

The background of the slide is a photograph showing several large, white, woven fabric bags filled with discarded coffee cups. The cups are of various brands, including Starbucks and Tim Hortons, and are piled together, illustrating the volume of single-use items.

Single Use Item Reduction Strategy

Update & Consultation Launch

The background of the slide is a photograph of a paved area, possibly a sidewalk or driveway, made of grey interlocking stones. A clear plastic food container, likely a takeout container, is lying on the pavement in the lower right quadrant. The container is partially filled with food and has a lid. In the upper right corner, there are green ivy leaves. A dark shadow is cast across the pavement from the right side.

Outline

- The issue
- Actions underway
- Regulatory authority
- Next steps

The Issue

Governments around the world are grappling with litter and increasing waste from items used once and thrown away.

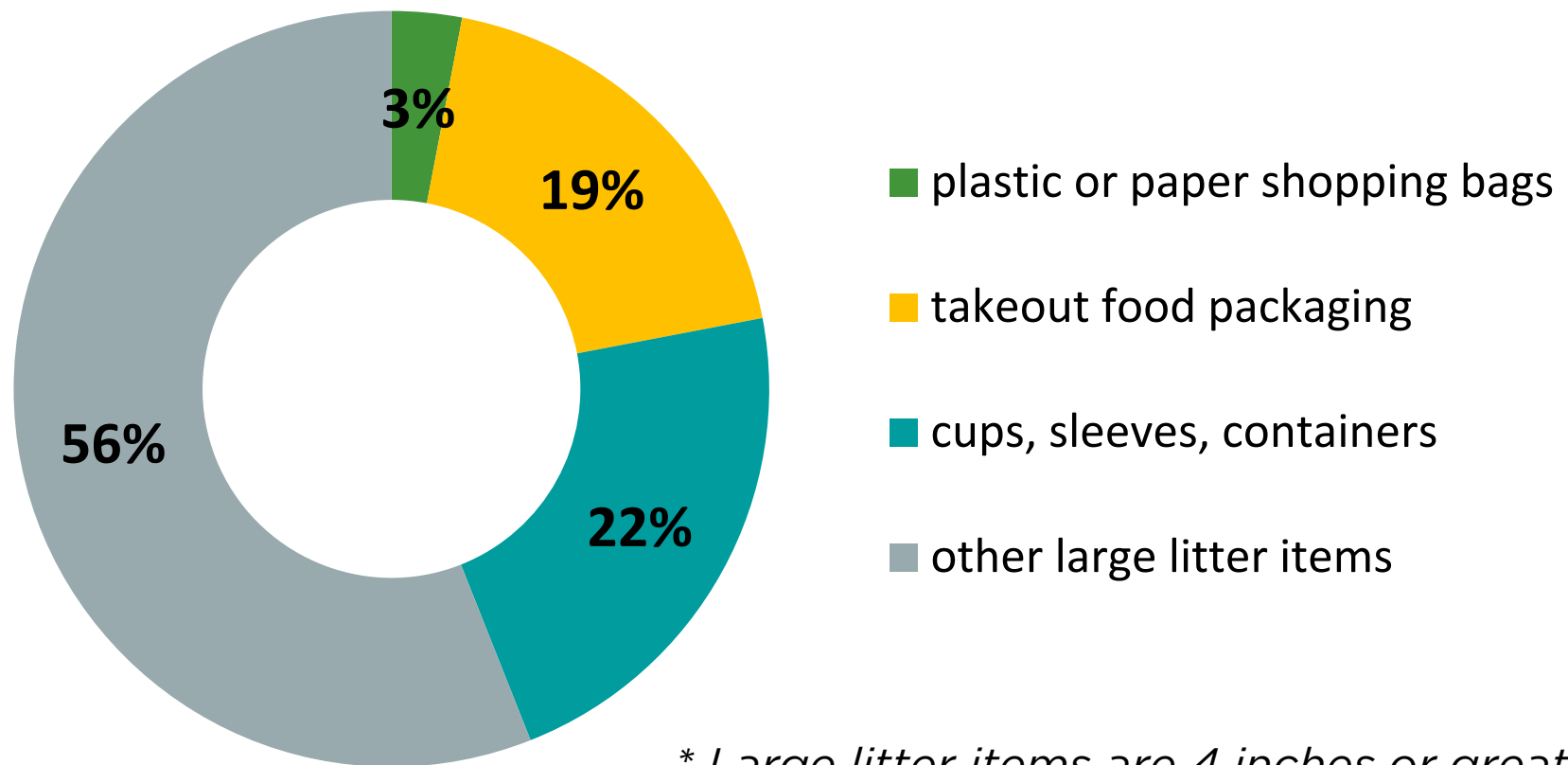
These wasted resources could be prevented. Those that must be used could be recycled or composted more effectively.





Disposable cups, take-out containers and shopping bags are at the center of the issue

44% of large* litter items in Vancouver are cups, takeout packaging and shopping bags



* Large litter items are 4 inches or greater



Annually, it costs the City \$2.5 million to collect single use items from public waste bins and as litter in our parks, streets and green spaces



Cups, lids and sleeves make up 22% of large litter on Vancouver's streets, parks and public spaces

Every week, 2.6 million polycoat paper cups (coffee cups) are thrown away in Vancouver plus unknown amounts of plastic and polystyrene foam cups



Take-out packaging makes up 19% of large street litter in Vancouver

Small foam pieces made up 9% of shoreline litter in 2016



Over 2 million plastic shopping bags are thrown in the garbage each week in Vancouver (63% are reused as garbage bags)

Of large litter in Vancouver, 2% is plastic bags and 1% is paper bags

3% of shoreline litter in Vancouver is plastic bags

Paper vs Plastic Bags:
Paper bags are less persistent in the environment but have higher environmental impact on:

- greenhouse gas emissions
- renewable energy use
- water use

Current Community Actions

Many grocers charge fees on bags or give discounts for reusable ones

Some coffee shops charge fees on disposable cups & most offer discounts on travel mugs

Some restaurants charge fees on takeout containers or offer discounts for using reusable dishware on site

Many non-profit social service agencies use reusable dishware

Businesses are adopting recyclable & compostable alternatives



Current City Actions

Support Coffee Cup Revolution run by the Binners Project to demonstrate the effectiveness of deposits for cups

Expand on-street recycling in partnership with Recycle BC

Review procurement policies to lead by example at City facilities





Bring Your Own Container Pilot

Starting this summer,
the City and
Vancouver Coastal Health
will launch a pilot where
restaurants & retailers
can fill orders in
reusable containers
brought by customers



The City has considerable regulatory authority related to single use items

Regulatory Authority

City Council Authority:

- Require businesses to prompt customers
- Require in-store recycling
- Business license fees
- Ban distribution
- Ban disposal in solid waste system

Provincial Authority:

- Require fees on single use items
- Require refundable deposits

Other Jurisdictions

- Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, California have plastic bag ban + fees on paper bags
- Montreal, Portland, Austin, France, Rwanda & parts of Australia have plastic bag bans; Victoria, BC is consulting on this now
- Chicago, Washington DC, Ontario, UK, EU & Hong Kong have plastic bag fees
- Seattle, Portland, San Francisco + over 100 US cities have banned polystyrene foam containers
- New York City health code allows customers to bring reusable containers for takeout food
- Reusable mug-share and container-share programs are emerging in Germany, New York, Portland & San Francisco

What we've learned

- A Single Use Item Reduction Strategy would affect all areas of society and over 10,000 businesses in Vancouver
- Strong regulatory approaches may have unintended consequences or may not move the dial
- Some cities that started with plastic bag bans reversed their position or switched to taxes or fees, which can result in a greater change than bans
- No single approach will result in the changes needed

What we've heard so far

SINGLE USE ITEM WORKSHOP

October 28, 2016

Themes:

1. Take a collaborative, systems-wide approach
2. Foster a zero waste culture
3. Transition to a strong circular economy
4. Foster innovation
5. Support infrastructure & technology
6. Develop supportive & enabling policy & regulation



Emerging directions:

Possible voluntary + regulatory approaches

Reduce	Fees (voluntary or mandatory)
	Bans on distribution/use
	Education/promotion
Reuse	Mandatory customer prompts
	Behaviour change initiatives
	Mug-share & container-share programs
Recycle/ Compost	Deposits
	Disposal bans
	Mandatory front-of-store recycling/composting
	Require recyclable/compostable materials
	Standards for certified compostable cups/containers

What needs to be discussed with stakeholders

- Voluntary programs vs. City regulations
- Cooperative opportunities
- Areas of focus
- Targets & timelines
- Measuring results: data & reporting

Who needs to be involved



Consulting Stakeholders

Target audience: Organizations whose operations may be impacted by new policies (industry, businesses, institutions, non-profits)

Tactics

1. Consultation paper
2. Roundtable meetings
3. Correspondence from stakeholders

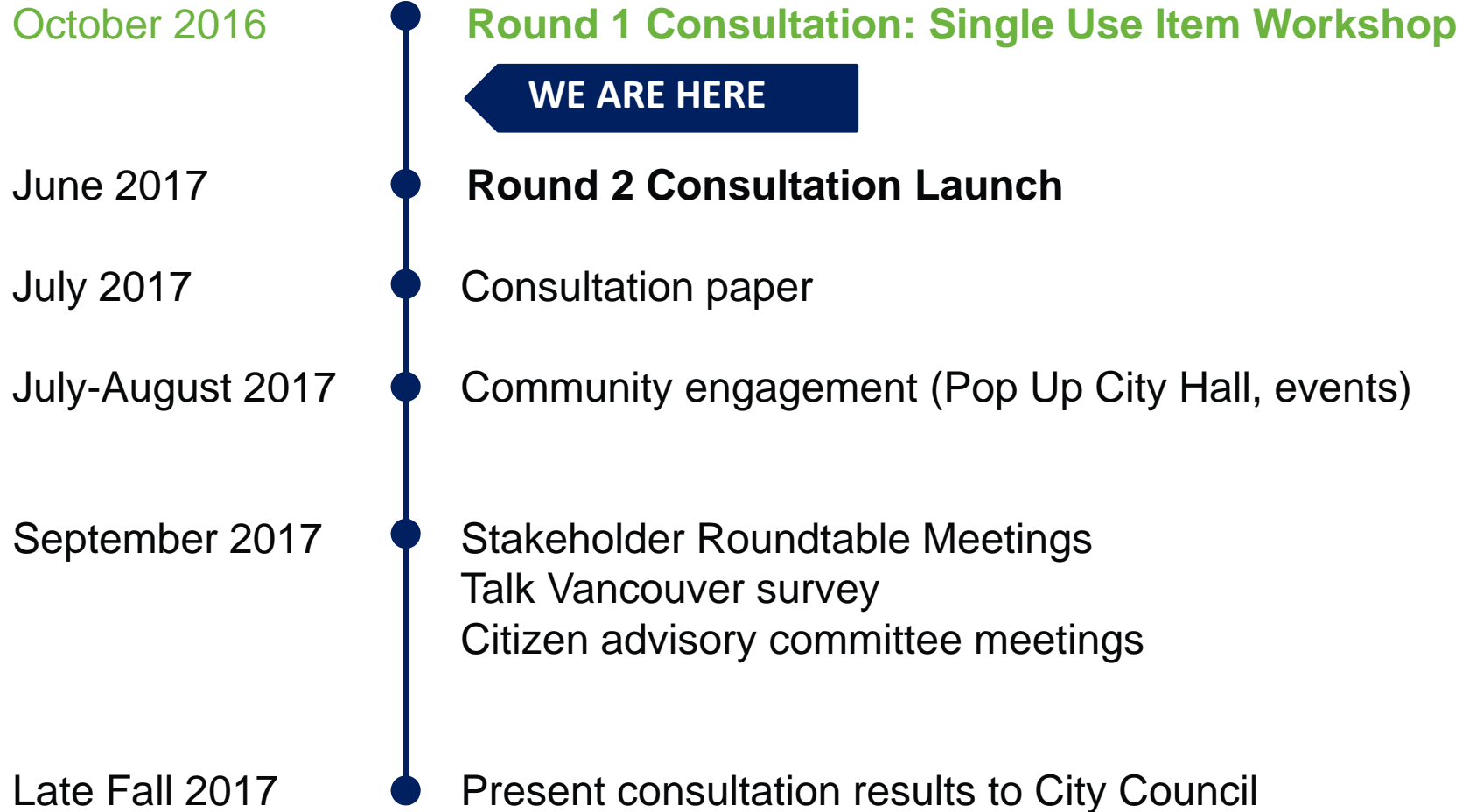


Engaging the Community

- Citizen advisory committees
- Pop-Up City Hall
- Events
- Social media
- Surveys
- Website

Consultation Timeline

Our process and anticipated milestones



Through the consultation we will...

- Identify:
 - Impacts, barriers & tradeoffs of options under consideration
 - Potential unintended consequences
 - Opportunities for collaboration
 - Other potential options for consideration
- In order to:
 - Provide recommendations to Council on the best way forward
 - Continue to build the movement towards becoming a zero waste community

Societal change is needed

Linear Economy

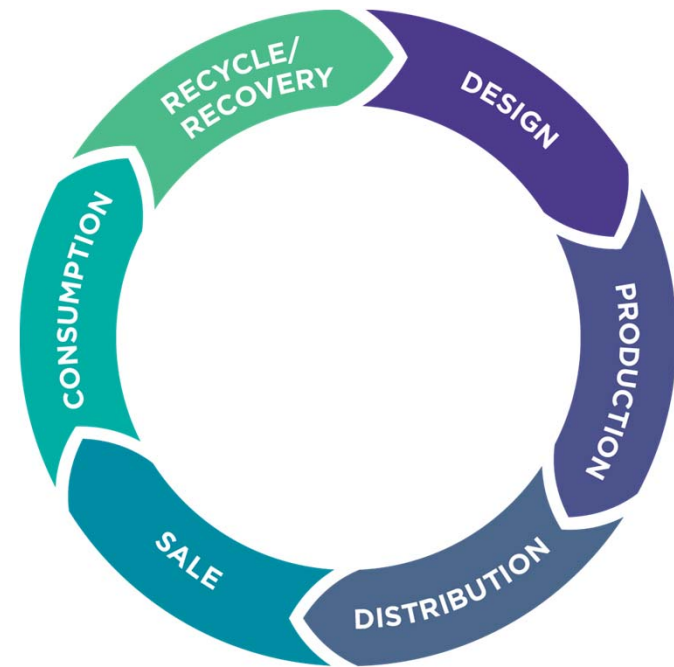
- Relies on large amounts of relatively cheap materials and inputs to make goods and services
- Produces a lot of waste



Societal change is needed

Circular Economy

- Keeps products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value
- Prevents waste through new and innovative business models or through improved design
- Maximizes the continuation of a product's life through enhanced re-use, repair, or remanufacture
- Improves end-of-life processing and resource recovery



These challenges
have been decades
in the making...

*Dixie advertisement,
1954*

Source: Hugh Moore Dixie Cup Company Collection,
Skillman Library, Lafayette College

**A DIXIE CUP Dispenser
in your kitchen
saves all this work...**

- No more between-meal dishwashing!
- No more glasses to be dried and put-away!
- No more broken glasses!
- No more piled-up sinks after late-hour snacks, or after-school milk!
- Dixie Dispenser mounts on any wall or cabinet in a jiffy!

Look for the big economy size... the thrifty way to buy Dixie Cups for everyday home use

Dixie is a registered trade mark of the Dixie Cup Company

Now at a price you can afford for everyday home use!

Another Dixie Cup advertisement appearing in
LIFE, May 3, 1954

27

The City is seeking community input to help us create sustainable, made-in-Vancouver solutions that reduce waste from single use items





It's time to shift our thinking about waste.