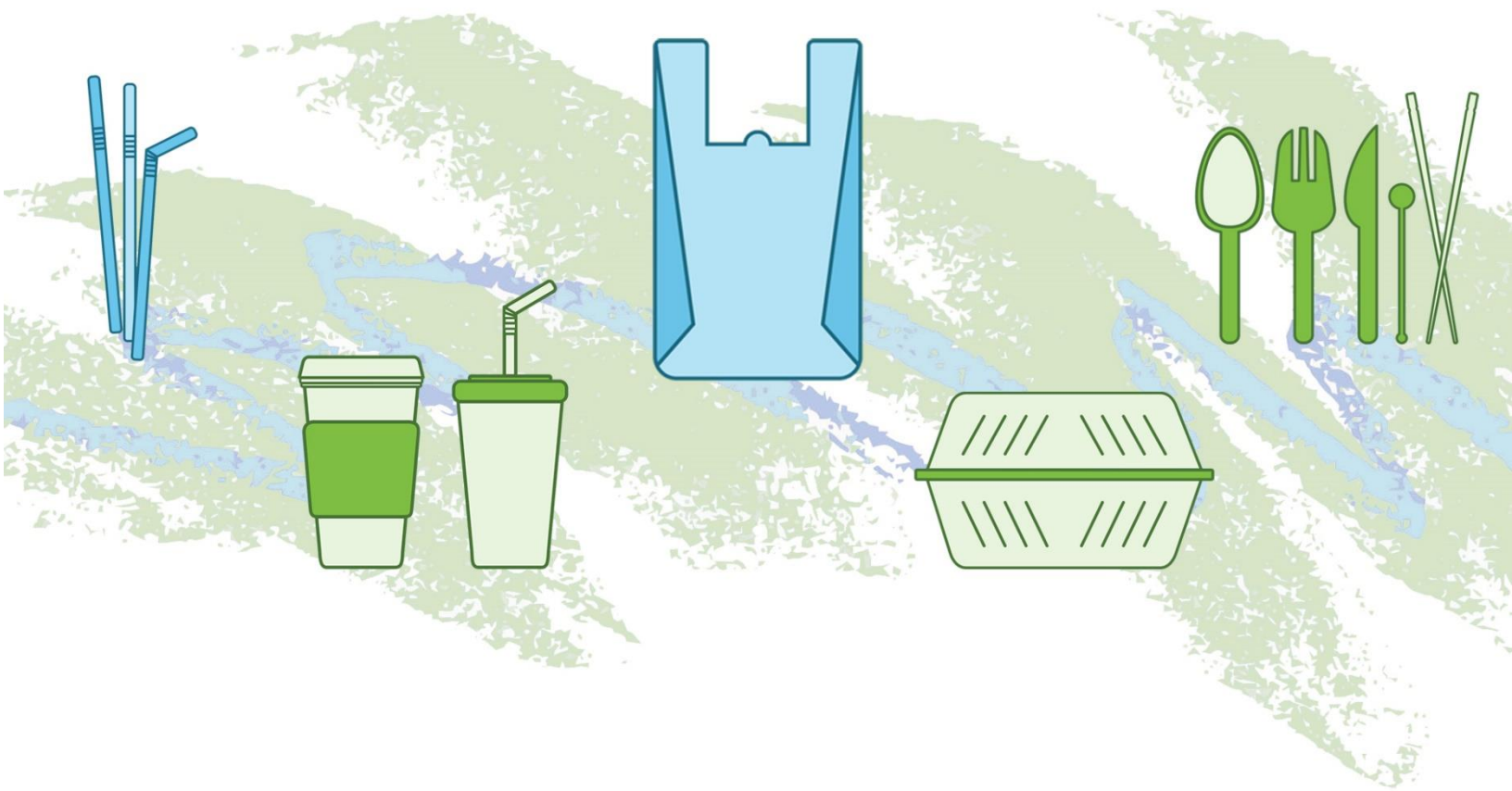


CITY OF CHILLIWACK

SINGLE-USE ITEM REDUCTION STRATEGY

September 2021



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Introduction

To reduce waste sent to landfill and better protect the environment, the City of Chilliwack has crafted a Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy to decrease waste from the following:

- Shopping bags
- Hot and cold drink cups
- Take-out food containers
- Straws
- Disposable utensils

While convenient, single-use items are often difficult to recycle or compost and create unnecessary waste and litter. Single-use items made of plastic can persist in the environment for decades or longer, and can negatively impact wildlife. Plastics identified as biodegradable and compostable are also problematic because they often do not sufficiently break down in composting processes and can also contaminate regular plastic recycling streams. Although single-use items made of paper decompose faster than plastic, they still take considerable natural resources to produce and can have a higher carbon footprint than their plastic counterparts. It is therefore important that a Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy not result in a switch from one disposable material type to another, but rather encourage a shift to durable, reusable items wherever possible.

This strategy outlines the actions that the City of Chilliwack will take to lessen our community's reliance on the aforementioned items. It was created with input from over 1,300 Chilliwack residents and businesses and is intended to radically reduce waste from single-use items, while encouraging the use of sustainable alternatives.

Consultation and Engagement

Phase 1

The City of Chilliwack enlisted the services of a consultant to plan and conduct an initial round of consultation with the public and businesses on single-use items. Public consultation took place in December 2019, followed by consultation with businesses in January 2020. Consultation efforts focused on public and commercial use and reliance on single-use items, as well as attitudes towards reducing their prevalence in Chilliwack. Overall, consultation found that public support for single-use item reduction initiatives was high. Most residents felt that action needs to be taken on single-use items, including education and bylaws regulating their use.

Public consultation entailed three pop-up booths and an online survey. In total, staff interacted with 196 residents at the three pop-up booths. The booths provided an opportunity to engage those who had not heard of the consultation process or were unable to participate in the online survey. The online public survey garnered responses from 1,019 residents over three weeks and was heavily promoted through social media, newspaper ads, and at the pop-up booths.

Consultation with businesses occurred in January 2020 and included an open house, workshop, and online survey. Letters were mailed to 1,284 business license holders in relevant license categories informing them of the consultation process and providing information on how they could take part. Social media was also used to promote the business consultation process, and the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce used its resources to notify members. A total of 19 people participated in the open house and workshop, and 20 responses were received to the online survey. Attendees at the open house and workshop were supportive of efforts to reduce single-use items in Chilliwack. Several of the business owners highlighted reduction actions that they have already made or were planning to make.

A copy of the Engagement Summary Report is included in Appendix A.

Phase 2

Following development of the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw, the City of Chilliwack conducted a second round of consultation with businesses and the public in March and April 2021. The intent of this consultation effort was to seek specific feedback on the regulations and timelines in the bylaw. Due to the global pandemic, consultation was accomplished online through the City's consultation platform, Engage Chilliwack. As with the initial consultation round, public support for single-use item reduction initiatives, including those proposed in the bylaw, remained high. An online survey targeting members of the public had 94 responses with 82% of residents in favour of the bylaw. A business survey indicated some support for the reduction measures from nine respondents, but also raised concerns about the implementation timeline.

Federal and Provincial Initiatives

As of September 2021, both the Provincial and Federal Governments have announced a number of initiatives intended to tackle the problem of single-use plastic items.

The Provincial Government of British Columbia declared its intention to create a Plastics Action Plan in 2019. Since then, the Province has added a range of single-use plastic items to the *Recycling Regulation*, ensuring that there is an end-of-life management plan administered by an approved extended producer responsibility program for these items. In July 2021, the Province adopted new regulations under the Community Charter that allow local governments to regulate plastic single-use items, such as shopping bags, plastic straws and polystyrene foam take-out containers, without requiring provincial approval.

The Federal Government has announced plans to reduce plastic pollution in Canada, including banning harmful single-use plastics, as early as the end of 2021. The intention is to manage plastics through the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, based on a scientific assessment of the harm caused by particular products. The Federal Government has identified a range of products that may be environmentally problematic or present recovery challenges, including six plastic items that warrant a ban or restriction:

- Plastic checkout bags
- Plastic stir sticks
- Six pack rings
- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic straws
- Food service ware made from problematic plastics (e.g. foam)

Priority Actions for Reducing Single-Use Items in Chilliwack

The priority actions outlined in this section have been developed to align with federal and provincial initiatives to reduce plastic waste, with several additional components to address problematic single-use items that are made of other materials.

Overview and Timelines

2020	Education
	Develop a public education campaign via social media to raise awareness and promote behaviour change related to reusable bags, cups, utensils, and other items.
	Infrastructure
	Expand streetscape recycling and introduce streetscape compostable waste disposal options in the downtown core.
	Advocacy and Collaboration
	Support and encourage action on single-use items by other levels of government through consultation opportunities and other lines of communication.
2021+	Regulatory Plans
	Draft Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw.
	Amend bylaw to augment and comply with Provincial and Federal regulations on single-use items, as required.
	Education
	Provide educational tools and resources on the City's website for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The public. 2. Businesses, non-profits, institutions, festivals, and events.
	Implement an education campaign informing businesses of the single-use item bylaw and encouraging compliance.
	Promote and amplify education and behaviour change campaigns led by industry organizations, non-profits, and community groups.
	Infrastructure
	Expand streetscape recycling outside the downtown core.
	Advocacy and Collaboration
	Engage with businesses and other likeminded groups about strategies for reducing and recovering single-use items, including opportunities for knowledge-sharing between businesses.
2022+	Enforcement
	Enforce single-use item bylaw through education, dialogue, and fines.

Targeted Actions

Shopping Bags	Ban the distribution of <u>plastic</u> checkout bags at the point of sale across all business sectors from April 1 st , 2022.
	Establish a minimum fee schedule for <u>paper</u> checkout bags at the point of sale across all business sectors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 1st, 2022: Minimum \$0.15 charge. 2. January 1st, 2023: Minimum \$0.25 charge.
	Establish a minimum fee schedule for reusable bags at the point of sale across all business sectors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 1st, 2022: Minimum \$1.00 charge. 2. January 1st, 2023: Minimum \$2.00 charge.
Hot and Cold Drink Cups	Ban the distribution of <u>foam</u> drink cups at the point of sale across all business sectors from April 1 st , 2022.
	Establish a minimum fee schedule for <u>plastic</u> and <u>paper</u> drink cups at the point of sale across all business sectors once legislative authority over these items has been granted by the Province.
Take-Out Food Containers	Ban the distribution of <u>foam</u> take-out containers at the point of sale across all business sectors from April 1 st , 2022.
	Work with Fraser Health to communicate health and safety standards for customers to bring their own containers to food vendors.
Straws	Ban the distribution of <u>plastic</u> straws at the point of sale, unless requested for accessibility needs, across all business sectors from April 1 st , 2022.
	Prohibit businesses from providing <u>paper</u> straws unless requested by the customer from April 1 st , 2022.
Disposable Utensils	Ban the distribution of <u>plastic</u> disposable utensils at the point of sale across all business sectors from April 1 st , 2022.
	Prohibit businesses from providing <u>non-plastic</u> disposable utensils unless requested by the customer from April 1 st , 2022.

Note: References to plastic mean all types of plastic, including biodegradable and compostable plastic.

Implementation

The City of Chilliwack's Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy establishes a plan of action for implementation between 2020 and 2023. The timing of some components may be adjusted depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout this process the City will continue to engage with businesses, residents, and stakeholders to ensure that concerns are heard and support is offered, as we work towards a future without single-use items and the unintended consequences of the waste they create.

More information on the City of Chilliwack's transition away from single-use items can be found at: www.chilliwack.com/singleuse