

Single-Use Items Bylaw Report

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council give three readings to Proposed Bylaw 1H2023, the Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw.

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 2022 October 5, Council approved the *Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy* as set out in Attachment 2 of the 2022 September 27 Operational Services report CD2022-0985. The proposed bylaw enables us to implement the approved strategy.
- **What is the Bylaw?** The Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw is intended to reduce single-use items entering the waste stream and the environment and promote reusable alternatives. It requires a mandatory minimum fee be charged on new paper and new reusable shopping bags, and customer request for single-use foodware accessories made of any material. The bylaw will come into effect on January 16, 2024.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Calgarians can have a positive impact by refusing unnecessary single-use items, choosing reusable ones when possible, and properly disposing of the single-use items that they do use. When making purchases, Calgarians can refuse a shopping bag when it's not needed, bring a reusable shopping bag, or pay a fee for a bag. The fees charged will be retained by businesses and will help to offset costs of alternative materials. Foodware accessory items such as napkins, stir sticks, and condiment packets will still be available but only provided upon request.
- **Why does this matter?** The extraction of raw materials for single-use items uses valuable natural resources, and their production, packaging and distribution uses energy and results in greenhouse gas emissions. When littered or leaked into the natural environment, single-use items threaten the health of our wildlife, ecosystems, and water bodies. Reducing our reliance on single-use items mitigates these impacts.
- As a complement to the bylaw, The City will encourage voluntary reduction measures for single-use cups and takeout containers.
- Once the bylaw is approved, The City will conduct engagement, develop support tools for businesses and citizens, undertake education and awareness campaigns, and work to mitigate unintended consequences for equity-deserving groups.

DISCUSSION



In October 2022, Council approved the *Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy* and directed Administration to bring forward the Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw to Council before the end of Q1 2023 (CD2022-0985). The proposed bylaw enables us to implement the approved strategy.

Millions of single-use items are discarded in Calgary every week. While the Government of Canada prohibited the manufacture and import of six categories of single-use plastics on December 20, 2022 (with sale to be prohibited on December 20, 2023), simply substituting single-use plastic items with those made from other materials (e.g. paper, wood, bio-plastics) will not solve the problem of how much waste is created. In fact, some substitutes may have higher environmental impacts or cause problems for City waste diversion programs.

Single-Use Items Bylaw Report

The focus of the single-use items reduction strategy is on reducing waste from single-use items regardless of material. The bylaw targets items that can easily be replaced with reusable options or completely avoided.

The bylaw includes the following requirements:

Single-use Item	Bylaws
 Shopping Bags	Mandatory minimum fee on paper shopping bags and new reusable shopping bags
 Foodware accessories (utensils, straws, stir sticks, pre-packaged condiments and napkins)	Customer request required for single-use accessories made from any material

Calgarians need time to transition to the new federal and municipal requirements. Therefore, the bylaw will come into force after the final federal regulations, and twelve months are scheduled between bylaw approval and its effective date of January 16, 2024.

Upon approval of the bylaw, Administration will implement a communications plan to raise awareness of the bylaw among residents, businesses and other organizations, as well as develop support tools to facilitate transition to the new requirements.

When the bylaw is in force, enforcement of bylaw provisions in cases of non-compliance will take an education first approach. Businesses will be provided information and support, and the opportunity to become compliant, prior to the application of any penalties.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

- Administration conducted several phases of engagement and research with residents and interested parties from 2018 to 2022. These inputs were used to shape and refine the strategy and provided a preliminary understanding of the types of education and support that would be beneficial.
- A webpage (calgary.ca/singleuse) was launched in September 2022 and will be further developed in 2023 to provide information on the single-use items reduction strategy.
- A public notice was printed in the Calgary Herald (November 8 and 15, 2022) to invite feedback on the proposed Bylaw at the Public Hearing.
- Administration and the Engage! Team have developed an engagement strategy that is scheduled to be implemented from January to April 2023. This phase of engagement will focus on businesses and organizations and seek to better understand any questions or concerns about the bylaw, gain input on the types of resource materials that would be most useful, and identify the best communication channels. This input will inform development of support tools, the awareness campaign, and calgary.ca/singleuse. The

Single-Use Items Bylaw Report

awareness campaign and resources for businesses and residents will be rolled out in Q3 and Q4, 2023.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

One of the goals of the strategy is to minimize negative impacts on equity-deserving groups. The strategy was informed by equity analysis and guidance provided by The City's Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee. Administration will monitor for unintended consequences of the bylaw on equity-deserving groups and continue to work with businesses and organizations to mitigate potential impacts.

Reducing waste from single-use items makes Calgary a more attractive place to live and increases Calgary's reputation as an environmentally friendly city.

Environmental

The proposed bylaw helps mitigate life cycle environmental impacts of single-use items. Producing and distributing single-use items consumes natural resources, uses energy, and leads to greenhouse gas emissions. When littered or leaked into the natural environment, single-use items threaten the health of our wildlife, ecosystems, and water bodies. Further, when organic single-use items (such as paper or wood) break down in landfills, they produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Economic

The proposed bylaw benefits businesses by minimizing or reducing their costs. Businesses would retain revenues from the mandatory minimum fee on single-use and new reusable shopping bags, offsetting costs they might incur for purchasing non-plastic alternatives. A 'by request' policy for foodware accessories may also reduce costs for businesses because they will need to purchase and dispose of fewer of these items.

The single-use items reduction strategy may contribute to opportunities for innovation and new businesses (e.g. deposit return systems for reusable takeout containers, cups, or reusable totes/containers for grocery delivery).

Service and Financial Implications

Existing operating funding - base

\$200,000

Operating costs are related to awareness campaigns and support programs for businesses and citizens, as well as additional engagement. This has been planned and can be managed within Waste & Recycling Services' current operating budget, drawing on existing staff and consulting budgets.

RISK

Social, reputational, compliance and environmental risks with minor impact have been identified.

A risk assessment was included as Appendix C of Attach2-Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy-CD2022-0985

**Operational Services Report to
Public Hearing Meeting of Council
2023 January 17**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2023-0007
Page 4 of 4**

Single-Use Items Bylaw Report

ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Proposed Bylaw 1H2023

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Julie Radke, Director	Waste & Recycling Services	Approve
Doug Morgan, GM	Operational Services	Approve
Maggie Burlington, Shawn Swinn	Law	Consult
Damian Cole	Bylaw	Consult