



Single-Use Item Reduction Workshop

Sandy Young

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION
COORDINATOR, SOLID WASTE SERVICES

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Karen Storry

SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER, ZERO WASTE
IMPLEMENTATION, SOLID WASTE SERVICES



metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

Workshop Outline

Objective: Provide a toolkit overview and receive feedback on policy options, single-use resources and data

Welcome

Single-Use Item Reduction Background and Toolkit Overview

Bags

Cups

Take-Out Containers

Straws

Utensils

Next Steps

Toolkit Purpose

- Provides MV municipalities with single-use item reduction resources and best practices to inform single-use initiatives
- Promotes regional harmonization
- Aligns regional single-use item management with 5Rs

Municipalities will determine which policies to implement and conduct their individual analysis, consultation and enforcement strategies.

Background and Timeline



Vancouver initiates Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy consultation (Sep 2017)

MV Board resolves to develop regional actions (Oct 2017)

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste (2018)

Victoria implements bag bylaw (Jul 2018)

MV initiates single-use item reduction toolkit for municipalities (Feb 2019)

MV writes Province in support of a provincial single-use item reduction strategy (Mar 2019)

Clean BC and Plastics Strategy (2019)

Several Vancouver Island communities ban single-use plastics (2019)

Vancouver approves cup and container foam ban to start in 2020

Federal government announces plan to ban harmful single-use items by 2021 (2019)

Victoria Checkout Bag Bylaw invalid (July 2019)

Drivers for Single-Use Item Reduction

- Costs taxpayers millions annually to collect from public spaces
- Commonly found in marine litter
- Not commonly recycled or reused
- Takes a significant amount of resources to produce



Single-Use Items

Ocean Conservancy Top 10 marine litter items:
food wrappers, plastic bags, plastic cup lids, straws and stirrers, and foam take-away containers

Only 14% of plastic is collected for recycling globally;
\$100-\$150 billion in single-use plastic items annually

Single-Use Item Reduction Plans and Strategies

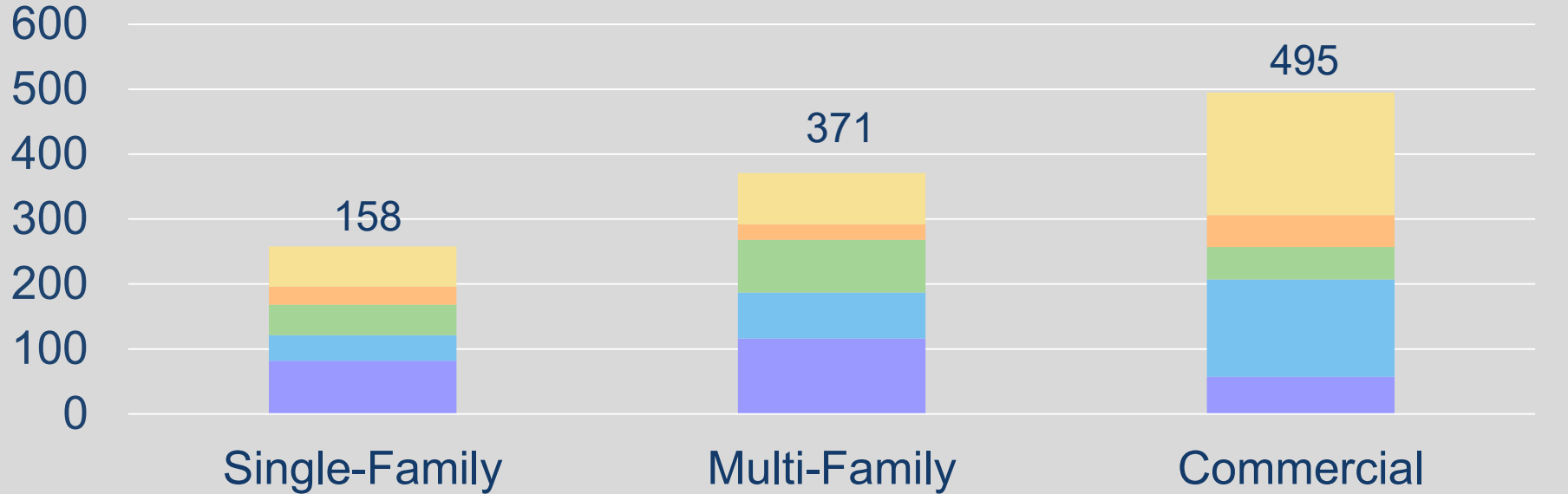
- City of Vancouver
- City of Toronto
- City of Calgary
- Ville de Montreal

Single-Use Items Disposed

Single-Use Item Disposal		
Single-Use Item Type	Items Disposed (millions)	% by weight of overall composition
Retail Bags	256	0.9%
Disposable Cups	262	0.6%
Takeout Containers	179	0.7%
Straws	102	<0.1%
Utensils	331	0.1%
Total	1.1 billion	2.4%

Equivalent to 440 items per person a year

Total Single-Use Items Disposed By Sector (Millions)



■ Retail Bags (Paper and Plastic) ■ Cups ■ Takeout Containers ■ Straws ■ Utensils

Purpose and Background

*Feedback welcome on toolkit purpose
and single-use items background*

Single-Use Policy and Regulatory Options

Bags	Cups	Containers	Straws	Utensils
By Request Only	By Request Only	By Request Only	By Request Only	By Request Only
Mandatory Fee	Mandatory Fee	Mandatory Fee	Mandatory Fee	Mandatory Fee
Ban	Ban	Ban	Ban	
	Require Reusable	Require Reusable		Require Reusable

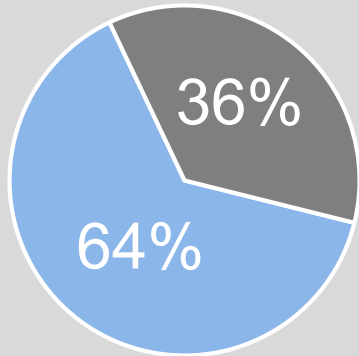


Single-Use Bags

Retail Plastic Bags

242 Million

**Plastic bags disposed per
year in Metro Vancouver**



■ Re-used ■ Empty

Plastic Bag Bans

- Wood Buffalo, Alberta
- Montreal – 2018
- PEI – 2019
- Tofino – 2019
- Ucluelet – 2019
- Courtenay – July 2019
- Qualicum – July 2019
- Cumberland – Jan 2020
- Richmond – Jan 2020 (Pending)

Single-Use Bags

By Request

Mandatory Fees

Plastic Bag Bans

Key Considerations

- Increases awareness
 - Could be a first step in a phased approach
 - Encourages reduction of avoidable items
-
- Encourages reduction and reuse
 - Fees more effective than discounts
 - Direction required on who keeps fees
 - Consider challenges for homeless and people living in poverty
 - Harmonized fees
-
- Drives reduction and reuse
 - Can increase use of alternatives (paper, reusable, trash bags)
 - Business challenges sourcing alternatives
 - Customer challenges transporting leaky materials
 - Consider challenges for homeless and people living in poverty
 - Be clear on scope of bags

Business Leadership and Innovators



Table of Contents

Why Reduce the Distribution of Single-use Shopping Bags?	1
Reducing the Distribution of Single-use Shopping Bags	2
Introduce a Fee	2
Offer a Reusable Bag	2
Provide In-store Recycling	3
Develop a Communications Strategy	3
Develop a Training Program	3
Develop a Green Program	3
Creating a Single-use Bag Reduction Program	4
Staff Training	5
Sourcing a Good Reusable Bag	6
Promoting Proper Bag Recycling	7
Appendix A - Single-use Bag Reduction Plans	8
Single-use Bag Reduction Plan	8
Single-use Bag Elimination Plan	9
Appendix B - Templates for Signage and Till Stickers	10
Appendix C - Scripted Scripts for Training Staff on Customer Interactions	11-12
Appendix D - Endnotes	13

Reducing the Distribution of Single-use Shopping Bags: A Resource Guide for BC Retailers

Source: <https://recyclebc.ca/reduce-single-use/>

Single-Use Bags

*Feedback welcome on policy options,
key considerations, anything else*



Cups

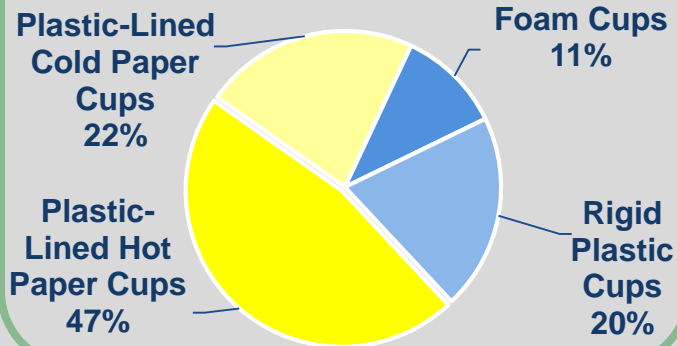


Cups

260 Million

**Single-use cups disposed
per year in Metro
Vancouver**

Cups Disposed (% of units)



Cup Reduction Policies

- Foam Bans – California (various local governments; 1989-2017)
- Foam Ban – Seattle (2009)
- Compostable/recyclable requirement – Seattle (2010)
- Foam Ban – Vancouver (2020)
- Pending Foam Ban – Richmond (2020)

Cups

Key Considerations

By Request

- Increases awareness
 - Could be a first step in a phased approach
 - Encourages reduction of avoidable items
-

Mandatory Fees

- Encourages more cup reuse
- Fees more effective than discounts
- Ministry of Health allows customers to bring their own cup
- Could impact mobile orders
- Harmonized fees

Cups

Key Considerations

Ban Foam

- Eliminates use of foam containers and shifts to alternatives (foam challenging as only collected at depot; recycling rates low and contamination high)
- Common product used by small businesses – stakeholder engagement important

Require Reusable
Cups

-
- Some businesses lack reusable cups and dishwashing infrastructure
 - A phased-in approach starting with dine-in businesses would allow reusable options to develop

Business Leadership and Innovators

- Cup Share programs
- Fees
- Larger discounts
- Skip the line
- Mug library
- No to-go cups
- Always ask customer if they would like it for here

Cups

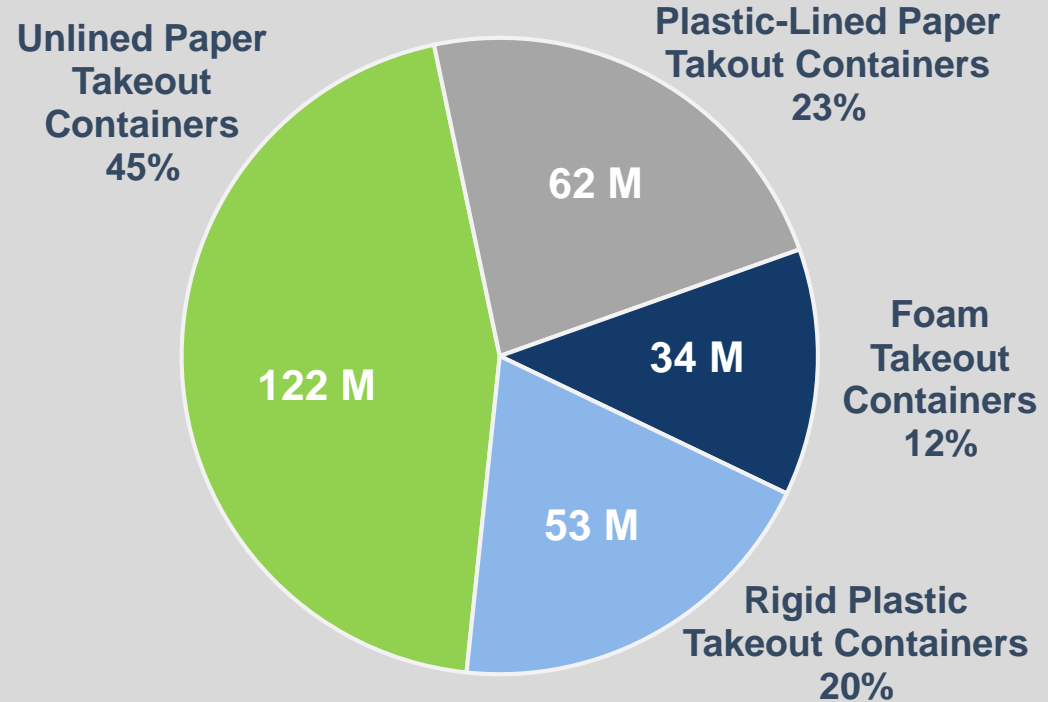
*Feedback welcome on policy options,
key considerations, anything else*



Take-Out Containers

Take-Out Containers

180 Million
Take-out containers
disposed per year in Metro
Vancouver



Take-Out Containers

Key Considerations

By Request

- Increases awareness
 - Encourages reduction of avoidable items
 - Could be a first step in a phased approach
-

Mandatory Fees

- Encourages reduction and reuse
- Technically challenging at present – use/availability of reusable containers low so business impacts high
- Health authorities requirements uncertain – could have high business impacts
- Fees more effective than discounts
- Harmonized fees

Take-Out Containers

Ban Foam

Key Considerations

- Eliminates use of foam containers and shifts to alternatives (foam challenging as only collected at depot; recycling rates low and contamination high)
- Common product used by ethno-cultural food service businesses – stakeholder engagement important

Require Reusable

-
- Encourages reduction
 - Some businesses lack reusable cups and dishwashing infrastructure
 - A phased-in approach starting with dine-in businesses would allow reusable options to develop

Business Leadership and Innovators

- Container share programs
- Container return programs

Take-Out Containers

*Feedback welcome on policy options,
key considerations, anything else*



Straws

Straws

102 Million

**Straws disposed per year
in Metro Vancouver**



Straw Reduction Policies

- Seattle – Ban (2018)
- Ucluelet, Tofino – Ban (2019)
- Qualicum – Ban (July 2019)
- Courtenay – Ban (July 2019)
- Vancouver – Ban (2020)
- Cumberland – Ban (2020)

Straws

By Request

Key Considerations

- Encourages reduction of avoidable items
 - Increases awareness
-

Mandatory Fees

- Encourages reduction and reuse
 - Fees more effective than discounts
 - Harmonized fees
-

Plastic Straw Ban

- Would affect customers who rely on straws for accessibility; stakeholder engagement important
- Could impact businesses selling frozen blended beverages or bubble tea
- Limited alternatives to plastic straws

Business Leadership and Innovators

- Straw free restaurants
- By request
- Have plastic bendy straws available for accessibility

Straws

*Feedback welcome on policy options,
key considerations, anything else*



Utensils

Utensils

330 Million

**Utensils disposed per year
in Metro Vancouver**



**2/3 of utensils
disposed were
chopsticks**

Utensil Reduction Policies

- Seattle – Prohibition on use of plastic straws and utensils (2018)
- UBC Food Service Guide – fiber-based requirements (2019)

Utensils

By Request

Key Considerations

- Encourages reduction of avoidable items

Mandatory Fees

- Encourages reduction and reuse
- Fees more effective than discounts
- Harmonized fees

Require Reusable

- Requires reduction
- Some businesses lack reusable cups and dishwashing infrastructure
- A phased-in approach starting with dine-in businesses would allow reusable options to develop

Business Leadership and Innovators

- By request only
- Going back to providing reusable option for here
- Food delivery providers requiring 'opt-in' or 'opt-out' input for utensils

Utensils

*Feedback welcome on policy options,
key considerations, anything else*

Next Steps

- Presentation is available online
- Toolkit to Zero Waste Committee and Board in 2019
- Feedback: Karen.Storry@metrovancover.org



Thank you



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