

Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy By-law Consultation Update

City of Vancouver Standing Committee of Council
On City Finance and Services

April 24, 2019



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Background on Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy



Strategy Scope

- Plastic and paper shopping bags, cups, containers, foam, straws, and utensils
- All material types (not just plastic)
- Influencing actions (by-laws)
- Supportive actions (education, collaboration, infrastructure)
- 2018-2025

The need for a Strategy



PLASTIC BAGS

2 million plastic shopping bags are thrown in the garbage every week



DISPOSABLE CUPS

2.6 million paper cups are thrown in the trash every week



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS

50% of all garbage collected from street litter cans, is disposable cups and containers



FOAM CONTAINERS

9% of items collected in shoreline cleanups are small foam pieces



STRAWS & UTENSILS

2% of shoreline litter is plastic straws and stir sticks

It costs taxpayers \$2.5 million a year

to collect single-use items from public waste bins and as litter.

Marine Plastics

- Plastic waste and marine litter have emerged alongside climate change as a global environmental priority
- Single-use items are directly connected to plastic pollution
- As a coastal city, the care and health of our ocean, beaches and shorelines are important to Vancouver



Strategy Objective:

Maximize reduction and reuse

A ZERO WASTE APPROACH FOR VANCOUVER



**Recovering energy from organic materials such as food and, in the case of single-use items, compostable packaging*

Over 8,000 people and hundreds of businesses contributed to creating the strategy.

49th Parallel Coffee Roasters
500 Foods Corporation
7-Eleven Canada
Adaptation to Climate Change Team SFU
A.E. Vancouver Private Tours & Charters Inc.
All India

Ara Mental Health
ARC Restaurant - Fairmont Waterfront
Aritzia
A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.
Azusa Inc.

Ba Le Sandwich Shop
Ba-Le Deli & Bakery
Bali Thai
BC Bottle and Recycling Depot
BC Housing
BC Place Stadium
Binner's Project
Belkhi House
Bokoeco
BOMA BC

Boteco Brasil
BRANDLIVE
BSI Biodegradable Solutions
Bubble King
Buy Low Foods & Associated Grocers
Cadillac Fairview

Canadian Beverage Association
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Canadian Plastics Industry Association
Canra Sri Lankan Plus
Cara

Carnegie Centre
Cartems Donuts
Cascades Recovery Inc.
CCPA

Centric Culinary Café
Charisma
Chao Veggie Express
Chinatown BBQ
ChopSwap

Chutney Villa
City of Port Coquitlam
CKF Inc.
CleanStart
COBS Bread
Commercial Street Cafe
Common Energy UBC
Dairy Queen Canada
Dart Canada
Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak Centre

Deloitte Canada
Dillon Consulting Limited
Dollarama
Dollar Meats
Dosa factory
Downtown Vancouver BIA
The Drive Coffee Bar
Drop the Straw
Dyne-a-Pak
EcoGuardian
EcoInspire

Eddie's Hang-Up Display Ltd.
Eight½ Restaurant
El Caracol Mexican Café
Emterra
Encorp Pacific Canada
Eternal Abundance
Ethical Bean
Evergreen

Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fairmont Waterfront
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Floata Seafood Restaurant
Foam Only
Foodservice Packaging
Fortis BC
Fraser Academy Fraser Health Authority
Fuud

Gain Wah
G.E.N Trading Ltd
Giant Panda Szechuan Cuisine

Grandview Woodlands Food Connection
Green Chair Recycling
Green Coast Coffee
Greenpeace Canada
The Handle Handle
Helder Ventures
Hermes Canada Inc.
heroX

Hua Foundation
Hudson's Bay Company
Hoang Yen
Home Depot

Home on the Range Organics
Jade Dynasty
JINYA Ramen Bar
JJ Bean

J Rush Agency
Kent's Kitchen
Kinpack
Kissa Tanto Restaurant
Laughing Bean Coffee
Left Coast Naturals

Leverage Lab
Loblaw Companies Ltd.
LOCO BC
London Drugs Ltd.
Lululemon

Lunapads International
Lupii Cafe
Malachite Management Inc.
Marquis Wines
Maxim Bakery & Cafe

McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd.
Metro Vancouver
Money BBQ
Mountain Equipment Co-Op
Mount Pleasant BIA
Ms Tiffin

Museum of Anthropology
Nadatodo Communications Inc.
The Naked Business

Net Zero Waste Abbotsford
New Mitzie's
New Town Bakery
Nusa Coffee
Ocean Ambassadors
Ocean Wise

Olive and Ruby Cafe
One Earth
Open Door Group
Pabla's

Pacific National Exhibition
Panago Pizza
Patex Research
Pathway Group
Pharmasave Drugs (Pacific) Ltd.

Planted Food Network
Plastic Oceans Foundation
Potluck Café Society
Powell River Regional District's "Let's Talk Trash Team"

Pride Enterprises Ltd.
Product Care
Provence Restaurant

Provincial Health Services Authority 35
Raincity
RANA Inc
Recycle BC
Recycle Smart Solutions

Recycling Alternative
Recycling Council of British Columbia
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee - Solid
Waste Sub-Committee
Restaurants Canada

Retail Council of Canada
Rhinofish
RISE Kombucha
Salt Spring Coffee
Sal y Limon

Save-On Foods
Science World British Columbia
School of Community & Regional Planning, UBC
Scout Environmental

Self Employed
Simon Fraser University
The Soap Dispensary
Sobeys Inc.
SPEC

Stand.earth
Starbucks Coffee Company
Stojo Cups
Sun Fresh
Suzuki Elders

Tap and Barrel - Convention Centre
Tetra Tech
Tourism Vancouver
Tractor Everyday Healthy Foods

Trees Organic Coffee
Union Gospel Mission
University of British Columbia
University of British Columbia - Botanical Garden

UBC/JJ Bean Coffee Roasters
Urban Impact
Vancouver Aquarium
Vancouver Airport Authority

Vancouver Aquarium an Ocean Wise Initiative
Vancouver Civic Theatres
Vancouver Coastal Health
Vancouver Convention Centre
Vancouver Farmers Markets

Vancouver Pride Society
Vancouver Food Tour
Vancouver Pride Society
Vancouver Visitor TV
Vera's Burger Shack

V Taste
Waste Control Services
West Coast Management Association
White Spot Ltd
WISH

Wow Thai Food
Zero Waste Canada
Zero Waste Vancouver Meetup
Zhao Ma Bakery

...and more!

86% of Vancouver residents see the importance of reducing single-use items

Source: Public opinion poll conducted by NRG Research for the City of Vancouver, Jan. 2018



We Heard Support for the Strategy

Provided that the City:

- Helps business community adapt
- Allows time for change
- Ensures language and cultural accessibility

And the strategy is:

- Equitable
- Affordable
- Inclusive & accessible
- Flexible
- Harmonized
- Integrated
- Collaborative





“We need Vancouver to be a leader in this area. It is very clear where we need to be and we can no longer wait. Businesses and people can and will adapt to changes.”
- Zero Waste business owner

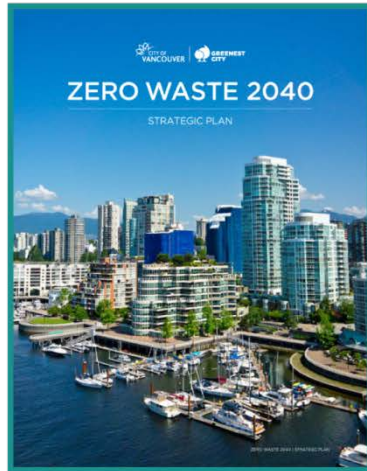
A photograph of two men in conversation. The man on the left is wearing a teal t-shirt and holding a black tablet. The man on the right is wearing a yellow t-shirt and holding a black tablet. A semi-transparent white box with a dark blue border is overlaid on the image, containing a quote. The background is a blurred indoor setting with pink and blue elements.

**“I agree with the environmental concerns,
but the City of Vancouver needs to
consider the business ramifications.”**

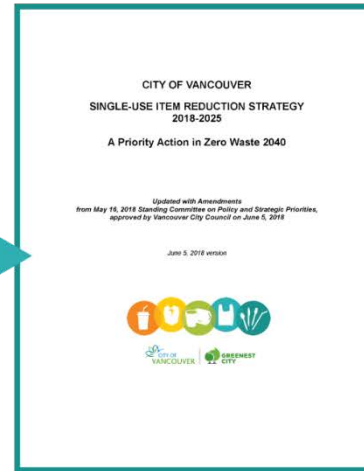
- Restaurant Interviewee

Council Direction

On June 5, 2018, Council adopted the Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy, an early priority action in Vancouver's Zero Waste 2040 strategic plan.



Zero Waste 2040



Single-Use Item
Reduction Strategy

Priority Actions



Ban polystyrene foam cups and polystyrene foam take-out containers.



Ban unnecessary use of plastic straws with exceptions for accessibility and healthcare needs.



Require disposable utensils to be given out only if customers ask for them, rather than receiving them automatically.



Require businesses to have reduction plans for disposable cups and plastic/paper shopping bags.



Provide education and outreach, collaboration and dialogue to support businesses, and infrastructure and programs for reuse.

Council Direction June 5, 2018

- Identify how to support stakeholders with transition from foam cups/containers
- Consult on proposed by-law changes for bags, cups and plastic straws
 - Start of consultation delayed to Jan 2019 due to election
- Bring forward by-law amendments for plastic straws and foam cups/containers beginning June 1, 2019
 - Advanced from Staff's recommended date of November 1, 2019
- Develop by-laws for compostable single-use items to be tested and approved in local compost facilities

Council Direction Sep. 18, 2018

- Begin developing an Accessibility Strategy (Phase 1) in 2019



Engagement Update

Food & Retail Sectors

Consultation concludes in May 2019

Engagement design:

- Goal: 170 organizations
 - Including 80 culturally-diverse organizations
- Targets affected license holders
- Large and small business, non-profits
- Interviews, group workshops, webinar for national brands
 - Interviews in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese



Accessibility

Consultation concludes in May 2019

Engagement design:

- Goal: 40 participants
- Individuals and organizations who rely on plastic straws for accessibility
- Interviews, group workshop



Foam Cups/Take-out Containers

Consultation is complete

- Ban is generally supported
- Many small businesses & charitable food providers rely on foam
- Affected stakeholders request more transition time
 - With extensive education and outreach before effective date
 - Most meaningful way City can support stakeholders with the change



Plastic Straws - Early Findings

Consultation concludes in May 2019

Phasing

Businesses depend on plastic straws for:

- Bubble tea
- Thick drinks (smoothies, slushes, shakes)
- To-go drinks

These businesses need time to find substitutes

Accessibility

- Bendable plastic straws meet the widest range of accessibility needs
 - Positionable, lightweight, no injury risk, durable (no choking hazard), safe at high temperatures, doesn't have to be cleaned



Consulting on the Implementation Plan for Plastic Straws

- Phasing that allows time for industry to develop substitutes
- Requiring businesses to give bendable plastic straws when requested
 - to ensure accessibility and inclusion



Reduction Plans: Shopping Bags and Cups

Consultation concludes in May 2019

Reduction Plan approach restricts cups,
plastic bags and paper bags

- Don't give out,
- Charge a fee, or
- Customized plan with performance monitoring

Developed through extensive engagement

- Addresses desire for flexibility
- Harmonization across jurisdictions is important

Early findings:

- Flexibility of reduction plans generally supported
- Concerns raised about complexities

Recommended approach will be developed
using complete consultation results.



Plastic and Paper Shopping Bags

Multiple issues to address

- Litter and cost of waste management
- Marine plastic pollution and obstruction of waterways
- Environmental impacts from production to disposal
 - E.g. global warming potential

Best policy for shopping bags targets plastic and paper

- Substitute effects when only plastic bags are banned
 - 491% increase in use of paper bags
 - 120% increase in sales of store-bought garbage bags
- Paper bags
 - Are compostable, even when littered
 - But, Carbon Footprint 4 times higher than plastic bags
 - Need to be reused 4-7 times
- Fees on plastic bags led to 83% and 96% reduction in other places



Compostable Single-Use Items

Staff research indicates compostable plastic:

- Not designed to break down if littered or in marine environments
- Does not break down quickly enough in most local compost facilities
 - Screened out and disposed
- Contaminates compost and recycling streams
- Province regulates what can be accepted in compost facilities
 - Compostable plastic currently not an acceptable material under regulation

Early engagement findings:

- Businesses are switching to compostable plastic single-use items
- Expectation for City to develop infrastructure to process this material

Regulatory change is needed at the Provincial level to address the issue.

Timing

Consultation concludes in May 2019

Early findings:

- Most stakeholders prefer by-laws to be phased-in one at a time
 - Not operationally feasible to adjust to 5 new by-laws all at once
- Common desire to see schedule of all by-law start dates and details
 - Gives lead time to plan for changes

Recommended order and final details of the bag, cup and utensil by-laws to be provided in November 2019.



Staff Recommendations

Recommendation A: Foam Cups/Take-out Containers

Ban distribution of prepared food in polystyrene foam cups/containers

- Effective January 1, 2020 (extended from June 1, 2019)
- 1-year exemption for charitable food providers



Recommendation B: Banning the Unnecessary Use of Plastic Straws

Extend start date from June 1, 2019 to
April 2020

Staff to report back by Nov. 30, 2019:

- Proposed by-law details and a phasing plan that begins April 2020
- Engagement findings
- Provisions for ensuring accessibility (e.g. bendable plastic straws)



Recommendation C: Other By-law Amendments

Staff to report back by Nov. 30, 2019:

- Complete engagement findings
- Proposed by-law amendments and implementation plans for:
 - plastic and paper shopping bags
 - disposable cups
 - single-use utensils



Engaging Senior Governments

Recommendation D: Resolutions for 2019 UBCM convention

1. Comprehensive provincial single-use item reduction strategy
2. Provincial standards for compostable single-use items to ensure they:
 - are designed to fully biodegrade if littered
 - align with composting infrastructure in British Columbia
 - are collected and managed through an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for all sectors

Recommendation E:

Letters to Metro Vancouver and Province requesting support for a Provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

Questions?



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ZERO WASTE