



Single-Use Item Reduction Webinar

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metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

Webinar 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/Questions

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)

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

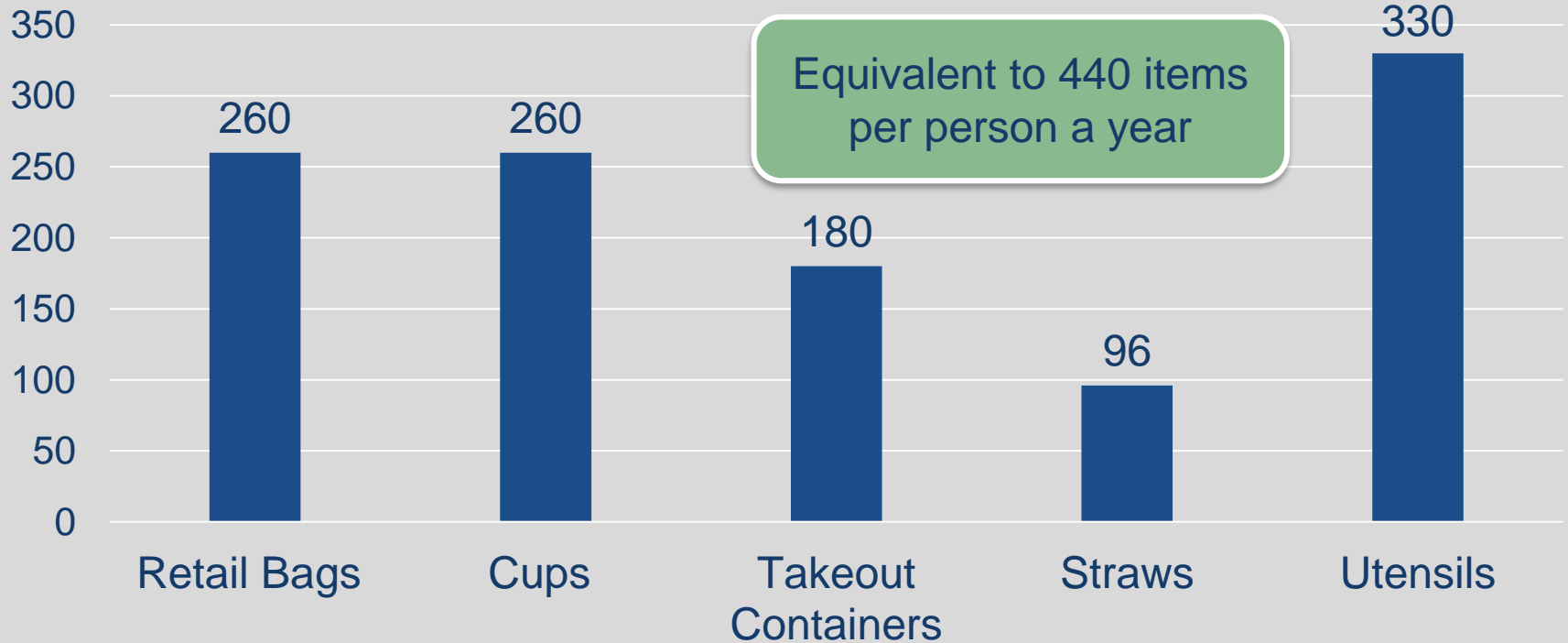
Single-Use Item Reduction Plans and Strategies:

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



Single-Use Items Disposed

2018 Count of Single-Use Items Disposed



Single-Use Items Disposed

Single-Use Item Disposal		
Single-Use Item Type	Items Disposed (millions)	% by weight of overall composition
Retail Bags	260	0.9%
Disposable Cups	260	0.6%
Takeout Containers	180	0.7%
Straws	96	<0.1%
Utensils	330	0.1%
Total	1.1 billion	2.4%

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

Single-Use Bags

260 Million

**Bags disposed per year in
Metro Vancouver**

70% of plastic retail

**bags disposed of in
residential garbage were
used as garbage bags**

Plastic Bag Bans

- Wood Buffalo, Alberta
- Montreal – 2018
- Victoria – 2018
- PEI – 2019
- Tofino – 2019
- Ucluelet – 2019
- Courtenay – July 2019
- Qualicum – July 2019
- Cumberland – Jan 2020

Single-Use Bags

By Request

Key Considerations

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

Mandatory Fees

- Encourages reduction and reuse
 - Fees more effective than discounts
 - Direction required on who keeps fees
 - Consider challenges for homeless and people living in poverty
-

Plastic Bag Bans

- 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

Single-Use Bags

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



Cups

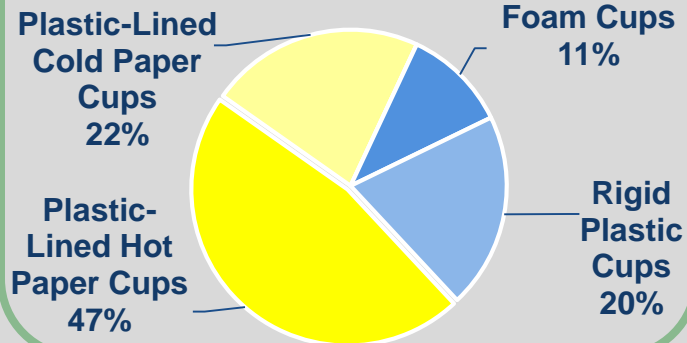


Cups

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)

Cups

By Request

Key Considerations

- 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

Cups

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 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

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

17% of Vancouver
residents bring their foam
containers back to depot
for recycling²

Disposable Container Reduction Policies

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

Take-Out Containers

Key Considerations

By Request

- Increases awareness
 - Encouraged 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

Take-Out Containers

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 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

Take-Out Containers

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

A large, disorganized pile of discarded plastic straws in various colors including red, green, blue, yellow, purple, black, and white. The straws are scattered across a plain white background. A dark blue semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the pile, containing the word "Straws" in white text.

Straws

Straws

96 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
-

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

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)

Utensil

By Request

Mandatory Fees

Require Reusable

Key Considerations

- Encourages reduction of avoidable items
-
- Encourages reduction and reuse
 - Fees more effective than discounts
-
- 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

Utensils

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

Resources and Data

*Feedback welcome on resources, research
and data for toolkit appendices*

Next Steps

- Presentation is available online
- Future workshop will be announced shortly
- Toolkit to Zero Waste Committee and Board in 2019
- Contact: Karen.Storry@metrovancover.org



Questions?



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