

Scoping Report on Reducing Waste from Single-Use Items





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1. Introduction

This document outlines the proposed scope for developing a single-use items reduction strategy for Calgary. The scope includes an approach and timeline, as well as the budget.

A single-use items reduction strategy is being considered for the following reasons:

- **There is increased public interest:** Results from the preliminary engagement found that most respondents would like The City of Calgary to take action to reduce waste from single-use items.
- **Single-use items contribute to waste in our public spaces:** Single-use items are some of the top items found in our public space waste receptacles. Limiting use of these items may reduce costs incurred by The City to manage this waste.
- **Single-use items can become litter:** When single-use items don't get recycled or disposed of properly, they can become litter in our parks and pathways, or in other public spaces.
- **Single-use items contaminate our recycled materials:** While some of these items are recyclable, they are often not sorted properly for recycling - for example: plastic bags not bundled together in a single bag. They may also contaminate the other recyclable materials or cause problems with the sorting equipment at the Materials Recovery Facility, impacting the marketability of Calgary's recyclables.
- **Single-use items are wasteful and alternatives exist for many of these items:** There are reusable, easy to recycle or compostable alternatives for most of these items.
- **Reducing waste from single-use items supports our vision** to lead the community towards zero waste.

2. Proposed Approach, Timeline and Budget

This section of the report provides an overview of the proposed approach to develop a strategy to reduce waste from single-use items.

2.1 Items in Scope

The following items will be considered in scope for a single-use items reduction strategy as they are the most commonly targeted items, which align with the initial feedback received from Waste & Recycling Services' (WRS') online engagement and Vancouver's single-use item reduction strategy:

- plastic bags
- plastic stir sticks
- plastic disposable straws
- plastic utensils
- take-out containers
- disposable cups (hot and cold beverage)

A final list of items for a single-use items reduction strategy will be based on further research and stakeholder engagement.

2.2 Stakeholders

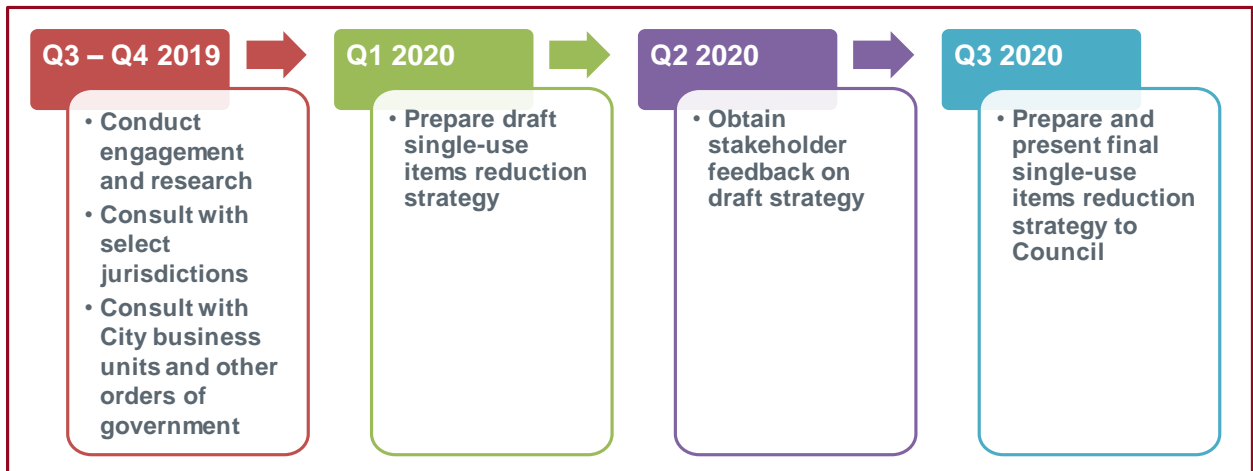
In developing this strategy, WRS will consult with individuals, businesses and institutions. Some of the stakeholder groups that may be directly or indirectly impacted and consulted include:

- citizens
- food establishments
- retailers
- health institutions
- specialized care facilities

In addition to external stakeholders, WRS will consult with other Business Units internally and other orders of government.

2.3 Approach and Timeline

The proposed approach and timeline for developing a single-use items reduction strategy is presented below:



Conduct Research and Engagement

Stakeholder input will be obtained using research and engagement. Through the research and engagement, WRS will seek to understand:

- Which single-use items stakeholders want included in the strategy.
- Preferred reduction approaches for these items.
- Potential impact of the preferred approach and unintended consequences.
- Options to mitigate unintended consequences.

WRS will engage an external research firm to contact Calgarians and business and institutional stakeholders. Engagement will be facilitated by City staff and may include feedback through an online portal, workshops, festivals and pop-ups.

Consult with Select Jurisdictions

WRS will consult with jurisdictions that have single-use items reduction strategies to better understand:

- The methodology used
- The specific factors that influenced their strategy decisions
- Their long-term goals
- Lessons learned from the development and implementation of a single-use items reduction strategy

The City of Vancouver, which has undertaken an extensive consultation and engagement process over the past three years, will be a key resource. WRS will also engage The City of Edmonton to identify opportunities for potential alignment. Several other jurisdictions are being considered for additional consultation and the final selection will occur following further research.

Consult with City Business Units and Other Levels of Government

Internal consultation across business units within The City will be conducted to understand how proposed strategies may impact customers and The City as a corporation. It will be essential to consult with Law, Calgary Community Standards, and Environmental & Safety Management. WRS will also consult with appropriate provincial and federal departments to determine areas of alignment and how the strategy may be developed to coordinate with future provincial or federal initiatives.

Prepare Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy

WRS will prepare a draft single-use reduction strategy by Q1 2020, taking into consideration results from stakeholder research, engagement, and strategies that have been adopted by other jurisdictions. WRS will then obtain stakeholder feedback on the draft strategy by Q2 2020, modify the strategy as needed, and present a final single-use items reduction strategy to Council by Q3 2020.



2.4 Budget

The estimated cost for citizen research, engagement and communication costs is \$250,000 to 300,000 including staff time. This can be managed within WRS' current operating budget by allocating existing staff and consulting budget to this project.