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Executive Summary

In Spruce Grove every week an average of 72,000 plastic bags, 47,000 straws and 4,000 polystyrene take-out containers are disposed of through the residential waste collection services. These items also make up a large portion of the waste that is collected through the City’s litter pick-up programs.

Over the last year these items have become more problematic as a result of the recycling program changes imposed by China. This means that items made of flexible low grade plastic are no longer recyclable. Not only do these items have no market they create a risk to the recyclability of other more recyclable items by contaminating shipments.

It is for these reasons that the City is bringing forward this Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy. This strategy has been compiled through consultation with regional municipalities, industry experts, jurisdictional reviews and an extensive public engagement program. It is a result of this research, consultation, global recycling changes and desire to have a positive impact on the City’s ability to reduce waste that the following priority actions are recommended:

- Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw applied to all business licence holders within Spruce Grove. Following the approval of the bylaw a transitionary period will occur allowing businesses time to use up old stock and adequately source an alternative. The Bylaw will focus on the following:
  - Banning plastic, bio-plastic and biodegradable retail bags, with a fee on paper and reusable bag alternatives
  - Banning polystyrene take-out containers and cups
  - Banning plastic straws, with exemptions for residents with accessibility requirements
- Champion for the introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility program in partnership with other municipalities across Alberta
- Explore the possibility of offering a commercial organics collection program to help capture compostable single-use items and food waste
- Continue to educate and inform residents on responsible purchasing habits to reduce the amount of waste produced from the home
- Lead by example, the City for all City run events (external and internal) should work to be leaders in waste reduction, specifically limiting the use of single-use items

Through these priority actions the City hopes to work and partner with the larger global community to reduce that amount of single-use items waste being sent to landfill and ending up in the environment. A common message throughout the consultation process is that this is an issue that is larger than Spruce Grove alone and these steps in conjunction with measures taken across the region, province and country can begin to make a big difference in the ways that we produce, use and dispose of single-use items.
Introduction

On June 18, 2018, City of Spruce Grove (City) Administration brought forward to the Committee of the Whole (COW) several proposed waste program changes to address the stagnation in waste diversion from the City’s residential waste collection program. One of the proposed waste program changes was to look at implementing a city-wide plastic retail bag and polystyrene take-out container ban. Council at the time requested the inclusion of plastic straws into this initiative. Administration was instructed during the COW meeting to put this diversion strategy forward as a Corporate Plan Initiative for approval.

During the 2019 Corporate Planning process the Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw initiative was put forward. This initiative was focused on the single-use items previously mentioned: plastic retail bags, polystyrene take-out containers and plastic straws. The initiative also allows the City to tackle the reduction of other single-use items as the program develops and grows. The Initiative was evaluated by the City’s senior leadership and Council and ranked above the line and included in the 2019 Corporate Plan.

What are single-use items?

Single-use items are products that are used only once before they are discarded to landfill or recycling streams. Single-use items consists of but are not limited to: plastic retail bags, straws, take-out containers, coffee cups, stir sticks, disposable cutlery and sandwich bags. It is estimated that a third of all plastics used in Canada are single-use items and packaging. It is also estimated that Canadians use on average 15 billion plastic bags a year and 50 million straws a day (Crittenden, 2019). The Retail Council of Canada estimates that 147 retail bags are distributed to Albertans every year and across Canada roughly 11% of all plastic is actually recycled (Graham, Partnering to Implement Successful Shopping Bag Reduction Programs, 2019). Meaning that these single-use items which take valuable resources to produce and distribute are used once before ending up in landfill or the environment. It is widely known that plastic waste in a landfill will remain in its original state for decades to come, creating problems for future generations.

What is single-use items reduction?

Several levels of Government across Canada and the globe have recently become more aware of the impact of single-use items on the environment, from the resources required to produce these items, to the litter they cause globally, to filling up already limited landfill space. It is this increase in awareness that has resulted in discussions around the globe on ways to reduce the use of these items. Reduction simply means switching from using the disposable plastic option to reusable and more sustainably produced options. For example, governments and businesses are asking residents to take their own shopping bags with them when they shop, to use a reusable coffee cup instead of disposable cups, or to skip the straw when ordering a drink at a restaurant. These simple actions have the potential to have a big impact on the number of single-use items produced and distributed globally.

Waste in Spruce Grove

Currently the City of Spruce Grove contracts waste collection services out to Green For Life (GFL). GFL is responsible for the collection of all three waste streams (recycling, organics and garbage) from resident’s homes. Each household in Spruce Grove is provided with a black garbage cart (240L or 120L) and a green organics cart (240L) and is responsible for the purchase of their own blue recycling bags.
Weekly throughout the year, GFL collects the black garbage carts and blue recycling bags from each household. In the summer months the green organics cart is collected weekly along with the recycling and garbage. During the winter months the organics collection switches to once a month pick-up. Residents are encouraged to sort their waste to the proper waste stream in order to divert as much waste from landfills as possible. The waste program is fully funded through the utility and residents do not have the option to opt out of this service or streams within the service.

Residents are encouraged to Sort with Success by using the City’s “Trim Your Trash” mobile app. This app contains a database of many different materials and their corresponding disposal instructions. Encouraging residents to use the app will hopefully lead to more successful diversion as the City grows.

Recycling Program Changes
The North American recycling industry relies heavily on foreign markets for recycling materials. This is particularly true for plastic and mixed paper recyclables that are sent to China. In 2016/17, China initiated the Green Fence & National Sword controls on imports to focus on the quality of products (Recycling Council of Alberta, 2017). This means that they have instituted a threshold for imports to have less than 0.5% contamination in these recycling streams. For perspective, a clean, high quality mixed plastic or paper stream would have 3-5% contamination (GFL, 2018).

This does not mean that there is a complete ban, but that there is pressure on North American recycling facilities to produce a cleaner, homogenous stream of recycling. This can be difficult to achieve given most programs provide co-mingled blue bag collection.

The blue bag material that is collected in Spruce Grove, as previously stated, is contracted with GFL for recycle processing. GFL’s material recovery facility (MRF) is on the west end of Edmonton, where they sort and separate all of the materials into appropriate streams for recycle markets. Typically this MRF has a reliable output rate of less than 5% contamination; however, with the new controls put in place from China, they have had to meet stricter demands.

Two of the main contaminants of concern for the GFL MRF are plastic films (retail bags) and polystyrene (take-out containers). These materials, given their weight, are not easily sorted in the automated processing lines and result in contamination of the paper recycling stream (GFL, 2018).

As a result of the changes in the global recycling markets, Spruce Grove, along with other municipalities, has had to alter the curbside blue bag program to meet the requirements of GFL. The City, along with others, has placed several restrictions on items that are no longer recyclable. The majority of the items that are no longer acceptable in the recycling program are single-use plastics.

Residential Waste Audit Results
In the fall of 2016 the City conducted a residential waste audit that indicated that non-rigid plastic (primarily plastic film) made up 4% of the recycling stream and 2% of the garbage stream by weight; and polystyrene was recorded at 0.2% of the recycling stream and 1% of the garbage stream, by weight. Considering the weight of a plastic bags and polystyrene, this could potentially amount to a large volume (S-Cubed Environmental, 2016).

In the summer of 2019, the City conducted another residential waste audit with a bit more of a focus on single-use items. From this audit, it is estimated that the average household produces 11kg of single-use items per year. Of the single-use items, shopping bags were the most prevalent occupying 37% of all
single-use items. Of these shopping bags, 84% were used only once. 92% of all single-use items disposed of in Spruce Grove were found in the garbage (S-Cubed Environmental, 2019).

![Figure 1. Percentage of Single-Use Items Found in the Waste Stream by Weight](image)

Given the overall weight of single-use items, the City also wanted to look at the volume of these materials being disposed. The City did a count of the number of specific single-use items that were disposed of during one week from the 100 households that were audited (S-Cubed Environmental, 2019).

![Figure 2. Number of Single-Use Items Found in the Waste Streams in One Week](image)
Plastic Pollution in Spruce Grove
Every year the City’s Public Works Department performs several litter pickup programs throughout the year. In 2019 from January to May it was estimated that the City spent between $18,000 - $25,000 collecting litter from City streets. This equates to roughly 485 staff hours and over 1000 bags of garbage. The most commonly collected items during litter pick up are coffee cups, fast food cups, straws, Styrofoam, locate flags and cigarette butts and their packaging.

The City also runs a volunteer based litter pickup program each spring, this program costs roughly $15,000 - $20,000, requires 10 different volunteer groups to collect roughly 500 bags of garbage.

Litter in Spruce Grove requires substantial time and resources to manage and control. Most of the materials collected during the litter collections are single-use items that could potentially be managed through a single-use items reduction strategy.

Single-use Items Related Policies and Regulations
The regulations around single-use items and the policies that support reductions of these items comes from all levels of government.

Municipal
Alberta Municipal Government Act (MGA) and the Regulations thereunder allow the City fairly broad jurisdiction to enact bylaws that govern the use and distribution of single-use items. Section 3(a.1) of the MGA specifies that it is a purpose of a municipality “to foster the well-being of the environment”. This section is intended to give municipalities the explicit authority to take a leadership role in environmental stewardship (Province of Alberta, 2019).

Provincial
The Provincial Government to date has not indicated the advancement of any policies to control or regulate the use, distribution or management single-use items. The Provincial waste and recycling legislation currently regulates how all waste is generated, transported and processed within Alberta (Province of Alberta, 2019).

Federal
The Federal Government announced in June 2019 that they will be taking action on reducing single-use plastics by as early as 2021 (Prime Minister of Canada, 2019). Given the timeline to implement a regulation/program of this nature, municipalities are still moving forward with their own locally designed reduction strategies. The City has been in contact with the Federal Director of Plastic Initiatives and will continually monitor their program to ensure that any strategies or bylaws implemented as a result of this strategy will be aligned with the Federal approach.

Jurisdictional Review of Single-use Item Reduction Strategies
Tackling the overuse of single-use items has become a hot-button issue within Alberta, across Canada and even globally. Several regions have been tackling this issue under varying approaches. Below are some examples of programs that are currently running in the region and across the country. This jurisdictional review of how others are approaching the topic has helped to inform the Spruce Grove strategy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Vancouver</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
<th>Montreal</th>
<th>Wood Buffalo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy</td>
<td>Checkout Bag Regulations Bylaw</td>
<td>By-law Prohibiting the distribution of certain shopping bags in retail stores</td>
<td>Single-use Shopping Bag Bylaw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items Included</td>
<td>Plastic and Paper bags, foam cups and containers, disposable cups, take-out containers, straws and utensils</td>
<td>plastic bags or checkout bag</td>
<td>plastic shopping bags &lt;50 microns (2.0 mils), biodegradable bags</td>
<td>Plastic, biodegradable, paper, door hanger and certain gift bags (if used to transport goods): Less than 2.25 mils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Approved</td>
<td>09 Jun 18</td>
<td>31 Jan 18</td>
<td>23 Aug 16</td>
<td>November 24, 2009, new bylaw on April 10, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Implemented</td>
<td>Phased in approach: June 1, 2019 (straws and foam containers and cups), implement bag ban and single use cup ban by 2021 if reduction targets not met</td>
<td>7/1/2018, fines started on Jan 1, 2019</td>
<td>Ban starts Jan 1, 2018, compliance period ends June 5, 2018</td>
<td>Sep-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative to banned items</td>
<td>Instead of banning they are asking business to develop reduction strategies for paper and plastic bags - DETAILS IN STRATEGY</td>
<td>Paper ($0.15) (at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper with a recycling symbol on it and stating it is from post-consumer waste) or reusable ($1.00) (cloth or washable fabric to get at least 100 uses) are available only when asked</td>
<td>Reusable bags</td>
<td>Reusable bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemptions to the bylaw</td>
<td>No exceptions highlighted as it is a reduction strategy</td>
<td>Plastic bags used exclusively to transport foods/stuffs to the cash counter of a retail store or to protect them, from hygiene purposes, from direct contact with other items (fruits, vegetables, nuts, bulk confectionery, prepared foods, meat, fish, bread, dairy products, etc.)</td>
<td>Single-use bag for food services, bag for not for profits such as food bank, bags for loose goods, meat, fresh cut flowers, fresh baked goods, dry cleaning, medical prescriptions, illegal drug paraphernalia, undergarments, adult products, dirty, greasy, hazardous material, sale of prepackaged bags</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalty for not following the bylaw</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>A corporation more than $100 and no more than $10,000, for an individual more than $50 and no more than $500: Has fines for specific actions - not asking if customer wants a bag, providing wrong paper bag, charging less, discouraging customer from using own bag, if paid within 30 days the fine is $75</td>
<td>In the case of an individual: for a first offence, the fine is from $200 to $1,000; for a subsequent offence, the fine is from $300 to $2,000. In the case of a corporation: for a first offence, the fine is from $400 to $2,000; for a subsequent offence, the fine is from $500 to $4,000.</td>
<td>First offence $250, 2nd Offence - $500, 3rd Offense $1,000, Total fine will not exceed $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link to bylaw/strategy</td>
<td>Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy</td>
<td>Checkout Bag Regulations Bylaw</td>
<td>By-law Prohibiting the distribution of certain shopping bags in retail stores</td>
<td>Single-use Shopping Bag Bylaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Consultation Process</td>
<td>Feb 2016 Council directs staff to report back on regulatory options for single-use items</td>
<td>May 2017 - kick off engagement meeting, Sept-Oct 2017 - three meetings with industry, advocacy and local business groups, Oct 2017 - open house and public meeting. Oct 26, 2017 - Council approved motion to consider new bylaw, Nov 2017 city invited retail businesses, stakeholders and public to comment on draft bylaw, Dec 14, 2017 staff presented feedback to Council at this time Council passed 1, 2, and 3rd reading.</td>
<td>N/A online</td>
<td>N/A online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement Materials</td>
<td>Information on public engagement approach and results</td>
<td>FAQ Toolkit - posters, social media posts, Q&amp;A, tip sheets</td>
<td>Brochure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Approach</td>
<td>Wetaskiwin</td>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>Government of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Title</td>
<td>Plastic Checkout Bag Bylaw</td>
<td>Single-use Plastics Restrictions</td>
<td>Plastic Bag Reduction Act</td>
<td>Ban on Single-use Plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items Included</td>
<td>Plastic and biodegradable plastic checkout bags thinner than 2.0 mils, aim to reduce use of paper bags</td>
<td>Not specified yet</td>
<td>Single-use checkout bags</td>
<td>Not confirmed, but looking at items such as plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, and stir sticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Approved</td>
<td>09-Oct-18</td>
<td>29-Aug-19</td>
<td>01-Jun-19</td>
<td>01-Jun-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Implemented</td>
<td>09-Jul-19</td>
<td>01-Jan-21</td>
<td>01-Jul-19</td>
<td>2021 - date unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative to banned items</td>
<td>$0.15 for single paper bag (restaurants, food establishments are exempt) - will start June 1, 2020, can only offer at customer request</td>
<td>Paper bag ($0.15) or reusable bag ($1.00) - only when requested</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptions to the bylaw</td>
<td>Plastic produce bags, plastic bags to contain fresh meat or fish products, plastic bags used to contain bulk food items or bulk hardware items, plastic bags used to contain freshly prepared bakery items or other food items, plastic bags used for wrapping flowers or potted plants, dry-cleaning bags or other professional laundering bags, plastic bags used to contain dirty, greasy, or hazardous products or materials</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalty for not following the bylaw</td>
<td>First Offence - verbal warning, 2nd Offence - $250, 3rd Offence - $500, Subsequent Offences $1,000. If paid with in 7 days - 50% discount</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Come into place January 1, 2020 - not stated in Act</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link to bylaw/strategy</td>
<td>Plastic Checkout Bag Bylaw</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Plastic Bag Reduction Act</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Consultation Process</td>
<td>First reading in Council Sept 24, 2018, 2nd and 3rd Reading Oct 9, 2018. Resident Survey, Business Survey</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A Online</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement Materials</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Posters, Fact Sheets, Q&amp;As</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Others Countries/Cities with Bans or Strategies

- France
- Italy
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- India
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Tunisia
- Bangladesh
- San Francisco
- Los Angeles
- Long Beach
- Brooklyn
- Portland
- Washington
- Seattle
- Sacramento
- Rwanda
- Beverly Hills

Engagement and Consultation

City Administration underwent two levels of consultation and engagement on the topic of single-use items reduction in order to adequately inform the development of this Strategy. The first level of engagement was with industry experts and regional partners and the second level of engagement was with the public; this included both residents and businesses of Spruce Grove (see Appendix A for a detailed summary of the public engagement results). In summary the engagement process involved discussions with the following groups:

1. Industry Experts and Regional Partners Engagement:
   - Meetings with municipalities within the Edmonton Metro Region
   - Workshop hosted by the Recycling Council of Alberta
   - Joint Edmonton - Calgary region meeting on waste
   - Interviews with the Town of Devon and the Town of Wetaskiwin
   - Interview with Waste Free Edmonton
   - Interview with Environment and Climate Change Canada
   - Interview with Retail Council of Canada

2. Public Engagement:
   - Workshop with businesses
   - Phone interviews with businesses
   - Online survey for businesses
   - Online survey for residents
   - Intercept survey for residents

The public was made aware of the opportunities to provide feedback through two letters sent to business about the workshop and the online survey. The City also sent out a City wide mail-out that asked residents to complete an online survey.

Priority Actions for Single-use Items

The following priority actions have been compiled through the previously mentioned consultation with regional municipalities, industry experts, jurisdictional reviews and an extensive public engagement program. It is a result of this extensive review and the need to encourage positive change to reduce waste that the City is recommending the following priority actions:
Polystyrene Take-out Containers and Cups Reduction Approach

Based on the feedback from the experts and public engagement the City recommends that a bylaw be developed that would implement a complete ban on polystyrene take-out containers and cups within the City of Spruce Grove.

What is included in the ban?
This polystyrene ban should apply to all white and coloured polystyrene cups and take-out containers that are used for serving prepared food or beverages, including but not limited to: plates, cups, bowls, trays, cartons, and hinged (“clamshell”) or lidded containers.

This would include prepared food, whether consumed on the premises, served as take-out or delivery, or packaged as leftovers.

When would the ban come into effect?
It is proposed that the bylaw would be developed during the first three quarters of 2020 for approval by Council. It is recommended that any bylaw allow for a one to one and a half year transition period that would allow businesses to use up old stock and adequately source sustainable alternatives.

Who is impacted?
This ban is applied to all business licence holders within Spruce Grove. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Food vendors
- Food courts
- Grocery stores
- Special events and festivals

Why a ban on polystyrene take-out containers and cups?

- The remnants of polystyrene cups and take-out containers are frequently found as litter on our streets, parks, and green spaces.
- 86% of Spruce Grove residents support reduction of single-use items with 49% of residents supporting a ban on single-use items.
- The residential waste audit found that over 100 households during a one week period a total of 38 polystyrene take-out containers were found.
- There is no recycling market for polystyrene take-out containers and cups in Spruce Grove, as a result these items are sent to landfill.
- Polystyrene cups and take-out containers can end up in the blue recycling bag, this lowers the likelihood that the other material in the blue recycling bag are recycled.

Plastic Straws Reduction Approach

Based on the feedback from the experts and public engagement the City recommends that a bylaw be developed that would implement a ban on plastic straws, with an exemption being allowed for those who require straws for accessibility purposes within the City of Spruce Grove.

What is included in the ban?
This ban should apply to all plastic and bioplastic straws that are used for drinking. This would include straws used to consume beverages on the premises or as take-out or delivery.
Exemptions:
- Exempt medical and community care facilities
- Straws should only be offered to residents when requested for accessibility purposes
- Require all food vendors have available to provide bendable straws (preferably compostable or paper) upon request for accessibility

When would the ban come into effect?
It is proposed that the bylaw would be developed during the first three quarters of 2020 for approval by Council. It is recommended that any bylaw allow for a one to one and a half year transition period that would allow businesses to use up old stock and adequately source sustainable alternatives.

Who is impacted?
This ban is applied to all business licence holders within Spruce Grove. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Food vendors
- Food courts
- Grocery stores
- Special events and festivals

Why a ban and restriction on plastic straws?
- Straws are one of the most frequently found litter items on City streets, parks, and green spaces.
- 86% of Spruce Grove residents support reduction of single-use items with 49% of residents supporting a ban on single-use items.
- The residential waste audit found that over 100 households during a one week period a total of 427 disposable straws were found.
- There is no recycling market for plastic straws in Spruce Grove, as a result plastic straws are sent to landfill.
- Bioplastic straws are not compostable in Spruce Grove and result in contamination of the green organics cart. As a result, bioplastics are sent to landfill.
- Plastic and bioplastic straws can end up in the blue recycling bag, this lowers the likelihood that the other material in the blue recycling bag are recycled.
- The City is offering an exemption for those with accessibility requirement. Allowing residents who require a straw the ability to ask for and receive a straw allows for equal levels of accessibility and inclusion, while still taking efforts to reduce the use of unnecessary plastic straws.

Plastic Retail Bag Reduction Approach
Based on the feedback from the experts and public engagement the City recommends that a bylaw be developed that would implement a ban on plastic, bio-plastic and biodegradable retail bags, with a restriction being placed on paper and reusable bag alternatives within the City of Spruce Grove.

What is included in the ban/restriction?
Ban: This ban should apply to all plastic, bioplastic and biodegradable bags that are used during checkout at retail establishments. This would include bags used to carry out groceries, clothing items, other retail goods and for food take-out or delivery.
Restriction: Paper and reusable bags should only be offered to residents when requested and for a minimum fee. The bags should be composed of at least 40% post-consumer recycled product.

Exemptions:
It is recommended that the exemptions to the retail plastic bag ban follow the exemptions from other regional municipalities in order to create consistency from one municipality to the next. Some example restrictions are:

- plastic produce bags
- plastic bags to contain fresh meat or fish products
- plastic bags used to contain bulk food items or bulk hardware items
- plastic bags used to contain freshly prepared bakery items or other food items
- plastic bags used for wrapping flowers or potted plants
- dry-cleaning bags or other professional laundering bags
- plastic bags used to contain dirty, greasy, or hazardous products or materials

When would the ban come into effect?
It is proposed that the bylaw would be developed during the first three quarters of 2020 for approval by Council. It is recommended that any bylaw allow for a one to one and a half year transition period that would allow businesses to use up old stock and adequately source sustainable alternatives.

Who is impacted?
This ban is applied to all business licence holders within Spruce Grove. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Food vendors
- Food courts
- Grocery stores
- Special events and festivals
- Clothing stores
- Sporting goods stores
- Liquor stores
- Retail establishment

Why a ban on retail plastic bags?
- Plastic bags are frequently found as litter items on City streets, parks, and green spaces.
- 86% of Spruce Grove residents support reduction of single-use items with 49% of residents supporting a ban on single-use items.
- 64% of residents believe that plastic bags have the biggest impact when compared to polystyrene take-out containers and plastic straws.
- The residential waste audit found that over 100 households during a one week period a total of 652 bags were disposed of, 107 of those bags had a second use (used to hold garbage, etc.)
- There is no recycling market for retail plastic bags in Spruce Grove, as a result plastic bags are sent to landfill.
- Bioplastic and biodegradable bags are not compostable in Spruce Grove and result in contamination of the green organics cart.
• Plastic, bioplastic and biodegradable bags can end up in the blue recycling bag, this lowers the likelihood that the other material in the blue recycling bag are recycled.

**Single-use Items Reduction Strategy Future Growth**

**Other Single-Use Items to Explore Reducing**

Based on the feedback received from the expert and public engagement process, this single-use items reduction strategy can be expanded in the future to include items such as:

- Disposable cup – look at policies or bylaws that focus on reducing the use of disposable cups and encouraging reusable cups.
- Take-out containers – look at implementing policies or bylaws that allow for the use of reusable containers for take-out or bulk food purchasing.
- Disposable utensils – look at implementing a bylaw that restricts the offering of disposable utensils as part of prepared food purchasing (restaurants, take-out and delivery). Encourage resident to carry their own reusable utensils.

The first two single-use items require that the City work with various levels of government and industry to support the standardization of take-out containers and disposable cups so that they can be composted or recycled. Having a system in place that allows municipalities across the province to better manage these two items will aide in the reduction of these items being sent to landfill and/or contaminating the recycling and organics streams. It will also ensure that the transition away from plastic and polystyrene will not result in alternatives that have a greater impact on the environment.

**Supportive Actions for All Single-Use Items Reduction**

**Champion Extended Producer Responsibility**

Another common concern that came out of the public engagement was a need to address packaging as the biggest single-use waste item. Several residents commented on the desire to have the City regulate the amount of plastic that comes in the packaging of goods and food items. With this concern being prevalent amongst residents, it is strongly recommended that the City continue to partner with regional municipalities to encourage the Province of Alberta to introduce an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program in Alberta. EPR is an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, 2019). It is recommended that the City take the following actions on EPR:

- Council continue to have conversations with Provincial elected officials on the need for an EPR program in Alberta.
- Administration continue to work with other municipalities and NGOs to provide information for studies on EPR in Alberta and continue to inform Council on any and all developments regarding EPR.

**Explore a Commercial Organics Collection Program**

The City should also examine the potential of growing the curbside program to include organics collection from businesses. Encouraging businesses to provide compostable alternative for their take-out dishes would be supported by allowing residents the ability to dispose of these dishes properly at the restaurant. Not only would offering organics collection be beneficial for collecting compostable...
take-out containers, bags, utensils and cups, it will also divert a large amount of food waste from the landfill.

Education on Changing Consumer Habits
The City also needs to expand the education and communication around altering purchasing habits within the home to reduce the amount of waste produced. This approach to education needs to tackle not only single-use items, but how we buy our food, how our food is packaged and the amount food waste we throw away. The City should also educate residents on the impacts of fast fashion and other short term use products that end up in our landfills.

City Internal Actions
City hosted events (external and internal) should lead by example around waste reduction. The City should be a champion of this single-use items reduction, ensuring that no plastic straws, plastic bags or polystyrene take-out containers are used or distributed at City events. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- Encouraging the use of reusable plates, cups and utensils at staff events
- Recommending that all food brought into the offices for social events or staff meetings are served on reusable or compostable dishware
- Ensuring that all City owned facilities have access to organics waste diversion

Implementation
The main outcomes of this strategy are to develop and implement a bylaw to ban polystyrene take-out containers and cups, plastic straw and retail plastic bags. The bylaw will be developed in 2020 for approval through the public consultation process by Q3 of 2020. It is expected at this time that a bylaw will have a one to one and a half year transitional period where no fines will be applied or enforced. After the transitional period businesses would be subject to a level of enforcement outlined in the bylaw.

It is important during the implementation phase of this strategy and subsequent bylaw that the City continue to engage with residents and businesses to ensure that the City is adequately addressing the concerns and hesitations noted throughout the initial public engagement process. The education and communication around the single-use items reduction approaches will have a strong focus on this initiative having minimal impact on the businesses bottom line and that it is part of a larger global effort to reduce the amount of waste produced. Recognizing the importance of proper communication and engagement, the City recommends developing a comprehensive and ongoing campaign that will ensure both the public and business communities are informed and educated about the bylaw and have a mechanism to provide feedback.

The success of this Strategy and subsequent bylaw will be reviewed through a public and business survey one year after implementation. The City will also continue to measure the amount of single-use items found during the residential waste audit that occurs every three years. Tracking public perception and the amount of single-use items will allow the program to be adjusted and grown as required.

The following table provides the proposed timing for the actions stated throughout this strategy.
Table 2. Summary of Action Items and Implementation Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Action Items</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td>Develop Bylaw for ban on Plastic Bag, Plastic Straws and Polystyrene takeout containers</td>
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<td>Transition Period for Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw</td>
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<td>Enforcement of Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw</td>
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<td>Business and Resident Satisfaction Follow-up Survey</td>
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<td>Residential Waste Audit to measure single-use items in waste streams</td>
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<td>Explore expanding Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw to include disposable cups, takeout containers and utensils</td>
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<td>Champion Extended Producer Responsibility</td>
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<td>Explore a Commercial Organics Collection Program</td>
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<td>Education on Changing Consumer Habits</td>
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<td>Leading by Example - City Internal Actions</td>
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References


Séguin, J. (2019, November 14). Director of Plastic Initiatives, Environment and Climate Change Canada. (C. V. Gaal, Interviewer)


APPENDIX A: Engagement and Consultation Results

Industry Expert Consultation

Edmonton Metro-Region Meetings
On February 25, 2019 members of the Edmonton Metro Region (City of Leduc, City of St. Albert, Strathcona County, Town of Devon, Town of Stony Plain and Town of Beaumont) met to discuss the regions direction on single-use items. The major outcome of this meeting was to ensure that the region was participating in open and transparent communication to ensure that any actions taken align regionally and are therefore easy for the consumer/businesses to apply across boundaries.

What we heard:
- Most communities are in the early stages of developing a single-use reduction strategy
- St. Albert had originally requested a ban to Council, but are now moving towards a reduction strategy
- Leduc was presenting the regional approach to single-use item reduction to their Environmental Advisory Board to provide further direction
- Strathcona County and the Town of Beaumont were not actively working on a strategy, but wanted to be kept in the loop on regional progress
- Spruce Grove and Devon are the only two communities actively working on a strategy/bylaw
- The group agreed that a regional approach to reduction is needed. All strategies and Bylaws should be consistent from one community to the next.

Edmonton and Calgary Regional Joint Waste Meeting
On April 25, 2019 members of the Edmonton Metro Region Waste Advisory Committee, which consists of administration and elected officials, met with members of the Calgary Regional waste group in Sylvan Lake, AB. This was a full day workshop hosting speakers on a wide range of waste topics. During this meeting there was a session facilitated by the City of Spruce Grove and the Town of Devon on the implementation of single-use item reduction strategies across the province.

What we heard:
- Calgary and Okotoks were in the process of evaluating their waste stream to determine the amount of single-use items
- Several municipalities have noticed an interest in the topic from their residents and/or Councils
- Municipalities discussed the importance of having an all-inclusive strategy that looks at more than just plastics bags. Items such as straws, take-out containers, stir sticks, utensils and to-go cups should also be looked at if possible.

Recycling Council of Alberta Workshop
On March 26, 2019 City Administration attended a workshop in Wetaskiwin hosted by the Recycling Council of Alberta. This workshop was attended by regions from all across Alberta to discuss the recent trend of reducing single-use items. The workshop consisted of six presentations from Blue Bayfield, Waste Free Edmonton, Plastic Free YYC, City of Edmonton, City of Vancouver, Recycling Council of Alberta, Town of Wetaskiwin and the Retail Council of Canada.
What we heard:

- Plastic bags cost between $0.17 - $0.30 in cleanup cost alone
- Only 11% of plastics in Canada are recycled, and as they are recycled the quality goes down
- 80% of plastics in the ocean come from land based plastics
- When determining the alternative/replacements for plastic items, consider certified compostable. Any ban on plastics should include a ban on bio-plastics and biodegradable plastics.
- Strong message to partner with local groups who work on this issue daily and can provide expertise to support and guide governments
- In Edmonton 8 – 10% of the waste stream is plastics. Edmonton is looking at implementing a 25 year Zero Waste Strategy that will look at single-use items
- In Vancouver the City spends approximately $2.5 million on litter collection each year. They have participated in engagement around their Zero Waste 2040 strategy for the past several years. They are looking at implementing the following: bags (reduce), cups (reduce), polystyrene cups and containers (ban), straws (ban with exceptions) and utensils (reduce).
- Discussion on various reduction strategies from around the globe, looking at Fort McMurray, Wetaskiwin, Northwest Territories, Montreal, Victoria, United Kingdom and Australia
- The Retail Council of Canada states that Albertans receive 147 bags annually. They do not recommend shifting to paper bags (roll out fee for paper at the same time as plastic bag ban), they prefer voluntary action over regulatory action, want to see a harmonized approach to reduction. Retail Council of Canada viewpoint is to ban polystyrene, promote the use of reusable container and cups, reduce plastic straws and allow single-use items when requested from consumers.

Interview with the Town of Devon

Throughout 2019 the City has been in close discussion with the Town of Devon regarding the implementation of their Single-use Plastic Bag Retail Bylaw. The following information was gathered through a series of conversations and meetings:

What we heard:

- The idea of a retail plastic bag ban was first introduced to Council in summer 2018
- Engagement:
  - Business survey done in winter/spring 2019
  - Key findings: 25% response rate; mixed response with roughly 50% indicating that a bag ban would positively impact their business; 75% of respondent would provide a report on their reduction strategies; preferred alternative is that customers bring their own reusable bags as 70% would not consider charging their customers for a plastic bag; respondents wanted to see produce and meat bags as an exception; over half of businesses feel the only single-use items they can control are retail bags
Council direction:
- Direction to be aggressive on the bylaw and move to reduction on future items. Bylaw has been well received politically.
- Draft Bylaw and idea of a task force brought forward in summer 2019
- Council decided to have this bylaw take effect on Jan 1, 2020
- Final Bylaw went to Council on Oct 15, 2019

Task Force:
- A Task Force has been set up consisting of five public and business members, plus one City administration and one elected official appointed by Council
- Goal – to discuss education, communications and future items that could be added to the reduction bylaw
- High number of applicants to participate in the task force, applicants were diverse and haven’t typically participated in town events, program seems to be engaging a new group of residents
- Task Force meets monthly

Bylaw summary:
- Effective Jan 1, 2020
- No longer allowed to distribute single-use plastic retail bags less than 2 mils thick (0.5mm) from retail establishments– exceptions include the food drive and charities
- Closely followed exemptions that were listed in the Town of Wetaskiwin bylaw with the addition of prepackaged food items at grocery stores
- Penalties will be effective Jan 1, 2020 - 1st offense – verbal warning, 2nd offense - $250, 3rd offense - $500 and subsequent offenses of $1,000 – if paid within 7 days a 50% discount will be applied

(Tchir, 2019)

Interview with the Town of Wetaskiwin
Wetaskiwin was the first Municipality in the region to implement any sort of single-use item reduction bylaw. As a result the City has been in close contact with Wetaskiwin Administration to learn from their bylaw, program implementation and engagement process. The following information was gathered through a phone interview on October 2, 2019:

What we heard:
- In 2011 the Town of Wetaskiwin tried to attempt a plastic bag ban but there was not enough buy-in
- The initiative was reintroduced to Council in January 2018 and brought back in May 2018 with a summary of other communities

Council Direction:
- That any reduction should be in the form of a ban
- Implementation of a fee instead of a ban according to studies reviewed in Wetaskiwin are only shown to be effective initially and then eventually lose their ability to reduce the use of single-use items
- Council was concerned that a fee for single-use items would appear as another tax to residents
• **Engagement:**
  - Public engagement was done through a resident and business survey, along with an education campaign.
  - Wetaskiwin businesses were not on board initially during the phase-in period. Businesses were fearful that the ban would drive customers to other centres.
  - Now that the ban is in place there has been no real concerns – feedback is now that businesses really like the ban because it is cheaper for them and they are able to sell reusable bags.
  - Plan to conduct a follow up survey in 6 months to determine the perception of the ban now that it has been in place for one year.
  - Gave away free bags the day the ban came into effect. A community sponsor donated $15,000 to purchase bags.
  - Signage was provided to the businesses before the bylaw came into effect to help educate residents.
  - A notice was placed in the utility bills that the ban was coming into effect. Education was also done using the local newspaper, radio and social media.

• **Bylaw summary:**
  - Effective July 9, 2019.
  - Nine month phase-in period.
  - June 1, 2020 bylaw amendment will include a minimum fee for paper bags of $0.15. Allowed stores to offer an optional paper bag for free for 1 year; not recommended.
  - Bylaw references the Municipal Government Act Section 3 and 7 stating that the municipality is to foster the well-being of the environment and that the municipality may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business.

• **Major Feedback/Lessons Learned:**
  - Wetaskiwin has not received much feedback from businesses or residents. Heard a lot leading up to the implementation date, but it has been very quiet ever since.
  - Residents seem to be taking a humorous tone to the ban.
  - The town hasn’t been tracking to determine if there is now a surplus of reusable bags – sale is at least $1.00/bag.
  - Anecdotally they are noticing that people will make more of an effort to carry out their items when bags are forgotten.
  - Recommend that attempts be made to standardize the bylaw across the province – Wetaskiwin’s bylaw is based off of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo’s Bylaw.
  - Enforcement – have not currently done any enforcement yet, have a few stores that are still giving out plastic bags and they are addressed based on complaints. Are finding new stores are biggest offenders.
  - Suggested that information about the bylaw be added to the business licences for new businesses.
  - Placed a thickness threshold in their bylaw – placed at 2mils. Recommend that a threshold be higher as some stores readily use bags that are 2 mils in thickness.
Initially wanted to have 40% post-consumer product in all paper bag, but lobby group spoke with Council and this requirement was removed

(Stewart, 2019)

Interview with Waste Free Edmonton

Waste Free Edmonton is a local non-profit organization focusing on reducing waste at the source. That means producing and consuming less at the front-end, and reusing and repurposing wherever possible, so there is less waste entering the system. Waste Free Edmonton’s main focus to-date has been addressing the use of single-use items and encouraging municipalities to enact laws that place restrictions on single-use items.

On October 1, 2019 the City conducted an interview with Melissa Gorrie, Environmental Lawyer and Co-founder of Waste Free Edmonton.

What we heard:

- Waste Free Edmonton has conducted extensive research on the best approach to single-use items reduction. They have reviewed regulations all across the globe (see Appendix A1: Jurisdictional Review from Waste Free Edmonton) and have proposed the following as the best approach to single-use item reduction (see Appendix A2: Recommended Policy Approach from Waste Free Edmonton):
  - Bans vs. fee research – what is proven to be the most effective
    - Bags – ban on plastic, biodegradable plastic and bio plastics, with paper bags (40% post-consumer fibers) available for a fee (increase the fee overtime starting $0.15 – $0.20). Note: Lifecycle assessments on the impact of paper vs. plastic bags are complicated and the bottom line is any product will have an impact. The main message would be to have reusable bags available for a minimum fee to disincentive using them as a disposable bag. Take a bag/leave a bag system have proven to be effective – there are a lot of reusable bags in the system, encouraging people to remember them or have an exchange system will reduce the number of new bags purchased and ultimately end up in landfill – this should be a policy that aligns with the bylaw.
    - Polystyrene – ban
    - Straws – ban unless needed for medical reasons. Have available on request only, preferably a reusable/compostable option
    - Utensils – available on request
    - Disposable cups – fee
    - Take out container – fee (at least 20 cents)
    - All single-use items should be recyclable or compostable
    - Encouraging reusable options where available is a priority
  - The recommendations above are done with the knowledge that restrictions without proper research could lead to a greater negative environmental impacts - e.g. a surplus of reusable bags in the landfill.
  - The main messages is that restrictions need to be looked at from a well-rounded and full perspective in order to avoid any negative impacts
Key Learnings:
- Complimentary policies, practices and enforcement across region
- Cognizant of a substitution effect – substitute towards something more negative impact – research on the alternatives is needed
- Internal policies need to also reflect the reduction approaches – lead by example
- Work with companies such as BoomBags to teach people how to sew produce bags and reusable bags to help reduce textile waste and provide an alternative to plastic

(Gorrie, 2019)

Interview with Environment and Climate Change Canada
On November 14, 2019 the City conducted an interview with Jacinthe Séguin, Director of Plastic Initiatives with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

What we heard:
- Federal Government is currently in the process of laying the foundations to any potential regulations on single-use plastics. They are conducting several studies to assess the risk of the various single-use plastics and their sources.
- The Federal Government is also reviewing all the existing bylaws and strategy across the county to ensure that their programs or regulations would be complimentary to what already exists.
- The federal program will be looked at from a different lens than the provincial or municipal programs, with the main goal of federal program to be reducing the release of plastics into the environment (spills, litter, and outfalls) and increasing the recyclability of plastics.
- The federal program will focus on regulating industry by, as a potential example, requiring them to properly manage and dispose of the plastics they use.
- Once the Cabinet is determined they will have a better idea on the direction of the program. They don’t think anything will be announced in the coming months and that any progress on reduction at a municipal level will be in support of a federal program.
- Ms. Séguin feels that the Strategy that the City is putting forward is a smart approach to single-use items reduction as it allows for flexibility and a platform to talk with industry on the issue.
- The Federal Government is very willing to work with the City and share information on this issue, they see this as a common goal that both parties are working towards.

(Séguin, 2019)

Interview with Retail Council of Canada
On November 14, 2019 the City conducted and interview with John Graham, Director of Government Relations with Retail Council of Canada (see Appendix A3: Discussion Paper from Retail Council of Canada).

What we heard:
- Retail Council of Canada (RCC) is understanding and supportive that local and provincial governments are wanting to reduce their impacts on the environment.
• RCC strongly recommends consistent bylaws and terminology across the region and nationally if possible.
• RCC is working with the City of Edmonton to consult on their bylaw and wants to work with the Edmonton region as a whole to ensure consistency. They have met with the Provincial Government and there is minimal appetite at the provincial level for the reduction of single-use items.
• RCC recommends the Prince Edward Island (PEI) Plastic Bag Reduction Act as a template for any further bylaw development. The provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Ontario are all working with RCC to implement similar regulations to PEI.
• RCC is supportive of EPR initiatives and indicates that waste diversion from commercial businesses is more complicated but being done in other regions.
• RCC is also supportive of a ban on straws and polystyrene, especially with Vancouver announcing a ban on plastic straws.

(Graham, 2019)

City Public Consultation
The City contracted Twenty/20 Communications to design and facilitate the resident and business engagement on single-use items reduction (see Appendix A4: for the Spruce Grove Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy Public Engagement Report). The engagement process consisted of mailing impacted businesses (e.g. food establishments, retail stores and grocers) a letter inviting them to attend a half day workshop on June 12, 2019. This was followed up with interviews with select businesses. Between July 23 and August 15 two surveys were launched on the City’s public engagement platform – Connect Spruce Grove to engage with residents and businesses. To engage businesses to take the survey, a second letter was sent to the impacted businesses requesting they complete the online survey. After the first letter was sent (several letters were returned to sender) the City, before sending the second letters, verified all the addresses so as to reach as many businesses as possible. Residents were engaged to take the survey after receiving a direct mail post card directing them to the City’s webpage to complete the online survey. A City Representative also conducted intercept surveys at various local businesses and recreation facilities between July 31 and August 14, 2019.

Table A1. Public engagement dates and participation rates

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Workshop</td>
<td>June 12, 2019</td>
<td>7 Businesses</td>
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<td>Business Interviews</td>
<td>June 26 - July 13, 2019</td>
<td>5 Businesses</td>
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<td>Online Survey: Business</td>
<td>July 23 – August 15, 2019</td>
<td>27 Responses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Survey: Residents</td>
<td>July 23 – August 15, 2019</td>
<td>645 Respondents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept Survey: Residents</td>
<td>July 31 – August 14, 2019</td>
<td>151 Respondents</td>
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</table>
What we heard from Businesses (summary)
- General support for the need to reduce single-use items and remove them from the waste stream
- Felt that a ban or a restriction are preferred over a reporting strategy where businesses need to report on their reduction measures annually to the City. Businesses slightly preferred a restriction over a complete ban on the three items discussed.
- Businesses are noticing a trend where customers are bringing their own bags or refusing bags
- Styrofoam seems to be widely supported for a ban and plastic bags are perceived to have the biggest impact
- Expressed concern over using up current stock of single-use items as well as finding alternatives and the costs of alternatives compared to conventional single-use items
- Businesses want to ensure that the City is responsible for communicating any program changes
- Businesses felt that education and communication from the City to support residents in the transition would be most beneficial, with support on sourcing alternative products also be desired
- It is felt that communicating the importance of reducing single-use items being sent to landfill would help generate the most support
- Businesses noted the importance of being provided with organics collection if they were to switch to compostable alternatives
- Some businesses noted that the City should be focusing on packaging as it is perceived as a larger issue
- Overall comments received during the survey suggested that businesses want to see an effective communication strategy, that costs to the businesses be reduced, that businesses have access to curbside recycling and organics, that any fines be reinvested into the initiative and that businesses be incentivized to take the lead on green initiatives.

What we heard from the general public (summary)
- The majority of residents strongly or somewhat support reducing single-use items (88%)
- It is felt the benefit of this reduction is broader for the community and environment
- When asked, more residents felt that a complete ban was the best option for Spruce Grove when compared to a restriction, reporting or other option
- Concerns range from not considering plastic bags as single-use item to it being costly for tax payers
- The reduction of plastic bags is perceived to have the biggest impact on individuals
- Some other suggestions that came out of the survey included developing a recycling market for these single-use items, adjusting residential waste collection schedule for blue bag collection to every other week if a ban is implemented and to provide incentives to businesses already using green alternatives
- It was noted that education and communication on the new strategy and how to comply would be the most beneficial thing the City could do to help residents transition
- It was also noted that communicating the recycling market changes was important when communicating about any single-use item reduction as well as the cost of recycling and waste diversion to taxpayers
- Final comments in the survey suggest that many residents support the initiative with appropriate introduction time and good communication and that the City continue to look for
ways to recycle these items. There were also comments suggesting a concern that this initiative may raise taxes. Comments also suggesting that the market can decide the need for single-use items instead of governments.

(Twenty/20 Communications, 2019)
APPENDIX A1: Regional Scan of Single-use Policies from Waste Free Edmonton
### Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Type of Law (Effective Date)</th>
<th>Details of Law</th>
<th>Efficacy</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>Wetaskiwin</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (July 9, 2019)</td>
<td>Retail establishments are prohibited from selling or distributing single-use plastic checkout bags thinner than 2.0 mm thick. This will apply to any location where goods are offered for sale, including grocery stores, retail stores, farmers' markets, fast food or restaurants. After June 1, 2020 stores must charge a minimum of $0.15 per single-use paper checkout bag (exceptions for fast food restaurants, food delivery, sit-down restaurants, and mobile catering businesses). An establishment found guilty of breaching the bylaw could be fined up at $1,000 a day.</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.wetaskiwin.ca/826/Plastic-Checkout-Bag-Bylaw">https://www.wetaskiwin.ca/826/Plastic-Checkout-Bag-Bylaw</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (10 communities including Fort McMurray) | Bag Ban (2010, revised in 2012) | Exemptions: plastic produce bags; plastic bags to contain fresh meat or fish products; plastic bags used to contain bulk food items or bulk hardware items; plastic bags used to contain freshly prepared bakery items or other food items; plastic bags used for wrapping flowers or potted plants; dry-cleaning bags or other professional laundering bags; plastic bags used to contain dirty, greasy, or hazardous products or materials. | According to RMWB staff interviewed in 2014, there has been 100% compliance with the bylaw. That conclusion is based on the fact that no fines have been issued. However, it is unclear whether the lack of fines resulted from 100% compliance, or if it is the result of a lack of monitoring and enforcement to ensure that violations are detected and tickets issued. RMWB also asserts that in the first year of the Bag Bylaw “a couple million bags were diverted from the landfills.” They credit the reduction, in part, to the fact that compliance was compulsory. A 2011 report found that approximately 70% of citizens were |}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bag Policy</th>
<th>Implementation Status</th>
<th>Website/Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>Bag Ban</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>Bans plastic, biodegradable, compostable plastic bags.</td>
<td>Supportive of the ban one-year after it came into effect.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.jasper-alberta.com/2530/Bring-Your-Own-Bag-Jasper">https://www.jasper-alberta.com/2530/Bring-Your-Own-Bag-Jasper</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid</td>
<td>Bans single-use plastic checkout bags and paper bags not containing at least 40% post-consumer material.</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/climate-change/single-use-plastic-bags.html">https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/climate-change/single-use-plastic-bags.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>July 1, 2018</td>
<td>Businesses may provide paper checkout bags for a minimum charge of 15 cents per bag (rising to 25 cents on July 1, 2019), and reusable checkout bags for a minimum charge of $1 per bag (rising to $2 in 2019). These fees should be stated on customer bills. The Bylaw defines a reusable bag as a bag designed and manufactured to be capable of at least 100 uses, and primarily made of cloth or other washable fabric.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The City's current focus is on developing education and awareness related to the bylaw. A Retail Toolkit has been developed to provide businesses with information and tools to help transition to the new bylaw.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The City will begin administering fines in January 2019. Individual can be fined between $50 and $500, while a</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Corporation | Single-use Plastics Strategy that includes a cup, straw and utensil ban (Nov 1, 2019) | Priority Actions of the Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy include:  
• By-law amendments that prohibit the distribution of: a) prepared food in expanded polystyrene foam cups and take-out containers, b) single-use plastics straws, and c) single-use utensils unless requested by the customer.  
• By-law amendments that require business license holders to have reduction plans that significantly reduce the amount of disposable cups and plastic/paper shopping bags they distribute, with options to:  
  o Distribute no disposable cups or plastic/paper shopping bags;  
  o Distribute no free disposable cups or free plastic/paper shopping bags;  
  o Other mechanisms that achieve a reduction target set by the City.  
• A recommendation to investigate options for the City to reduce the costs of collecting disposable cups and take-out containers in public waste bins and as litter and recover those costs through an appropriate mechanism from businesses that generate this waste.  
• Introduce a requirement for single-use cups, take-out containers, straws and utensils to be recyclable or compostable.  
• A future action to require businesses to collect single-use items for recycling or | Bylaw not yet implemented. | https://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/single-use-items.aspx; http://council.vancouver.ca/20180516/documents/pspc2b-AppendixA.pdf |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Rules</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courtney</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans bags including biodegradable and compostable plastic. Paper bags – at least 25 cent fee Reusables – must be capable of at least 100 washes, primarily made of cloth or other washable fabric for at least $1</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.courtenay.ca/EN/main/community/environment/single-use-plastics-regulations.html">https://www.courtenay.ca/EN/main/community/environment/single-use-plastics-regulations.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw Ban (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic straws</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Bag (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic bags. Reusables – must be capable of at least 100 washes and made primarily of cotton or other washable fabric</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://cumberland.ca/plastics-single-use-item-regulation-faqs/">https://cumberland.ca/plastics-single-use-item-regulation-faqs/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw ban (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic straws, including biodegradable and compostable plastic straws.</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://cumberland.ca/plastics-single-use-item-regulation-faqs/">https://cumberland.ca/plastics-single-use-item-regulation-faqs/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sooke</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (Jan 1, 2020)</td>
<td>Bans plastic bags and paper bags less than 40% post-consumer recycled content. Paper bags containing at least 40% post-consumer recycled content – at least 15 cent fee. Reusables – must be capable of at least 100 washes, primarily made of cloth or other washable fabric for at least $1</td>
<td>Bylaw not yet implemented.</td>
<td><a href="https://sooke.civicweb.net/document/32010">https://sooke.civicweb.net/document/32010</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Period (From)</td>
<td>Action Type</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualicum Beach</td>
<td>Bag Ban (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic bags. Reusables – must be capable of least 100 washes and 2.25 mils</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.qualicumbayc.com/plastic-bags#targetText=Plastic%20Ba%20Ban&amp;targetText=Starting%20July%201%2C%202019%20businesses,Bylaw%20No.%20723%2C%202018.&amp;targetText=Attached%20is%20a%20certified%20copy%20of%20the%20adopted%20bylaw">https://www.qualicumbayc.com/plastic-bags#targetText=Plastic%20Ba%20Ban&amp;targetText=Starting%20July%201%2C%202019%20businesses,Bylaw%20No.%20723%2C%202018.&amp;targetText=Attached%20is%20a%20certified%20copy%20of%20the%20adopted%20bylaw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Straw ban (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic straws</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon Arm</td>
<td>Bag Ban (July 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic bags including biodegradable and compostable plastic. Bans plastic bags and paper bags less than 40% post-consumer recycled content. Paper bags containing at least 40% post-consumer recycled content – at least 15 cent fee. Reusables – must be capable of least 100 washes, primarily made of cloth or other washable fabric for at least $1 (rising to $2)</td>
<td>The bylaw is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.salmonarm.ca/384/Reducing-Single-Use-Plastic-Bags">https://www.salmonarm.ca/384/Reducing-Single-Use-Plastic-Bags</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Bag Ban (January 1, 2018)</td>
<td>Retail establishments are banned from selling light plastic bags. A grace period for compliance was granted until June 5, 2018. Banned bags: conventional plastic shopping bags (a thickness of less than 50</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so not possible to determine efficacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Ban Details</td>
<td>Exemptions</td>
<td>Penalties</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deux Montagnes</td>
<td>Bag Ban (July 2009)</td>
<td>Bans all forms of single-use plastic bags. Exemptions: Biodegradable bags; bags meant to carry items purchased in bulk; paper bags.</td>
<td>Citizens of Deux-Montagnes avoided sending 1.5 million plastic bags to landfills in 2010. This amount represents almost 30 tons of plastic which could have made its way into the environment without the continued efforts of the population.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ville.deux-montagnes.qc.ca/en/greening-the-way-we-live/">http://www.ville.deux-montagnes.qc.ca/en/greening-the-way-we-live/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ville de Brossard</td>
<td>Bag Ban (2016)</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 100 microns, compostable polyester and starch shopping bags. Exemptions: shopping bags made of cellullosic fibers or recyclable paper</td>
<td>6 months after the bylaw came into force, Brossard has had a very positive assessment of the experience. The bylaw was very well received and the various stakeholders were able to adjust.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ville.brossard.qc.ca/services-citoyens/Sacs-d-emplette/ouijaimonsac.aspx?lang=en-ca">http://www.ville.brossard.qc.ca/services-citoyens/Sacs-d-emplette/ouijaimonsac.aspx?lang=en-ca</a>; <a href="https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-">https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated as of August 2019
Updated as of August 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ban Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Varennes, Verchères, Contrecouer, Calixa-Lavallée, Saint-Amable, and Sainte-Julie.</td>
<td>Bag Ban (January 1, 2018)</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 50 microns, oxodegradable or oxobiodegradable shopping bags. Exemptions: Plastic bags used exclusively to carry produce, nuts, bulk snacks, ready-to-eat foods, meat, fish, bread and dairy products to the check-out counter or to protect these food products from direct contact with other items for reasons of hygiene.</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Saint-Basile-</td>
<td>Bag Ban (April 22, 2018)</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 50 microns; Oxodegradable, oxobiodegradable bags; Compostable polyester and starch shopping bags.</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brossard concluded that this initiative has helped to promote behaviour change and public awareness.

Of the alternatives to plastic bags retained by merchants, 40% opted for paper bags, 24% decided not to distribute bags, 19% offer conventional reusable bags (made of polypropylene, polyester or textile), while 18% offer reusable plastic bags with a thickness greater than 100 microns.

These bans are new and still in the process of implementation so it is too early to determine efficacy.

For more information, visit https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ban Details</th>
<th>Exemptions</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Regulations Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le-Grand, and Saint-Lambert, Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-lac.</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 100 microns; Compostable polyester and starch shopping bags.</td>
<td>Exemptions: Plastic bags used exclusively to carry food to the check-out counter or to protect these food products from direct contact with other items for reasons of hygiene; Plastic bags used to carry prescription drugs.</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/">https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 100 microns; Compostable polyester and starch shopping bags. Exemptions: Shopping bags made of cellulosic fibers or recyclable paper (including the handle). Film bags for produce, meat, fish, and items purchased in bulk such as nuts and flour.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/">https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beloeil, Candiac, Delson, La Prairie, Léry, Mercier, Saint-Constant, Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Isidore, Saint-Mathieu, Saint-Philippe, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Prevost</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 50 microns; Oxodegradable or oxo biodegradable, compostable polyester and starch shopping bags, regardless of thickness. Exemptions: plastic bags used exclusively to carry produce, nuts, bulk snacks, ready-to-eat foods, meat, fish, bread and dairy products to the check-out counter or to protect these food products from direct contact with other items for reasons of hygiene.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/">https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Restrictions</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masouche</td>
<td>Bag Ban (April 22, 2018 with transition period until April 1, 2019)</td>
<td>Bans plastic shopping bags thinner than 100 microns; compostable polyester and starch shopping bags. Exemptions: bags made of 100% recyclable paper (including the handle); film bags for produce, meat, fish, and items purchased in bulk.</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/">https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauharnois</td>
<td>Bag Ban (April 22, 2018 with 6-month transition period)</td>
<td>Bans plastic single-use shopping bags and Oxodegradable or oxo biodegradable plastic bags, regardless of thickness. Exemptions: plastic bags used exclusively to carry items to the check-out counter or to protect these food products for reasons of hygiene; plastic bags used to carry prescription drugs.</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://ville.beauharnois.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Guide_ECOlogique_anglais_WEB.pdf">https://ville.beauharnois.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Guide_ECOlogique_anglais_WEB.pdf</a>; <a href="https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/">https://www.retailcouncil.org/resources/quick-facts/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longueuil</td>
<td>Bag Ban (September 1, 2018)</td>
<td>Plastic shopping bags thinner than 50 microns; Oxodegradable or oxo biodegradable, Exemptions: plastic bags used exclusively to carry produce, nuts, bulk snacks, ready-to-eat foods, meat, fish, bread and dairy products to the check-out counter or to protect these food products from direct contact with other items for reasons of hygiene. Plastic bags used to carry prescription drugs.</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.longueuil.quebec/en/bags">https://www.longueuil.quebec/en/bags</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEI</td>
<td>Entire Province</td>
<td>Any single-use plastic bags made with plastic, including biodegradable plastic or compostable plastic, but not meant to be reusable. Includes bags used to package take-out food or food to be delivered.</td>
<td>The law is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.assembly.pe.ca/bills/pdf_first/65/3/bill-114.pdf">http://www.assembly.pe.ca/bills/pdf_first/65/3/bill-114.pdf</a>; <a href="http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/local/ban-of-single-use-">http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/local/ban-of-single-use-</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The law allows recyclable paper bags to be provided at a cost of no less than 15 cents and reusable bags at no less than $1. On Jan. 1, 2020, the cost will go up to 25 cents for a paper bag and $2 for a reusable bag.

Once enforcement comes into place on Jan. 1, 2020, there will be fines attached to offences. Corporations can be fined up to $10,000 and individuals up to $500.

Exemptions: paper bags and reusable bags (meant for at least 100 uses); bulk food plastic bags; bulk plastic hardware bag; plastic bags for meat, poultry or fish and frozen foods.; bags used for potted plants or to wrap flowers; medical supply or prescription drug bags; big plastic bags for things that won't fit in reusable bags; bags that protect vehicle tires between changeovers; bags that cover clothing after dry cleaning; plastic bag for live fish as a pet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Law Details</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>Bag Ban (2010)</td>
<td>No person shall sell or provide single-use plastic bags (defined as a bag made with less than 2.25 mils thick polyethylene, including biodegradable bags) free of charge or allow single-use plastic bags to be sold or provided free of charge. Owners of retail businesses are permitted to provide alternatives to single-use plastic bags, such as reusable containers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and bags for a charge or for free.

No retail business shall deny the use of any reusable container by a customer for the transport of purchased items. Reusable containers is defined as a bag, box or other container that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse that is: 1. made of cloth or other machine washable fabric; 2. or made of other durable material suitable for reuse.

Exemptions: bags used for bulk items; frozen foods; potted plants; to protect prepared foods; prescription drugs; and laundry.

Fines issued in accordance with City of Thompson Fee and Fine Schedule.

| Ontario | Toronto | Bag Fee (adopted in 2009, rescinded in 2012) | Required retailers to charge $0.05 for single-use plastic bags. In 2012, City Council decided to rescind the charge and mandate a ban on single-use plastic bags. However, a legal action was brought against the City to quash the ban. As a result, the forthcoming ban was turned down by City council in 2012. Council chose to go with education and outreach instead. | Between 2008 and 2012, waste audits demonstrated that there was a 53% reduction in waste after the fee was in effect. Since the Bag Fee was cancelled, bags in the waste stream have increased by 26%. | https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pw/bgrd/backgrounder-59290.pdf; http://www.torontoenvironment.org/campaigns/waste/bagbanfaq |
## UNITED STATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Type of Law (Effective Date)</th>
<th>Details of Law</th>
<th>Efficacy</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Entire State</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (2016)</td>
<td>The law prohibits most grocery stores, large retail stores with a pharmacy, and convenience stores from providing single-use bags, unless the bags are made with recycled paper. Stores must provide customers with reusable grocery bags or with recycled paper bags, and must charge at least 10 cents for each bag. Exemptions: bags used by pharmacies for prescriptions; bags without handles used to protect a purchased item from damage or contamination; bulk foods bags; dry cleaning bags.</td>
<td>&quot;We calculated that due to both the wave of local ordinances and the statewide bag ban, plastic grocery bag litter has dropped by 72 per cent since 2010 and now accounts for less than 1.5% of items littered&quot;.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/plastics/CarryOutBags/FAQ.htm">http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/plastics/CarryOutBags/FAQ.htm</a>; <a href="http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&amp;division=30.&amp;title=&amp;part=3.&amp;chapter=5.3.&amp;article=1.&amp;goUp=Y">http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&amp;division=30.&amp;title=&amp;part=3.&amp;chapter=5.3.&amp;article=1.&amp;goUp=Y</a>;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw Ban</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bans full-service restaurants in the state from handing out single-use plastic straws to customers unless they ask for one. The law doesn't apply to fast food restaurants or convenience stores. Full-service restaurants can still hand out paper or metal straws unprompted by customers. Violators can face a $25 fine per day after two warnings.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/20/us/plastic-straws-banned-in-california/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/20/us/plastic-straws-banned-in-california/index.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Exemptions</td>
<td>Effectiveness Note</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (2012)</td>
<td>Ban on single-use checkout plastic bags and levy on compostable, recycled paper bags or reusable (&gt;125 uses) bag of $0.10. The charge must be displayed separately on customer receipt. Stores and food establishments are allowed to keep the charge. Exemptions: bags for bulk items; unwrapped prepared foods; to prevent damage to a good or contamination of other goods placed together in the same bag; leftover food from sit down dining; newspaper, laundry or dry-cleaning; and pharmacies. For those who are persistently out of compliance, a warning can be issued, and fines can range from $100-$500.</td>
<td>Not able to locate publicly available data on effectiveness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA County</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (2010)</td>
<td>A ban on thin plastic carryout bags and 10 cent charge for paper. &quot;Plastic carryout bag&quot; includes compostable and biodegradable bags but does not include reusable bags, produce bags, or product bags. A reusable bag = minimum lifetime capacity of 125 or more uses, carry 22 or more pounds over a distance of at least 175 feet, has a minimum volume of 15 liters, made of cloth or other machine washable fabric and must be made of</td>
<td>The bag ordinance reduced single-use plastic bag distribution by 94%, including a 10-25% reduction in paper bag usage.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.baglaws.com/assets/pdf/california_la_county.pdf">http://www.baglaws.com/assets/pdf/california_la_county.pdf</a>; <a href="https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/the-proliferation-of-the-plastic-bagban">https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/the-proliferation-of-the-plastic-bagban</a>; <a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d3a62be4b068e9347ca880/t/57dc50aae6f2e1bd882d91a2/1474056363151/Merged+Plastic+Bag+Impacts+and+Bag+Ban+Results.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d3a62be4b068e9347ca880/t/57dc50aae6f2e1bd882d91a2/1474056363151/Merged+Plastic+Bag+Impacts+and+Bag+Ban+Results.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Bag Ban Year(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Source Links</th>
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<tr>
<td>Styrofoam containers and single-use plastic item (2018)</td>
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<td>In 2018, the city banned polystyrene foam take-out containers, plastic cutlery, stir sticks, straws, and other single-use items in all retail stores and restaurants. Restaurants are now being spot-checked, according to city officials, and compliance with the new ordinance will be part of regular inspections. Cited restaurants will first be given a warning, then progressively fined $100, $200, and $500. The City is actively working with local businesses to adopt alternatives to plastic, such as paper, bamboo, or sugar cane.</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.malibucity.org/861/Plastic-Bans">https://www.malibucity.org/861/Plastic-Bans</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Monica</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (2011)</td>
<td>Prohibits all retail establishments from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale,</td>
<td>It eliminated plastic bags (75 to 0%) and increased reusable bag usage by 40 percent. However, the</td>
<td><a href="https://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Singl">https://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Singl</a></td>
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including bags made predominately of plastic derived from petroleum or from bio-based sources, such as corn or other plant sources.

Grocery stores, convenience stores, mini-marts, liquor stores and pharmacies are permitted to provide customers with paper bags made from at least 40% post-consumer recycled content. These types of retailers are required to charge customers at least ten cents per paper bag. Revenues generated by sales of paper bags remain with the affected stores.

Exemptions: produce bags; restaurants and other food vendors for take-out food and liquids intended for consumption off of the food provider’s premises; department stores, clothing stores, and stores that sell durable goods are not prohibited from distributing paper bags to customers for free.

| San Mateo County | Bag Fee (2013) | Imposed a 10-cent fee on disposable bags. | The number of people bringing their own bags rose by 162%, orders for bags from retailers dropped by 84 percent. 130% more carried out their purchases without a bag. | e-Use_Carryout_Bag_Ban.aspx; https://energycenter.org/sites/default/files/Plastic-Bag-Ban-Web-Version-10-22-13-CK.pdf |

elimination of plastic bags also led to an increase in paper bag usage (3% to 16%).

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d3a62be4b068e9347ca880/t/57dc50aae6f2e1bd882d91a2/1474056363151/Merged+Plastic+Bag+Impacts+and+Bag+Ban+Results.pdf; http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/43366
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ban Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Key Indicators</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid</td>
<td>The ordinance prohibits retail establishments from providing customers with single-use carry out bags except for recycled content paper bags, which retail establishments may sell for a 10-cent charge.</td>
<td>All of the key indicators monitored by staff show downward trends in presence of single-use plastic bags in street, storm drain, and creek litter, and an upward trend in use of reusable bags by shoppers. It reduced plastic debris by “approximately 89 percent in the storm drain system, 60 percent in the creeks and rivers, and 59 percent in city. Plastic bags made up 8 percent of total creek litter in 2011 and 4 percent in 2012. Reusable bag use increased greatly from 4-62%. However, it also led to an increase in paper bag usage (3 to 16%)</td>
<td><a href="http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommitteeAgenda/TE/20121203/TE20121203_d5.pdf">http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommitteeAgenda/TE/20121203/TE20121203_d5.pdf</a>; <a href="https://energycenter.org/sites/default/files/Plastic-Bag-Ban-Web-Version-10-22-13-CK.pdf">https://energycenter.org/sites/default/files/Plastic-Bag-Ban-Web-Version-10-22-13-CK.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda County</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid</td>
<td>Grocery stores and certain other food retailers have not been allowed to provide single-use plastic carryout bags at checkout. As of May 1, 2017, this ordinance expanded to include ALL retail stores in Alameda County, and as of November 1, 2017, also includes all eating establishments and food delivery services. Stores are required to stock reusable and paper bags and charge at least 10-cents and itemize the charge on receipts.</td>
<td>The bag ordinance reduced bag purchases by 85% in less than two years and more than double the amount of customers brought in their own bags or didn’t use a bag at all. 44% decrease in plastic bags found in County storm drains. Stores are participating with a compliance rate of 90+%</td>
<td><a href="http://reusablebagsac.org/">http://reusablebagsac.org/</a>; <a href="http://www.stopwaste.org/about/news/successful-results-bag-ordinance">http://www.stopwaste.org/about/news/successful-results-bag-ordinance</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid</td>
<td>The ordinance prohibits certain stores from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point</td>
<td>Two years of ban implementation resulted in eliminating almost 45 million single-use plastic shopping</td>
<td><a href="https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/services/recycling/bags/ordinance_about.asp">https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/services/recycling/bags/ordinance_about.asp</a>;</td>
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Updated as of August 2019

| District of Columbia | Washington | Bag Fee (2010) | All businesses that sell food or alcohol are required to charge 5 cents for every carryout paper or plastic disposable bag. The business retains 1 cent (or 2 cents if it offers a rebate when customers bring their own bag), and the remaining 3-4 cents goes to the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund. Exemptions: bulk items, frozen foods; meat and fish; flowers; potted plants; small bakery goods; prescription drugs; newspapers; small hardware items; trash, pet and yard waste; dry cleaning, and paper bags to take food home from a restaurant that has seating. The fee has contributed about $10 million from 2010-2014 to the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund. After the fee started, within months officials released figures showing a drop from a purported 22.5 million bags used per month to 3.3 million — an 85% decrease. Surveys showed that households estimated they had decreased bag use by 60%, from 10 bags a week to four. According to several independent studies, in less than five years after fee implemented, bag usage |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Other | Bag bans (various dates) | Numerous other regions in California have enacted bag bans. Not able to locate publicly available data on effectiveness. List of other ordinances in California can be found here: http://www.baglaws.com/legislation.php?state=California |

https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/nickel-by-nickel-is-the-dc-bag-fee-actually-saving-the-anacostia-river/2015/05/09/d63868d2-8a18-11e4-8ff4-fb93129c9c8b_story.html?utm_term=.f9a65c3f5b37
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Washington</th>
<th>Seattle</th>
<th>Styrofoam Ban (2009)</th>
<th>In 2009, Styrofoam was banned. In 2010, it became a requirement that food service items (with the exception of straws and utensils) be either recyclable or compostable.</th>
<th>The plastic straw and utensil ban is new and still in the process of implementation so not possible to determine efficacy.</th>
<th><a href="http://www.seattle.gov/util/forbusinesses/solidwaste/foodyardbusinesses/commercial/foodpackagingrequirements/">http://www.seattle.gov/util/forbusinesses/solidwaste/foodyardbusinesses/commercial/foodpackagingrequirements/</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic straw and utensil ban (July 1, 2018)</td>
<td>Effective July 1 2018, the City banned plastic straws and utensils at &quot;all food service businesses, including restaurants, grocery stores, delis, coffee shops, food trucks, and institutional cafeterias.&quot; Businesses can opt for straws and utensils made from more environmentally friendly materials such as paper, steel and bamboo. Still, the city suggests that businesses provide those only upon request. The ban carries a $250 fine for any businesses who violate it, but the focus for the next year will be more on educating and assisting businesses with compliance than on enforcement.</td>
<td>Resulted in roughly 100 million fewer single-use plastic bags in the region during the first six months after the ordinance took effect.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/seattle-bans-plastic-straws-and-utensils_us_5b3a5536e4b05127ccea4a">https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/seattle-bans-plastic-straws-and-utensils_us_5b3a5536e4b05127ccea4a</a></td>
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<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid (July 1, 2017)</td>
<td>Effective July 1, 2017, prohibits all Seattle retail stores from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout bags, including bags labeled “biodegradable,” “degradable,” “decomposable” or similar. Allows retail stores to provide customers with any size recyclable paper or reusable carryout bags but requires retail stores</td>
<td>Resulted in roughly 100 million fewer single-use plastic bags in the region during the first six months after the ordinance took effect.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/01_025116.pdf">http://www.seattle.gov/util/groups/public/@spu/@conservation/documents/webcontent/01_025116.pdf</a>; <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Recycling/ReduceReuse/PlasticBagBan/index.htm">http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Recycling/ReduceReuse/PlasticBagBan/index.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>City or County</td>
<td>Bag Type</td>
<td>Regulations Description</td>
<td>Resources</td>
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<td>Hawaiian Islands</td>
<td>Entire State (various dates)</td>
<td>Bag Hybrid</td>
<td>There is a de facto statewide ban as all of its most populous counties prohibit non-biodegradable plastic bags at checkout, as well as paper bags containing less than 40 percent recycled material. Bans in Kauai, Maui and Hawaii counties took effect between 2011 and 2013, with Honolulu becoming the last major county to approve a ban in 2015, adding a 15-cent charge for all reusable bags, effective July 2018. The bans in Hawaii resulted in many stores upping the thickness of their plastic bags to 2.25 mils to cross the threshold that separates “single-use” plastic from “reusable” plastic bags under many bag laws. This is something that would need to be addressed with any future legislation.</td>
<td><a href="http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document195377/BILL059(16)%2c%20FD1%2c%20CD3.pdf">source</a>; <a href="http://www.opala.org/solid_waste/archive/plastic_bag_ban.html">source</a>.</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Boston (December 2018)</td>
<td>Ban</td>
<td>Retailers can only keep recyclable paper bags (100% recyclable and contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/reducing-plastic-bags-city-boston">source</a>.</td>
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material), compostable bags, or reusable bags in stock.

Compostable bags are defined as conforming to ASTM D6400 standard; certified as capable of decomposing at the same rate as compostable materials.

Reusable bags are defined as designed and manufactured to use more than once; made of durable material or durable plastic that is at least 3.0 mils (thousandths of an inch) in thickness.

Only applies to “checkout bags” = carryout bag with handles.

Exemptions: newspaper bags; bags used to wrap produce, frozen food, meat or fish; laundry/dry-cleaner bags; trash can liners.

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<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>Styrofoam Ban (January 1, 2019)</td>
<td>The City’s Styrofoam ban will go into effect by January 1, 2019, following the dismissal of a lawsuit preventing the implementation of the ban. This means that food service establishments, stores, and manufacturers may not possess,</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/295-18/mayor-de-blasio-ban-single-use-styrofoam-products-new-york-city-will-be-effect">https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/295-18/mayor-de-blasio-ban-single-use-styrofoam-products-new-york-city-will-be-effect</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Ban Type</td>
<td>Ban Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Monmouth Beach</td>
<td>Ban on various plastic and Styrofoam items (June 2018)</td>
<td>Bans single-use plastic bags, straws, food containers, and take-out Styrofoam boxes. Includes fines of up to $2,400 with warnings for initial violations. The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="http://newjersey.news12.com/story/38266631/monmouth-beach-approves-ban-on-plastic-straws-bags">http://newjersey.news12.com/story/38266631/monmouth-beach-approves-ban-on-plastic-straws-bags</a></td>
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| Illinois   | Chicago    | Bag Fee (February 2018)            | Jan 1, 2017 the city repealed its plastic bag ban after only 16 months and replaced it with a 7-cent-per-bag tax on paper or plastic bags starting February 2018. Five cents from the new tax goes to the city, the other two cents to stores. Exemptions: • bags provided for prescription drugs; • bags used to prevent certain food items, such as raw meat, from contaminating other food or merchandise; • those used to bag loose bulk items; • take-out or dine-in bags; • bags for wrapping prepared food or baked goods; • those used for holding flowers or 

Exemptions:  
• bags provided for prescription drugs;  
• bags used to prevent certain food items, such as raw meat, from contaminating other food or merchandise;  
• those used to bag loose bulk items;  
• take-out or dine-in bags;  
• bags for wrapping prepared food or baked goods;  
• those used for holding flowers or the store's coffers. | After the fee was enacted, the number of plastic and paper bags used dropped 42% in the first month afterwards. Of the 14,168 shoppers surveyed, only 49% percent used at least one disposable bag — down from the 82% before the tax. The tax is expected to add $9.2 million to the city's coffers. | https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/bacd/Consumer20Information/know2016flyerplasticbagban.pdf; https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20170424/lincolnsquare/were-using-42-percent-fewer-bags-since-7-cent-tax-started-city-study-says/; https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160205/downtown/is-chicagos-plastic-bag-ban-working-no-advocates-say-people-must-pay/ |
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<th>Details of Law</th>
<th>Efficacy</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Bag Ban – 2015</td>
<td>Plastic single-use bags cannot be provided by retailers or food vendors at customer check-out. Exemptions: prescription medication, and bags without handles that are used to protect one item from another – for example, produce, bulk food, or meat. What you can use instead are: paper bags made from at least 40% recycled content; reusable cloth bags; or reusable plastic bags that are at least 4 mil thick and have handles.</td>
<td>In the year after the law was implemented the City found: there were fewer than five consumer complaints regarding non-compliance but found no cause to issue penalties; reusable checkout bag use increased 304 percent; highly recycled paper checkout bag use increased 491 percent.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.portlandoregon.gov/citycode/56750">https://www.portlandoregon.gov/citycode/56750</a>; <a href="https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/419700">https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/419700</a></td>
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<td>Cutlery will be banned by 2021. It also requires that 90% of plastic bottles be recycled by 2025.</td>
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<td><strong>2018 European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy</strong></td>
<td>On January 16, 2018 the European Commission adopted the first-ever European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The plan seeks to eliminate plastic pollution and change the way plastics are produced and consumed in the EU, with a focus on plastic bags, other single-use plastics, and fishing materials. The plan also seeks to improve the economic benefit of recycling, to create jobs through engaging businesses and producers, and to invest in innovation. By 2030 all plastic packaging produced and sold in Europe should be reusable or recyclable. Other 2030 targets include 65% recycling of municipal waste, 75% recycling of packaging waste, and a binding agreement to reduce landfill waste to a maximum of 10% of municipal waste.</td>
<td>The strategy is new and still in the process of implementation so not possible to determine efficacy.</td>
<td><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic_waste.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic_waste.htm</a></td>
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<td><strong>2015 European Union Directive on Single-use Plastic Bags</strong></td>
<td>The EU directive required Member States to take measures to reduce their level of consumption of plastic bags. To do this, they can either choose to, or cumulatively opt for: a) the adoption of measures guaranteeing that the annual level of consumption does not surpass 90 light plastic bags per person by 31st</td>
<td>Not able to locate publicly available data on effectiveness.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.surfrider.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/guide_good-practices_web_en.pdf">https://www.surfrider.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/guide_good-practices_web_en.pdf</a></td>
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December 2019 and 40 light plastic bags per person by 31st December 2025, or the setting of similar objectives by weight. Very light plastic bags can be excluded from the national consumption objectives.
b) the adoption of instruments guaranteeing that on 31st December 2018, no light plastic bag is provided free of charge at the point of sale of merchandise or products, unless equally effective instruments are implemented. Very light plastic bags can be excluded from the scope of these measures. The banning of single-use plastic bags is also made possible by the directive.

Furthermore, starting in May 2018, Member States must report their annual light plastic bags’ consumption to the European Commission.

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Measure Description</th>
<th>Expected Effect</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Plastic cup and utensil ban (2020) - The newest addition to the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act proposes a ban on plastic plates and utensils, which will take effect in 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.cnn.com/2016/09/19/europe/france-bans-plastic-cups-plates/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2016/09/19/europe/france-bans-plastic-cups-plates/index.html</a></td>
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<td>Country</td>
<td>Action Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Bag Fee (2002)</td>
<td>Fee is now 22-euro cents. The tax revenue goes into different programs aimed at environmental protection.</td>
<td>Resulted in a 90% reduction and an associated gain in the form of reduced littering. Costs of administration have been very low, amounting to about 3% of revenues. Response from the public and the retail industry, has been overwhelmingly positive. Central to this acceptance has been a policy of extensive consultation with these stakeholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Bag Ban (2011)</td>
<td>Bans the use of plastic bags for fruit, vegetables and baked goods in favor of biodegradable and compostable alternatives.</td>
<td>Reduction of plastic bag consumption by more than 55% since 2011 (Surfrider Foundation Europe, 2017)</td>
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<td>England</td>
<td>Bag Fee (2015)</td>
<td>Large shops (retailers who have 250 or more employees) in England are required to charge 5p for all single-use plastic bags.</td>
<td>England's plastic bag usage drops 85% since 5p charge introduced. The charge has also triggered donations of more than £29m from retailers towards good causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Bag Fee (2014)</td>
<td>Requires retailers to charge at least 5 p for all single-use plastic bags. Customers are also required to pay for paper bags, as well as bags made from some plant-based materials. The legislation applies to all retailers, not just those selling food. Online outlets selling or delivering</td>
<td>The law is raising 6.7M p in a year and sees usage cut by 80%.</td>
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[http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2017/08/12/17G00139/sg](http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2017/08/12/17G00139/sg)
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-34575364](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-34575364)
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Bag Fee</td>
<td>Danish tax on plastic bags is approximately 50 cents US, part of which goes in taxes, and part to the business. Bags are covered by the tax if they have capacity to handle at least 5 liters and they reasonably can be replaced by cloth bags, carrier net and the like. Very strong plastic bags directly comparable with cloth bags and carrier nets are not covered by the tax. Tax only applies in supermarkets, where customers buy the plastic bags. In clothing and similar shops however, plastic bags are offered free to customers by the shops, who pay the tax themselves.</td>
<td>The tax had a remarkable effect on the use of plastic carrier bags. The introduction of the tax halved the consumption from around 800 million bags to 400 million bags, which amounts to around 80 bags per person annually. The retailer revenue has amplified the effects of the tax. <a href="">file:///C:/Users/mello/Downloads/150812_Tax%20on%20plastic%20bags.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Bag Ban</td>
<td>Ban on free lightweight plastic bags</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy. <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic_sustainability.pdf?isAllowed=y&amp;sequence=1">https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic_sustainability.pdf?isAllowed=y&amp;sequence=1</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Ban turned to</td>
<td>Fee on consumer for disposable plastic bags with a thickness between 15 µ and</td>
<td>Fee not yet implemented. <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/">https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Fee (when introduced)</td>
<td>Fee (effective 2020)</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Bag Fee (2009)</td>
<td>Fee on retailer for plastic bags (with two different rates for single and multiple use bags and depending on weight. Since then, most supermarkets charge for plastic carrier bags and offer reusable carrier bags.</td>
<td>Plastic bag consumption dropped rapidly after implementation while use of reusable bags increased, but stabilized after the first year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Bag Fee (Dec 31, 2018)</td>
<td>Fee on consumer. Prohibition of free lightweight plastic bags with a thickness between 15 and 50µ.</td>
<td>The fee is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Bag Fee (2016)</td>
<td>Fee on consumer. Very lightweight bags for primary packaging are exempt. While businesses have the freedom to decide how much they will charge, the official guideline is €0.25 per bag.</td>
<td>The number of plastic bags ending up as litter decreased by 40% in one year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Bag Fee (2015)</td>
<td>Fee put on supplier. The charge of €0.10 per bag between 15-50µ was mostly passed on to the consumer.</td>
<td>After the tax was introduced, the consumption of lightweight plastic bags decreased by 74%, while that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Action Type</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Impact</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Bag Fee</td>
<td>Levy on consumer for plastic bags (£0.05).</td>
<td>Within one year, a 71% drop in the consumption of plastic bags, followed by another 42.6% decrease the following year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Bag Fee</td>
<td>Fee of €0.05 on consumer on non-biodegradable plastic bags.</td>
<td>Unable to find publicly available information about its effectiveness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>Bag Fee</td>
<td>Fee on consumer on single-use plastic bags.</td>
<td>The ban is new and still in the process of implementation so it is too soon to determine efficacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Bag Ban</td>
<td>Large retailers and supermarkets have six months to comply. Small and medium-size businesses will have two years to abide by the new rules. In the meantime, they may hand out up to two plastic bags per customer.</td>
<td>Ban not yet implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Ban of bags, straws, utensils and cups (2030)</td>
<td>Taiwan announced one of the farthest-reaching bans on plastic in the world, restricting the use of single-use plastic bags, straws, utensils, and cups. The ban should be completely in force by 2030.</td>
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<td>Bag Hybrid (2008)</td>
<td>China banned ultra-thin plastic bags and established a policy requiring stores to charge customers for thicker plastic bags.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bag Ban (various dates)</td>
<td>Numerous jurisdictions in India (approximately 25) have banned the use of thin plastic bags that are below 50 microns. The Indian government has pledged to ban all single-use plastics by 2022.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Bag Ban Year</td>
<td>Bag Ban Information</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Various dates</td>
<td>Western Australia and Queensland banned plastic bags in July 2018;</td>
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<td>Tasmania banned plastic bags in 2013; Northern Territory banned plastic bags in 2011. Biodegradable and heavier bags remain legal;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACT banned bags in 2011 with plastic barrier bags for fruit and vegetables exempt;</td>
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<td>Victoria ban is TBA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Anyone found using, producing, or selling a plastic bag faces up to four years in jail, or a $38,000 fine.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Plastic bag ban. Traffickers caught carrying illegal plastic are liable to be fined, jailed or forced to make public</td>
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Updated as of August 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Bag Ban (2016)</td>
<td>After a partial ban in 2009, Morocco’s law fully banning plastic bags came into effect in July 2016. This law does not only cover the distribution of plastic bags, but also the import and production of them. There are fines ranging from $20,000 to more than $100,000 USD placed on manufacturers and distributors who break the law. &quot;As the second largest consuming country of plastic bags, it’s no surprise that adhering to the ambitious law has taken time. The government is responding to the challenges the plastic bag ban poses by ensuring that plastic bag alternatives are easily accessible.&quot; <a href="https://www.surfrider.org/pages/plastic-bag-bans-fees">plastic-bag-ban-3790.html</a>; <a href="https://www.earthday.org/2018/04/20/lessons-from-the-countries-fighting-to-kick-the-plastic-bag-addiction/">https://www.earthday.org/2018/04/20/lessons-from-the-countries-fighting-to-kick-the-plastic-bag-addiction/</a></td>
</tr>
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APPENDIX A2: Recommended Policy Approach from Waste Free Edmonton
Proposed Framework for the City of Edmonton’s Single-Use Plastics Bylaw:

- **Styrofoam** – a ban on single-use polystyrene foam food service items
- **Bags** – a hybrid approach
  - ban single-use plastic bags + fee on paper bags (20 cents)
  - exemptions for certain items, such as: produce bags; bags to contain fresh meat or fish products; bags used to contain bulk food items; dry cleaning bags
  - exemptions for certain types of establishments, such as non-profit organizations
  - specify a minimum charge for reusable bags (at least 2 dollars) to dissuade the unnecessary accumulation of reusable bags
- **Straws** – prohibit businesses from providing single-use straws, unless requested by customers (noting that straws should be readily available to individuals who required a straw)
- **Utensils and Stir Sticks** - prohibit businesses from providing single-use utensils and stir sticks, unless requested by customers
- **Disposable Cups** – Fee (20 cents)
- **Take-out Containers** – Fee (20 cents)
- Require that any single-use items provided be recyclable or compostable in local facilities
- **Encourage Reusables**:
  - Specify that no retail business shall deny the use of any sanitary reusable item by a customer
  - Businesses that offer take-away options must ask customers whether their order is “to stay” or “to go”. If the order is “to stay”, they are required to serve the order using reusable items
  - Exemptions: existing businesses that do not have dishwashing capacity for reusable items may request a waiver if they can demonstrate inability to comply due to space constraints and financial hardship
  - Business licenses shall only be granted for businesses that have adequate dishwashing capacity to offer reusable items for “to stay” orders
  - Exemptions: new businesses may request a waiver to this requirement if they can demonstrate inability to comply due to space constraints and financial hardship.
Policies to compliment the Bylaw:

1. **Education and Awareness** - develop a communication and engagement campaign to:
   a. Educate citizens about the bylaw and ways to transition towards a “reusable lifestyle”
   b. Support affected businesses and other organizations in the transition

2. **Funding:**
   a. Consider providing reusable items to low-income citizens to assist them with the transition
   b. Provide funding and other non-monetary support to aid the transition for charitable food providers and small businesses

3. **Infrastructure support to encourage reusables**
   a. E.g. encourage stores to have a “take a bag, leave a bag” station to create a closed-loop system that does not require the production and purchase of new bags.
About Retail Council of Canada (RCC)

RCC is a not-for-profit industry-funded association that represents small, medium and large retail businesses in every community across the country. As the Voice of Retail™ in Canada, we proudly represent more than 45,000 storefronts in all retail formats, including department, grocery, specialty, discount, independent retailers and online merchants.

Retail is both Canada and Alberta’s largest employer with over 245,000 Albertans working in the retail and wholesale trade alone. In 2018, this Alberta sector generated payroll of over $10 billion, $77 billion in sales (excluding vehicles and gasoline) and $1 billion in capital investment.

Retail Council of Canada (RCC) members represent more than two-thirds of retail sales in the province.

About RCC and Sustainable Issues

RCC members are not only the frontline face of most consumer facing environmental programs - but are also a vital link in their success.

RCC and its members are extensively engaged in the design and delivery of over 100 waste diversion and EPR programs operating in Canada, including each of Alberta’s regulated and voluntary programs. We bring an important depth of experience and perspective to this subject from our work coast to coast. Current stewardship programs cost approximately $1.6 Billion across Canada.

More specifically, RCC members represent the vast majority (estimated to exceed 90%) of all plastic bags distributed across the province.

Retail Action To Date

The negative impact of single-use plastics is undeniable, and RCC members have already taken significant action to reduce the distribution of single-use items.

For example, many retailers have instituted fees for checkout bags that have shown to create an immediate reduction of bags distributed. Additionally, most retailers have incorporated best practices to reduce bag use, as well as promoted the use of reusable bags as a better alternative. Further, some national and regional retailers have announced their intentions to phase out single-use plastic bags entirely – Sobeys / Safeway for example in January 2020.

Our members also welcomed the June 2019 announcement that the federal government will ban the use of certain single use plastics by 2021. Even though the details still must be worked out in conjunction with stakeholders, RCC is confident that this federal government initiative will create a level playing field for businesses across the country.
Achieving such a nationally harmonized approach could help to avoid customer confusion and improve environmental outcomes. A national approach could also streamline and lower a retailer’s operational and cost impacts, which could ultimately result in lower costs for consumers.

### Regional Coordination Preferred

RCC and its members strongly prefer in the absence of provincial leadership, that Alberta municipalities strive to achieve harmonized language in their action. Already each of the three municipalities in Alberta have created different bylaws to achieve the same goals.

A consistent harmonized system creates the best citizen understanding of the waste system, and therefore provides the best environmental outcomes. When government action (especially at the municipal level) is not harmonized with best practices in neighbouring communities or provinces, it also creates additional cost and administrative burden for retailers.

Retail is a very competitive industry and we are reliant upon Government to maintain a level playing-field. A situation where a store on one side of a road is subject to one set of rules, and their competitor on the other side of the street is not, is inherently uneven.

Given that many retailers conduct business in multiple towns, municipalities and provinces, they attempt to create a seamless customer experience through harmonizing procedures. From store layout to product offerings, pricing and advertising, customers can shop with certainty, knowing that their shopping experience with a chain retailer (including the online experience), will be similar / if not identical at all stores across their network.

Harmonizing procedures also plays a key role in helping a retailer manage costs. The continued growth of online retail and the resulting competition emanating from the massive US and China based online retail companies, makes it crucial for retailers to ensure that they are offering customers a great retail experience at a competitive price. Some of the strategies for managing costs involve retailers making common decisions for all Western Canada concerning product supplies and advertising – such as the procurement of check stand bags.

### Preferred Approach to Single-Use Plastics

Although a ban on single-use plastic bags is not a preferred approach to dealing with single use plastic bags (we prefer a mandatory fee over an outright ban) -- we are not opposed to a ban.

Our members ask however that in the absence of a federal approach that is designed to create a harmonized and level playing field, regional governments look to other existing regulations to avoid creating unnecessary inconsistency.

A harmonized approach ensures operational simplicity, improved environmental outcomes –and the least disruption for consumers.
PEI TEMPLATE PLASTIC BAG BAN

Should your government choose to move forward with a municipal ban on plastic checkstand bags, RCC members encourage supporting the important principle of harmonization by modeling a bylaw using existing best practices.

In recent months RCC and its members have been actively supporting Provincial and municipal single use plastic bag deliberations across the Country.

We encourage jurisdictions who are implemented bans to support the national movement to reduce red tape by considered adopting the language within Prince Edward Island’s “The Plastic Bag Reduction Act” [HERE].

It provides a harmonized template that was extensively consulted on by regional and national stakeholders and has since been used for the Nova Scotia regulations, several municipalities and is the framework being discussed in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Manitoba.

However, since the implantation of the July 1, 2019 PEI regulation, we have also been recommending to the above provincial governments and various municipalities the following practical considerations:

These include:

Amendments:

1. **Definition of Business**: Within the definition of a business, we would encourage the exclusion of Food Banks and Charities as food bank clients depend on bags for transporting donations. Nova Scotia added this amendment to the PEI regulation.

2. **Definition of a “Reusable Bag”**: We encourage you to delete 1 e (iii) and not include the prescriptive “primarily made of cloth or other washable fabric” as new and environmentally improved materials will be entering the market soon and their adoption would require a regulatory amendment.

3. **Delete 5 – 3c for Hygiene Reasons**: PEI allows for single use plastic bags to be returned to stores for reuse by other customers. For hygienic reasons, we would recommend excluding this exception.

4. **Graduated Implementation (Section 8)**: We strongly prefer one fixed fee from the enactment date so as to avoid consumer and business confusion by changing the minimum fee for a paper bag or reusable bag. PEI adjusts its minimum fees up after six months.

5. **Charitable Donations**: Consideration may wish to be given to allow for donations of reusable bags to charities and events for free, if not during a checkstand transaction (an exception to the minimum charge requirement). Presently in PEI retailers cannot do charity giveaways.
**Important Harmonized Features:**

6. **Fee on Paper (Section 4.2):** We encourage a fee be charged for a paper bags as PEI has. Without a fee, consumers would simply shift to single use paper bags that are arguably equally environmentally problematic when considering papers life cycle analysis. Beyond the environment concerns, it would also triple a retailer’s bag expense if consumer pressure build an expectation that paper should be the new “free” alternative.

7. **List of Exceptions:** Please avoid “made in my community” exceptions and for operational simplicity harmonize with the PEI list.

8. **One Year Enforcement Date:** PEI (and Nova Scotia as well as several other jurisdictions) allow for a one-year period until the regulation comes into force to allow existing inventories of plastic bags to be used up, new suppliers to be sourced as well as consumers to adjust. This allows smaller retailers, who often by in 1-2-year bulk buys to to not have to dispose of remaining bags.
Packaging and Other Single-Use Items

Retailers are active participants in multi-stakeholder national and global discussions including the National Strategy for Zero Plastic Waste and Circular Economy Leadership Coalition in an effort to reduce their environmental footprint.

While packaging has many important functions, RCC members are making efforts to reduce the amount of plastics and packaging waste in their operations by:

- Removing difficult-to-recycle materials (PVC and expanded polystyrene)
- Increasing post-consumer recycled content;
- Ensuring and encouraging use of recyclable packaging materials;
- Reducing packaging for eCom-specific items;
- Providing alternatives to single-use products (bags, utensils, cups, straws, etc.)

RCC Members welcome the June 2019 announcement of the federal government’s intended leadership on reducing Canada’s reliance on single-use plastic items.

Generally, RCC members prefer national leadership over municipal regulation, and believe a longer-term effort requiring progressive measures is best to allow for consumer education and research to be completed to avoid unintended negative environment consequences of a migration to alternative materials (bamboo, virgin paper, etc.).

However, we look forward to further conversations with the City of Edmonton and greater Capital region and support a harmonized approach and collaboration. RCC also supports:

- Polystyrene foam restrictions on disposable cups and take-out containers over time;
- An approach that only allows single-use items (straws, cutlery…) upon customer request;
- A requirement to use reusable cups and reusable dishware where practical;
- IC & I where public spaces exist (shopping malls, large office buildings…) could be required to manage materials they generate.

Thank you again for taking the opinions of the retail sector into consideration on this issue. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the information provided in this letter, please feel free to contact me at (204) 926-6824.

John Graham
Director of Government Relations (Prairie Region)
Retail Council of Canada
jgraham@retailcouncil.org
P: (204) 926-8624
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1. Project Overview: Background and Context

The City of Spruce Grove continues to strive to create a more sustainable city and is working with the community to develop a strategy to reduce the amount of single-use items that end up in the landfill each year.

The initial focus of the strategy is to determine how to eliminate plastic retail bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene (Styrofoam) single-use containers. Reducing waste from single-use items would:

- Reduce the amount of material sent to landfill
- Reduce contamination of recyclable and compostable materials
- Reduce the amount of these items managed through public waste collection and litter programs
- Reduce litter in the environment

2. Public Engagement Process

To support the development of a single use items reduction strategy, a public engagement process was designed to allow for both idea generation and responding to best practices, and included activities for both residents and businesses as the strategy will impact both audience groups.

The engagement process was designed to:

- Inform the decision (single-use items reduction strategy)
  - Validate the City’s single-use items reduction vision
  - Determine the level of support for the vision
  - Provide input to develop a strategy to reach the vision
  - Understand current practices, and rationale for the practices
  - Inform options for implementation
  - Identify issues and concerns to be addressed to reach the vision

- Build capacity
  - Support behaviour change
  - Educate on best practise and current local waste statistic

- Strengthen relationships
  - Build new and improve existing relationships with the community
The public engagement process involved two stages and included the following activities:

- Stage 1: Business workshop and follow-up telephone interviews - June 12 to July 13, 2019
- Stage 2: Intercept and online surveys with both residents and businesses – July 23 to August 15, 2019

Based on the City’s Public Participation Spectrum, engagement activities were at the Consult and Involve levels.

3. Engagement Activities

3.1 Business Workshops and Telephone Interviews

A workshop was held with local businesses on June 12, 2019 at Border Paving Athletic Centre to kick-off the engagement process. Seven local business owners / operators attended. To engage a broader cross-section of the business community, additional telephone interviews were conducted following the workshop.

The workshop and telephone interviews were designed as an initial introduction to the project, and an opportunity to gather input to begin to understand current usage of single-use items and the issues, concerns and potential barriers to the implementation of a single-use items reduction strategy. What was learned was used to help shape the online engagement and intercept tools, which were used to gather input from the broader business and residential community. Industries likely to use single-use items (fast food and take-away restaurants, grocery and convenience stores, retail businesses) were targeted with a letter and direct calls encouraging participation in the workshop and/or telephone interviews. As well, representatives from local businesses, franchises and national chains were invited to participate.

Workshop/Interview Participants:

- Appetite Delight
- Atienza Sausage
- Gifts & Gadgets
- Jack’s Drive-In
- Legit Kicks
- Malley’s Seafood
- Mucho Burrito
- Oodle Noodle
- Perk’s Coffee
- Thairific
- Tim Horton’s
- Wilhauk Beef Jerky
3.2 Surveys

Online Survey

Online surveys, hosted on the City’s website between July 23 and August 15, 2019, were developed as an opportunity for both businesses and residents to provide input. The survey tools complemented each other, both covering similar topics.

Intercept Survey

Intercept surveys were conducted to engage a broader segment of the residential population. In a “go to the people” approach, intercept surveys were conducted at grocery stories and recreation facilities. A condensed version of the online engagement survey was used for the intercept surveys.

3.3 Engagement Activities Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Workshop</td>
<td>June 12, 2019</td>
<td>7 Businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Interviews</td>
<td>June 26 - July 13, 2019</td>
<td>5 Businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Survey: Business</td>
<td>July 23 – August 15, 2019</td>
<td>27 Responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Survey: Residents</td>
<td>July 23 – August 15, 2019</td>
<td>645 Respondents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept Survey: Residents</td>
<td>July 31 – August 14, 2019</td>
<td>151 Respondents</td>
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</table>

4. Communications

The following communication tools and tactics were used to raise awareness of the project and drive target groups to the engagement activities:

| Tool or Tactic       | Audience                                | Purpose                                                             | Distribution                  | Quantity |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|                                                                    |                                |         |
| Business Letter #1   | Businesses in target industries         | Introduce single-use items initiative and invite to Business Workshop | Canada Post                   | 460     |
| Business Letter #2   | Businesses in target industries         | Follow up on single-use items initiative and encourage participation in online survey | Canada Post                   | 341     |
| Resident Postcard    | All households and condo/apartment units in Spruce Grove | Introduce single-use items initiative and encourage participation in online survey | Canada Post: Neighborhood Mail | 14,500  |
| Website              | All                                     | Introduce single-use items reduction initiative and encourage participation in online survey |                                | 1,505 visits |
5. What We Heard

5.1 What We Heard: Summary

The following are the key comments heard during all engagement activities.

Levels of Support for the Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy

- The majority of businesses and residents participating in the engagement process support the development of a single-use items reduction initiative. In addition to reducing the amount of waste created, there is some optimism the strategy will help encourage other environmentally responsible changes in the community.

- While this initiative is perceived to be a good starting point, many participants point out that much more needs to be done to reduce the use of single-use plastics. Participants also noted the way retailers and producers package goods for sale creates a significant amount of waste that should also be addressed. It is also perceived to be important to continue to look for solutions for recycling of soft plastics in addition to a reduction of single-use items.

- Residents and businesses who do not support the introduction of a single-use items reduction strategy are concerned about increasing costs, customer frustration, and the government placing restrictions on businesses and individuals.

- There is also disagreement with how some products are labelled as single-use. Retail plastic bags are reused by some residents to dispose of household and pet waste, and by others to recycle into reusable bags and rugs. Those who cannot reuse retail plastic bags for these purposes indicate they will purchase plastic bags, resulting in the same number of plastic bags going into the landfill.

- Finding alternatives to plastic bags, plastic straws, and Styrofoam take-out containers is one of the primary concerns for business owners and retailers who require:
  - Consistent and reliable availability
  - Cost effective options
  - Similar levels of functionality

- There are also general concerns about the frustration of forgetting or not having reusable products (e.g., straws, bags) easily available when needed.

- Throughout the engagement process, a portion of the participants question whether alternatives to single-use products are, in fact, better for the environment. While reusable bags or compostable items reduce the amount of waste going into a landfill, the environmental impacts of producing these items can exceed the impacts of producing single-use items.
How to implement a single-use items reduction strategy

The following are reactions to three possible implementations strategies: Complete Ban, Restrictions, Reporting & Working with the City of Spruce Grove.

- Those who support the introduction of a single-use items reduction strategy tend to prefer a complete ban or placing a restriction on single-use items. Engagement participants want to ensure a sufficient implementation period/staged introduction for businesses to react to and offer alternative solutions, and for the public to be properly advised and educated on their new responsibilities.

- Businesses tend to prefer the flexibility offered by a restriction-based strategy so they can still provide a level of service to customers who have forgotten their reusable items. They do not want business to be able decide if they are or are not going to follow the strategy, thereby creating a potential competitive advantage by continuing to offer single-use items, nor do they want to have to report to the City on an annual basis their single-use items reduction strategy.

- Leading up to the introduction of a new single-use items reduction strategy, respondents and business owners indicate they would like to see Spruce Grove focus on generating awareness of the new strategy, communicating the benefits of the new strategy, and education on how to comply with the new strategy. Businesses would also like the City of Spruce Grove to provide support regarding where and how to source sustainable options.

- When communicating the need and importance of a single-use items reduction strategy, participants tend to identify the most important messages as the lack of a market for recycling soft plastics, the need for reducing single-use items in landfills, and the costs of litter collection.

5.2 What We Heard: Business Workshops and Telephone Interviews

Perceptions of a single-use items reduction strategy

- General support for the need to reduce single-use items and plastics
  - Believe it is important to remove plastics from waste stream.
  - Aware of similar initiatives happening elsewhere; seen to be inevitable that it will happen locally.
  - Many customers already using reusable bags and refusing plastic bags. However, the “easy” work appears to have been done. The next group to influence will be late adopters who appear to be more resistant to change. Those who aren’t currently using reusable bags may be frustrated when plastic bags are no longer available.
  - Styrofoam appears to be the item that businesses see the importance of banning and find easiest to support. Plastic bags however, are not always perceived to be single-use and have value to some beyond carrying initial purchases.
Two participants indicated that as business owners, they do not provide plastic bags to their customers, rather, like many other businesses, they provide paper bags. However, as consumers, they appreciate the convenience of using plastic bags, especially for groceries. They also use them to make other products by knitting the plastic bags into rugs and reusable bags.

**Concerns about implementation of the strategy**

- Existing stock of single-use items (plastic bags, straws, Styrofoam containers). Want time to use-up rather than throw away.

- Finding alternatives to banned / restricted items
  - For businesses that have not looked for alternative products, it can feel daunting. These businesses would like to know where / how to source alternative packaging, they want to know if alternative packaging will be consistently available or if it will run out as demand increases, and they want to know what it will cost.
  - Concern that alternative products will be prohibitively expensive
  - Businesses do not want to be in a position of having to stop using a product (e.g., plastic straws) without an alternative being consistently available (e.g., paper straws)
  - Styrofoam has retention properties to keep products both hot and cold; don’t believe other options provide same properties.

- Businesses do not want to be responsible for introducing and explaining the single-use items reduction strategy. The City of Spruce Grove should be seen as the voice of, and information source for, the strategy.

- Providing a bag to customers for their purchases is seen by some companies as part of their service offering. Forcing customers to bring their own or purchase a reusable bag is not an approach some businesses want to take.

- Some are frustrated by the focus on plastic bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam take-away containers as they are not perceived to be the most important issues / items to address. Rather, the way products are packaged and shipped from the producer is believed to create much more plastics and single-use waste. For these businesses, excessive packaging is perceived to be a bigger environmental issue than plastic retail bags and straws.

- Some do not see plastic bags as single-use as they are often reused multiple times.
Recommendations on the development of a single-use items reduction strategy

- Sufficient lead time will be important
  - Extensive communication program to the broad community advising of and explaining why the restriction / ban is requested.
  - Businesses want the opportunity to use existing stock of bags, straws and take-away containers.
  - Businesses want the time required to research and procure alternative products.
  - For large chains, the direction will need to come from head office. Don’t believe the local stores will be able to influence the corporate purchasing decisions. Will be easier to participate once larger centres (i.e., Vancouver) ban single-use items.

- Some businesses would like to have Spruce Grove conduct a ‘Green Scorecard’ identifying and promoting businesses that have taken steps to engage sustainable practices.

- Interest in Spruce Grove providing a reusable bag option (at no or very low cost). Especially important for smaller, independent businesses that cannot buy in bulk to get cost savings.

- Prefer a complete ban or restriction versus reporting and reduction
  - There is a preference for having Spruce Grove set the approach that businesses must comply with rather than allow businesses to take individual approaches.
  - There is little to no interest in having businesses report on their use of single-use items and the measures they are taking to reduce the number distributed.
  - Reactions to potential strategies options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Ban</td>
<td>• Even playing field for businesses</td>
<td>• No room for exceptions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cannot become a service differentiator</td>
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<td><strong>Option 2:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restriction</td>
<td>• Allows for some flexibility</td>
<td>• Still allows for some plastic bags to be in circulation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Can provide alternatives when customers forget</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Option 3:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting &amp; Working with City of Spruce Grove</td>
<td>• Time intensive</td>
<td>• Do not want City of Spruce Grove advising on business operations</td>
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5.3 What We Heard: Surveys

Survey data was collected in three ways:

- Online survey for business owners
- Online survey for residents
- Intercept survey for residents

All three survey tools included the same set of questions. For brevity, the intercept survey was a shortened version of the online resident survey. The resident’s online and intercept results have been combined. The presentation of results will clarify if the results are for both online and intercept or online only.

Business Demographics

Where is your business located? n= 27

- Spruce Grove (27) 100%

What type of business do you operate? n= 27

- General Merchandise (2) 7.4%
- Grocery / Liquor (2) 7.4%
- Food Service (13) 48.1%
- Health / Personal Care (1) 3.7%
- Personal / Laundry Service (2) 7.4%
- Other (7)

Other businesses listed include home-based business, IT, library, forestry, gym and senior’s care.
Is your business locally owned or part of a franchise, chain or network?
n=27

Residential Demographics

Where do you live? n=796; online and intercept

How many people, including yourself, are living in your household? n=796; online and intercept
Survey Responses

Q1. The City of Spruce Grove has launched a Single-Use Items Waste Reduction Initiative to determine how to reduce or eliminate plastic retail bags, plastic straws and polystyrene (Styrofoam) take-away containers and cups from the waste stream. By doing this, the City also aims to reduce the contamination of recyclable and compostable materials.

The City of Spruce Grove continues to strive to create a greener city and wants to work with you to successfully reduce the amount of single-use items that end up in the landfill each year.

This initiative will have impacts on both businesses and residents, which is why the City needs your help to shape how to best divert these items from the waste stream.

Please rate your level of support for the City of Spruce Grove to develop a strategy that will work to remove plastic straws, plastic bags, and Styrofoam take-away containers from use.

Overall, the Spruce Grove community supports (strongly or somewhat support) the development of a single-use items reduction initiative; 74% of businesses and 88% of residents. Only 23% of businesses and 12% of residents somewhat or strongly oppose the initiative.
Q2. What do you see as the potential benefits for developing a single-use items waste reduction strategy for you / your business?

Many business owners indicate they do not see a benefit specifically for their business. However, some of those respondents understand that the benefits are for the environment. Other benefits identified include:

- Less waste
- Improved business image
- Cost reduction; not supplying single-use items
- Helping to encourage behaviour change in the community

Similarly, many residents who completed the survey indicate that they do not see benefits for themselves specifically, but rather the benefits are for the broader community and environment. Other benefits identified include:

- Less waste
- Encouraging a focus on environmental stewardship and environmentally friendly options
- Encourages retailers / manufacturers to use less packaging
- Focus on reducing rather than recycling
- Saves money / not spending money on single use items
- Less litter / cleaner city
- Peace of mind / sense of satisfaction
- Increase opportunities to recycle and compost
Q3. As a business owner / resident, what do you see as the potential concerns or barriers for participation in a single-use waste reduction strategy?

Businesses tend to be most concerned about the cost and availability of alternative products for their customers. As well, they are concerned about:

- Lack of service / unhappy customers
- Alternatives to single-use items being ineffective (no heat retention, don’t offer the same hygienic properties)
- Having existing stock to use up or throw out
- As part of a chain / franchise not having access to alternative products

Residents are most concerned that the introduction of a single-use items reduction strategy will increase costs and inconvenience.

Specific concerns or perceived barriers include:

- Alternative products are not better for the environment (e.g., increased costs and environmental impact to make paper and cloth bags)
- Plastic bags are not single-use / will have to buy plastic garbage bags
- Plastic bags are needed for household and pet waste, and to keep meat from contaminating other groceries
- There will be an adjustment period / change is difficult
- Forgetting / not having reusable bags
- Issue is trivial:
  - manufacturers and producers create far more plastic and polystyrene in packaging
  - single-use cutlery a bigger issue than straws
- Lack of support from business and community
- Waste of taxpayer money
- Increased municipal fees for waste management
- Confusion about where and how to dispose of items (e.g., plastic in garbage, glass to eco station)
- Paper / reusable straws don’t work for many people with health or mobility issues
- Don’t like paper straw option / paper straws negatively impact the drinking experience
- Will discourage investment in Spruce Grove / will be a disadvantage for local business
- Reducing single-use items is important, but still need to find or develop options for recycling plastic
Q4. Of the three single-use items that will be the focus of the waste reduction strategy, which do you feel will have the biggest impact on your business / you as a resident?

A significant number of respondents indicated that they would not be affected by banning any of the three single-use items. Some go on to say they would appreciate the ban; it would help them to more consistently remember their reusable bags and straws.

Q5. Please explain your selection

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Business</strong></th>
<th><strong>Resident</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plastic Bags</strong></td>
<td>• Important part of the delivery of their product</td>
<td>• What I use most often of the three items</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Customers expect them</td>
<td>• Reuse multiple times; a ban will require the purchase of plastic bags for household / pet waste</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Alternatives are expensive or not sturdy</td>
<td>• Prefer them for carrying raw meat</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Have trouble remembering reusable bags</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Retailer will have to provide alternatives for straws and polystyrene; customer has to be proactive and bring reusable bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plastic Straws</strong></td>
<td>• Alternative products (e.g., paper straws) are expensive and an inferior product</td>
<td>• Paper straws perceived to be an inferior product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Straws needed for hygienic reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Plastic straws needed for some medical / mobility / allergy issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Forget to bring reusable straws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Styrofoam</strong></td>
<td>• Don’t know of sturdy, environmentally acceptable, reasonably priced alternatives.</td>
<td>• Perceived to be out of the consumers control. Will be up to businesses to stop packaging items in Styrofoam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Don’t know of an alternative that has similar heat retention properties</td>
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</table>
Q6. In the development of a single-use items waste reduction strategy, Spruce Grove has consulted with other communities who have similar goals and objectives.

Through this process, three commonly used strategies have been identified:

**Strategy 1: Complete Ban**
- Bylaw in place that prohibits the distribution of the identified single-use items
- There is a ticket / fine issued to any business caught distributing these items
- Alternatives to plastic bags can be used when requested by the customer and for a fee
- Straws only be distributed in the case of a medical condition and preferably only paper straws
- Customers can use their own bags or straws
- Retailer can sell reusable bags

**Strategy 2: Restriction**
- Businesses can distribute the single-use items for a fee only when asked for by the customer
- A ticket / fine is issued to any business distributing items if not requested by the customer
- Intended to be a gradual move to a complete ban after 2 to 3 years

**Strategy 3: Reporting**
- Businesses would submit annually to the City a report highlighting the number of single-use items distributed and measures taken to reduce the number distributed
- Businesses would also highlight actions they plan to undertake in the following year to further reduce the number of single-use items distributed
- The municipality works with businesses one-on-one to develop a strategy if the number of single-use items being distributed is not being reduced year over year
- Not submitting a report is in violation of an associated bylaw
Of these three options, which do you believe would be the best fit for our community?

Q7. Other (n=71)

Many respondents who answered ‘Other’ in response to the preferred single-use items waste strategy indicate they do not support any strategy.

Those who provide suggestions on the strategy recommend the following:

- Implement a complete ban, but ensure sufficient implementation period / staged introduction for businesses to react and offer alternative solutions and for the public to be properly advised and educated on their new responsibilities
- Develop an option for recycling plastics and other products marked with the ‘Recyclable’ symbol
- Investigate options to repurpose single-use plastics. In other countries, this is being done to make decking surfaces, sidings, road construction, etc.
- With a ban, reduce curbside recycling to once every other week and reduce the rate charged to residents
- Provide incentives to businesses already using greener options
Q8. What, if any, support could Spruce Grove provide to retailers prior to and/or during the implementation of the single-use items reduction strategy?

Residents (n=47) identify the following additional opportunities for Spruce Grove to provide retailers support prior to and/or during the implementation of the single-use items reduction strategy:

- Support businesses and residents in finding affordable alternatives to single-use items
- Develop a social media campaign, and possibly a contest, to promote creative alternatives to using single-use items
- Charge more for collecting garbage surplus and invest proceeds to make recycling easier
- Pass savings from reduction in waste collection on to residents
- Provide composting and recycling service to businesses and multi-family dwellings
- Provide reusable straws to demonstrate their ease of use; most people already have experience with reusable bags
- Enforcement for people who litter, don’t properly separate garbage and/or don’t comply with new strategy
- Find/develop a solution for recycling plastics
- Wait on developing a strategy until biodegradable bags are an option
- Initiate more public consultation and debate
- Don't interfere. Allow purchasers to decide what they want to do regarding single-use items
- Don't waste taxpayer money on education/awareness/support materials (e.g., reusable bags)
Q9. The following is a summary of Spruce Grove’s initiative to develop a strategy to reduce or eliminate single-use items from day-to-day use and ultimately from the waste stream.

Leading the Way!

Municipalities across Alberta are joining others across Canada and the globe to reduce the amount of single-use items in their waste and recycling streams. Spruce Grove is at the forefront of this initiative in Alberta. Let’s work together to be a leader!

The City’s initial focus is to determine how to reduce or eliminate plastic retail bags, straws and polystyrene (Styrofoam) single-use containers and cups from the waste stream. By doing this, we also aim to reduce the contamination of our recyclable and compostable materials.

Over the last couple of years, there has been a drastic change in what can be recycled. Items that were once recyclable, like soft plastics, no longer have markets or businesses willing or able to recycle them. This results in a lot more waste heading to landfill.

The Single-Use Items Waste Reduction Initiative is the beginning of a larger program to reduce the use of single-use items in our community. The strategy may expand to include other items at the direction of the community.

Waste by Numbers:

- It is estimated that single-use items account for about half of the 300 million tons of plastic produced around the world each year. Only 13% of plastics are recycled worldwide.
- In 2016, Spruce Grove conducted a waste audit that indicated non-rigid plastic made up 4% of the recycling stream and 2% of the garbage stream by weight.
- Polystyrene or Styrofoam was recorded at 0.2% of the recycling stream and 1% of the garbage stream by weight. Considering the very low weight of a plastic bag and Styrofoam, measuring by weight minimizes the issue.
- In Vancouver alone, around 2 million plastic shopping bags are disposed of in the garbage each week (63% of those are reused as garbage bags).
- According to the Retail Council of Alberta the average Albertan receives 147 plastic retail bags a year.
- The City of Spruce Grove spends on average $70,000 annually picking up litter in our public spaces which consists mainly of single-use items such as coffee/fast food cups, straws, polystyrene and cigarette butts.
What information do you feel is most important to communicate the need for and to generate support for a single-use items reduction strategy? (select up to four)

Residents (n=50) who indicate ‘Other’ information to communicate the need for and generate support for single-use item reduction strategy share the following ideas:

- Explain the long-term and global impact of plastic
- The time it takes for plastic items to decompose
- Provide an overview of all aspects of waste collection; what goes into landfill, the amount of plastic / single-use items compared to all other garbage, how to improve on all aspects of waste.
- The cost savings as a result of implementing a single-items reduction strategy.

Q10. BUSINESS ONLY: If your business moves to using compostable products instead of plastic (e.g., compostable single-use straws, packaging), how would you like to dispose of those products?
Q11. In summary, what is important for the City of Spruce Grove to consider when developing a single-use items reduction strategy?

Business (n=21)

Business owners who participated indicate the City of Spruce Grove needs to consider the following when developing a single-use items reduction strategy:

- Develop an effective communication strategy to generate awareness and support
- Minimize the costs to business as a result of implementing the strategy
- Incentivize businesses taking a lead in environmentally responsible practices
- Develop curbside recycling and composting services for businesses
- Enforcement needs to be consistent and fine revenues should be reinvested in the initiative
- Address use of plastics and Styrofoam from growers and producers

Residents (n=443)

- Provide incentives for people and businesses already eliminating the use of single-use items
- Move quickly on a complete ban
- The strategy should be simple and easy to understand and follow.
- Reduce waste removal service to bi-weekly collection to encourage residents to reduce the dispose of amount of single-use items
- Phase in the introduction of the new strategy to help people and businesses adjust
- Education and support is key. Think about how this will impact all members of society and if they will need additional education / support: elderly, low-income, mobility restricted, etc.
- Ensure there are multiple ways for residents to get information
- Enforcement will be an important element to ensure all businesses comply
- Provide information on how Spruce Grove’s waste is shipped outside of Canada
- Be a leader in promoting plastic reduction and moving to composting
- Promote options for replacing single use items / tell residents what options are available and where to get them
- Don’t replace single-use plastics with alternatives that are equally hard on the environment
- There will be an adjustment period, but people learn new habits and they will learn to carry reusable items with them
- Don’t overreact to negative reactions from people who don’t support environmental initiatives
- For those who aren’t motivated to recycle / don’t see the benefits, explain the cost (both spending and taxes) of not recycling and how it contaminates natural resources in Alberta
- Continue to look for opportunities to recycle plastics, glass, and or metal (don’t give up)
- Work with retailers / producers to reduce packaging (e.g., clamshells, excessive packaging) and the distribution of single-use items
- Support businesses through the transition; don’t make it their responsibility / don’t put the cost burden on them
- Give businesses enough lead time to source out cost-effective alternatives and provide for their customers
- Plastic retail bags are not single-use. If they cannot get them from retail outlets, residents will buy plastic bags at the grocery store
- Don’t implement new taxes / raise taxes to support this strategy
- Do not implement a strategy. Let the market decide if they want single-use plastics