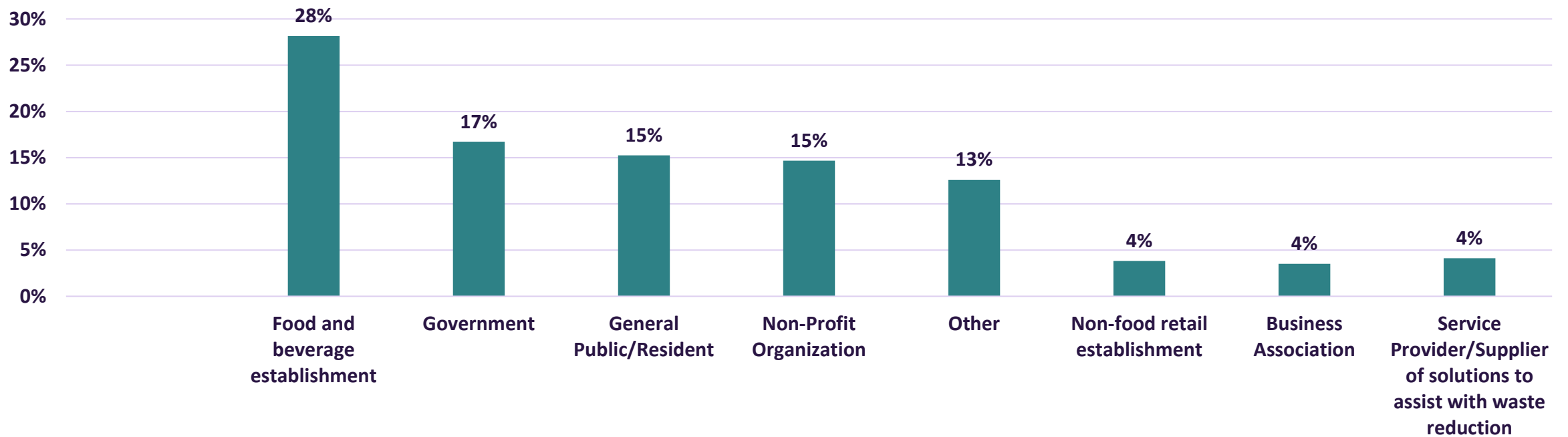


- Annette Synowiec, Director, Policy, Planning & Outreach
- Angela Doyle, Manager, Solid Waste Policy & Planning
- Scott Cameron, Project Lead, Solid Waste Policy & Planning
- Marie-Helen Brillinger, Project Lead, Solid Waste Policy & Planning
- Sonia Patel, Senior Project Manager, Circular Economy and Innovation

# Webinar Participants

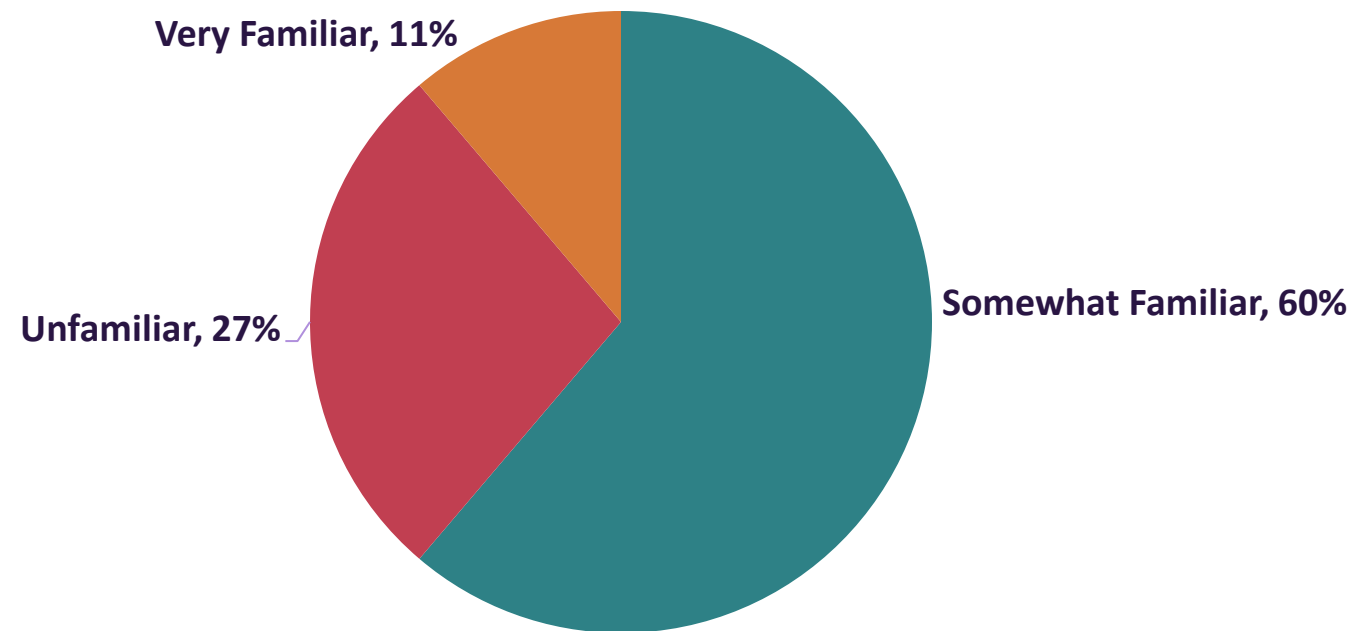


## What Sector Do You Represent?



# Webinar Participants

How Familiar Are You With the Requirements of the City of Toronto's Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw?



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw



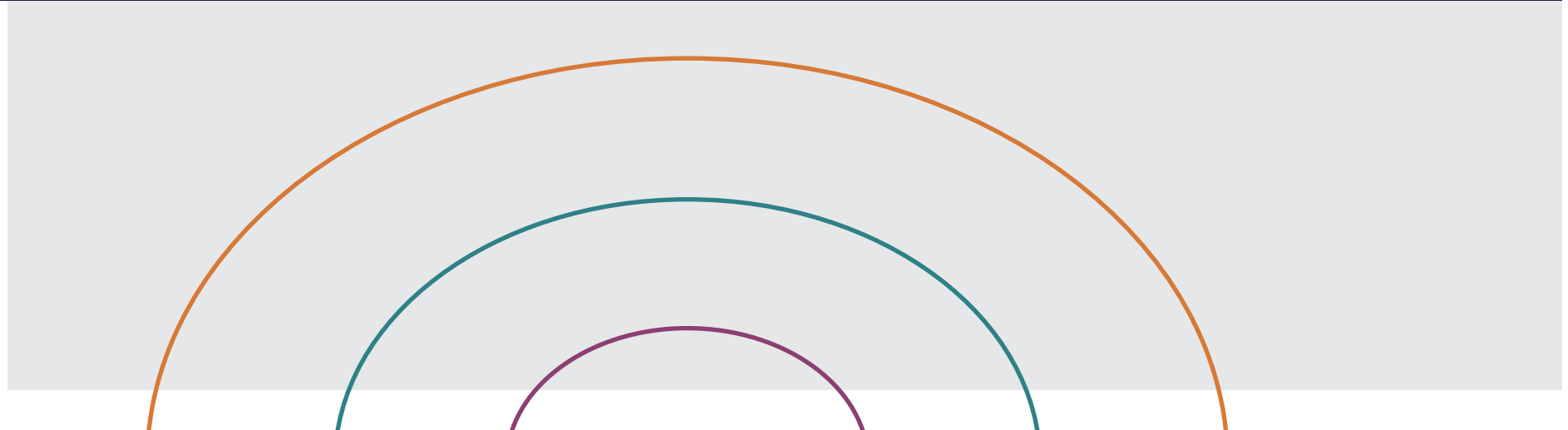
## Objectives

- Provide an overview of the new Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw
- Highlight the City's tools and resources for businesses
- Share information on the City's new grant program – the Circular Food Innovators Fund
- Encourage businesses and residents to get involved and provide feedback on the development of Stage 3 of the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

Stage 2 of City of Toronto Single-Use and  
Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

- On December 15, 2023 City Council adopted the [Update and Action Plan on the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy, including the Circular Food Innovators Fund](#) with amendments including the adoption of a new Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw (Bylaw)
- The new Bylaw **takes effect March 1, 2024**
- Information and a link to the Bylaw can be found at [toronto.ca/single-use](https://toronto.ca/single-use)

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Applicability

- The new Bylaw applies to all retail business establishments
- A retail business establishment is defined as: a premise, location, or operation where goods and/or services are offered for sale
  - stores, on-line businesses, eating or drinking establishments, convenience stores, grocery stores, delicatessens, caterers, mobile food vendors, street vendors, vending machines, bookstores and clothing stores



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw



## Applicability (continued)

- As the following are not considered retail business establishments, the Bylaw **does not** apply to:
  - shelters, hospitals and medical facilities, places of worship, school nutrition programs and other similar facilities that may provide single-use accessory food items as a part of their operations
- However, the Bylaw **does** apply to retail business establishments located within these organizations (e.g. a gift shop inside a hospital)

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Exemptions

- Retail business establishments selling goods and services at a City property event (i.e., a single day or multi-day public or private event that has been permitted by the City to occur on city property)
  - City property event: retail business establishments selling goods and services at a permitted event (e.g. The Festival of Lights) taking place in Nathan Phillips Square
- Restricted events (i.e., a single day or multi-day public or private event restricted through requirement of a ticket or otherwise not open to general public attendance)
  - Restricted event: retail business establishments selling goods and services at an event venue (e.g. a stadium or arena hosting a sports game or concert, or a zoo or museum) requiring a ticket to enter

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Summary

To comply with the Bylaw, retail business establishments are required to operationalize the following measures:

### 1. Ask-First/By-Request

- for single-use accessory food items & single-use paper shopping bags
- prior to distributing a single-use accessory food item, either
  - (i) ask a customer if they need the item,
  - (ii) have a customer request the item, or
  - (iii) make the item available to a customer in a self-serve station
- prior to distributing a single-use paper shopping bag, either
  - (i) ask a customer if they need the bag, or
  - (ii) have a customer request the bag

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw



## Summary (continued)

**To comply with the Bylaw, retail business establishments are required to operationalize the following measures:**

### **2. Accepting the use of Reusable Items**

- accept the use of reusable shopping bags and
- accept the use of reusable beverage cups by customers

### **3. Compatibility**

- only distribute single-use paper shopping bags to their customers that are compatible with the City's waste diversion programs

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Ask-First/By-Request requirement for **single-use accessory food items**

- What are single-use accessory food items?
  - ordinarily used only once before being disposed of as waste
  - can be made of any type of material, not just plastic
  - examples include utensils, straws, stir sticks, spill plugs, napkins, condiment cups and packets, cup sleeves and takeout trays
- Requirement for retail business establishments prior to providing a customer with single-use food accessory items
  - may use self-serve accessory food item stations
  - must ensure that online ordering platforms offer customers the option to request single-use accessory food items





# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Ask-First/By-Request requirement for **single-use paper shopping bags**

- What is a single-use paper shopping bag?
  - a shopping bag made of paper
  - equal to or greater than 15cm x 20cm when flat
  - designed to be used once and disposed of as waste
- Requirement for retail business establishments prior to providing a customer with a single-use paper shopping bag
- Exemption
  - Does not apply to paper bags designed and used to hold only loose bulk items, bakery goods not pre-packaged, loose small hardware items, flowers or potted plants, prescription drugs, free samples



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Accepting the use of **reusable shopping bags**

- What is a reusable shopping bag?
  - a shopping bag that is:
    - designed to be used more than once
    - made of fabric and/or other durable materials suitable for reuse and
    - capable of being washed or disinfected
- Required to accept a customer's use of a reusable shopping bag to carry their purchase



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Accepting the use of **reusable beverage cups**

- What is a reusable beverage cup?
  - a hot or cold beverage cup designed to be used more than once, made from durable material and capable of being washed or disinfected
- Required to permit the use of a reusable beverage cup by a customer to hold either a hot or cold beverage obtained at the retail business establishment
- A retail business establishment shall not permit or facilitate the use of a customer's reusable beverage cup if it is not:
  - of sound construction, in good repair, of a shape and of material that permits it to be readily cleaned and sanitized, visibly clean or, otherwise suitable to be used as a beverage cup



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw

## Compatibility of **single-use paper shopping bags**

- Single-use paper shopping bags must be compatible with the City's diversion programs (i.e., no metal grommets or plastic handles)



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Toolkit



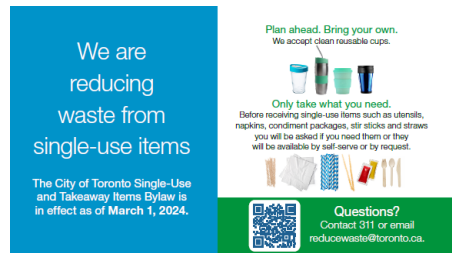
# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw Resources



- Bylaw Guide
  - Bylaw and timelines
  - General Information on reducing single-use items
  - Steps/Tips for businesses to comply
  - Exemptions to the Bylaw
  - Complaints process/enforcement details
- Toronto Public Health Guidelines on Reusables

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw Resources

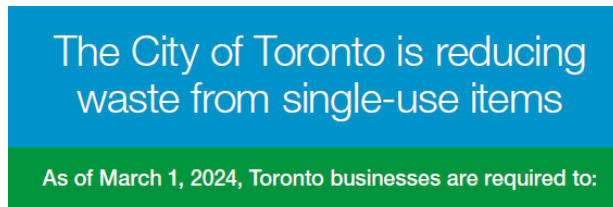
- Posters
  - Downloadable from [toronto.ca/single-use](https://toronto.ca/single-use)



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



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**Only provide items you really need**  
Before receiving single-use items such as utensils, napkins, condiment packages, stir sticks and straws, you will be asked if you need them or they will be available by self-serve or by request.



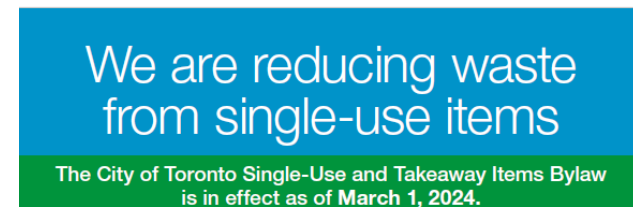
**Accept your reusable cups and shopping bags**  
They accept clean reusable shopping bags and cups.



Questions?  
Contact 311 or email [reducewaste@toronto.ca](mailto:reducewaste@toronto.ca).



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



**Plan ahead. Bring your own.**  
We accept clean reusable shopping bags and cups.



**Only take items you really need.**  
Before receiving single-use items such as utensils, napkins, condiment packages, stir sticks and straws, you will be asked if you need them or they will be available by self-serve or by request.



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



# 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.

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

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.



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

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](https://toronto.ca/wastewizard) or via the TOWaste 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](https://toronto.ca/single-use).










For more ReduceWasteTO Reducing Single-Use program information and resources, visit [toronto.ca/reducingsingleuseprogram](https://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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# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw Resources

- Reducing Single-Use and Takeaway Items web page [toronto.ca/single-use](https://toronto.ca/single-use)

## Reducing Single-Use & Takeaway Items

Share Print Translate

[Register for a webinar](#) on February 22 to learn more about the Single-Use and Takeaway Items bylaw that takes effect on March 1, 2024.

In June 2021, Toronto City Council approved the voluntary Reducing Single-Use program as Stage 1 of the [Reduction Strategy](#) to help reduce single-use and takeaway items in Toronto. This program is designed to encourage and enable businesses to take small actions to eliminate the unnecessary use of single-use and takeaway items in their operations and to celebrate those who are already doing so.

The City is now moving forward into [Stage 2](#) of the Reduction Strategy. A proposed bylaw was presented in a [staff report](#) to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on November 29, 2023 and to Toronto City Council on December 15. The report includes details of the Reduction Strategy with mandatory measures and implementation timelines.

Expand All + Collapse All -

Reducing Single-Use program	+
Ways to Reduce Single-Use	+
Reasons to Reduce Single-Use	+
Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Stage 1	+
Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Stage 2	+
Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Stage 3	+
Government of Canada Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations	+
Background	+
Consultations	+
Privacy	+

### Updates

To receive updates about the City's Single-Use & Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy, [subscribe](#) to the Long Term Waste Management Strategy email list.

### In This Section

Long Term Waste Management Strategy	-
Waste Strategy Overview	
Waste Strategy Programs & Initiatives	
Working Towards a Circular Economy	+
Waste Strategy Reports & Resources	
Waste Reduction	+
Reducing Single-Use & Takeaway Items	-
Reducing Single-Use Program	

### Contact Information

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

### Related Information

[Circular Food Innovators Fund](#)

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Stage 3



# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy

## Stage 3

### SUTI Stage 3

- City staff have been directed by Council to report back in Q1 of 2025 on further measures to reduce single-use and takeaway items, including the feasibility of expanding the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw further to include:
  1. Large event venues
  2. Acceptance of reusable food containers provided by a customer at retail business establishments and
  3. Requirements for retail business establishment operators to use reusable food containers and beverage cups in their dine-in operations in Toronto

# Thank you!

## **Contact Information:**

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

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

Telephone: 311 or 416-392-3760