

Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction

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June 18, 2019



Agenda

- Background :
 - Direction From City Council on Single-use and Takeaway Items
 - Alignment with Long Term Waste Management Strategy
 - Historical efforts to address similar items
- Emerging Federal and Provincial Single-use Policies
- Phase 1 Consultation – Fall 2018
 - Summary of Results
- Preparations for Phase 2 consultation – Fall 2019
- Question & Answer

Background

In January 2018, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee referred an Item on Reducing the Use of Single-use Products to Solid Waste Management Services for consideration as part of the Long Term Waste Management Strategy

In April 2018, Solid Waste Management Services reported to City Council on challenges facing Toronto's Blue Bin recycling program:

- Delay in development of an amended Blue Box Program Plan – full EPR for producers
- Increasing contamination in Blue Bin recycling lower quality of material recovered
- New restrictions from international markets on the import of wastes

Toronto's Long Term Waste Management Strategy

- The Waste Strategy places renewed focus on reduction and reuse (July 2016)
- Public Engagement: Reach out to Toronto's diverse communities to educate on program changes, good waste management practices and encourage waste reduction and reuse.



Developing a Process

In response to the City's challenges with the Blue Bin Recycling program, City Council requested in April 2018 that:

- The Federal Gov. develop a national strategy to address plastic pollution, including 9 recommendations, and that City Council forward motion to FCM
- Solid Waste develop a process to reduce and/or eliminate single-use or takeaway packaging to help achieve the City's goal to become a circular economy city as part of the Long Term Waste Strategy



City Council Direction on Single-Use and Takeaway Items

City Council direction in July 2018 (PW 31.10 – Options to Reduce Single-use and Takeaway Items):

- a) develop a work plan aimed to reduce the use of single-use or takeaway packaging or products by completing pre-consultation with residents and stakeholders in Fall 2018 and a report back in 2019
- b) develop a policy which would restrict use of plastic straws in the City of Toronto
- c) consult with affected businesses, community health groups and other organizations prior to the submission of the proposed policy which would restrict plastic straws and report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in 2019

City of Toronto Efforts to Address Single-Use and Takeaway Items

2007: 70% waste diversion target set by City Council

2008: City Council adopts \$0.05 fee for plastic bags

2009: By-law adopted prohibiting retailers from distributing plastic bags not compatible with the Blue Bin Program

2012: Plastic Bag Fee is rescinded

2009 – 2013: Solid Waste campaigns focus on reduce & reuse

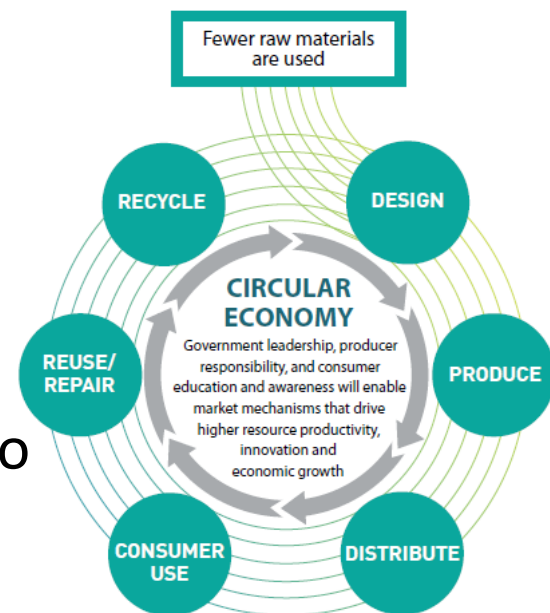
2016: Long Term Waste Strategy adopted by City Council

2017/2018: Addition of New materials to the City's Waste Diversion Programs Policy

2018/2019: Phase 1 Consultation takes place to address single-use and takeaway items

Provincial Efforts on Single-Use and Takeaway Items

- Province of Ontario / Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
 - Recently enacted Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016 has accompanying Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy
 - Goals of Zero Waste Ontario and Development of Circular Economy
 - Suggested strategies include bans on materials, strengthening of EPR to encourage reuse
- In March 2019, current government released the *Reducing Waste and Litter in Our Communities: Discussion Paper*
 - Heavy focus on reducing litter aligns well with goals of single-use and takeaway items reduction programs
- In June 2019, the Province assigned a mediator to facilitate a process to transition the Blue Box program to full producer responsibility



Federal Efforts on Single-Use and Takeaway Items

- Federal Government



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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- 2018 Ocean Plastics Charter was adopted by G7 and focus of September 2018 G7 Environment Ministers meeting
- Consultation on ***Moving Canada toward zero plastic waste*** (April 22, 2018 – September 21, 2018)
- June 2019 – Federal Government announces a plan to ban single-use plastics as early as 2021, and work with provinces and territories to introduce standards and targets for companies that manufacture plastic packaging

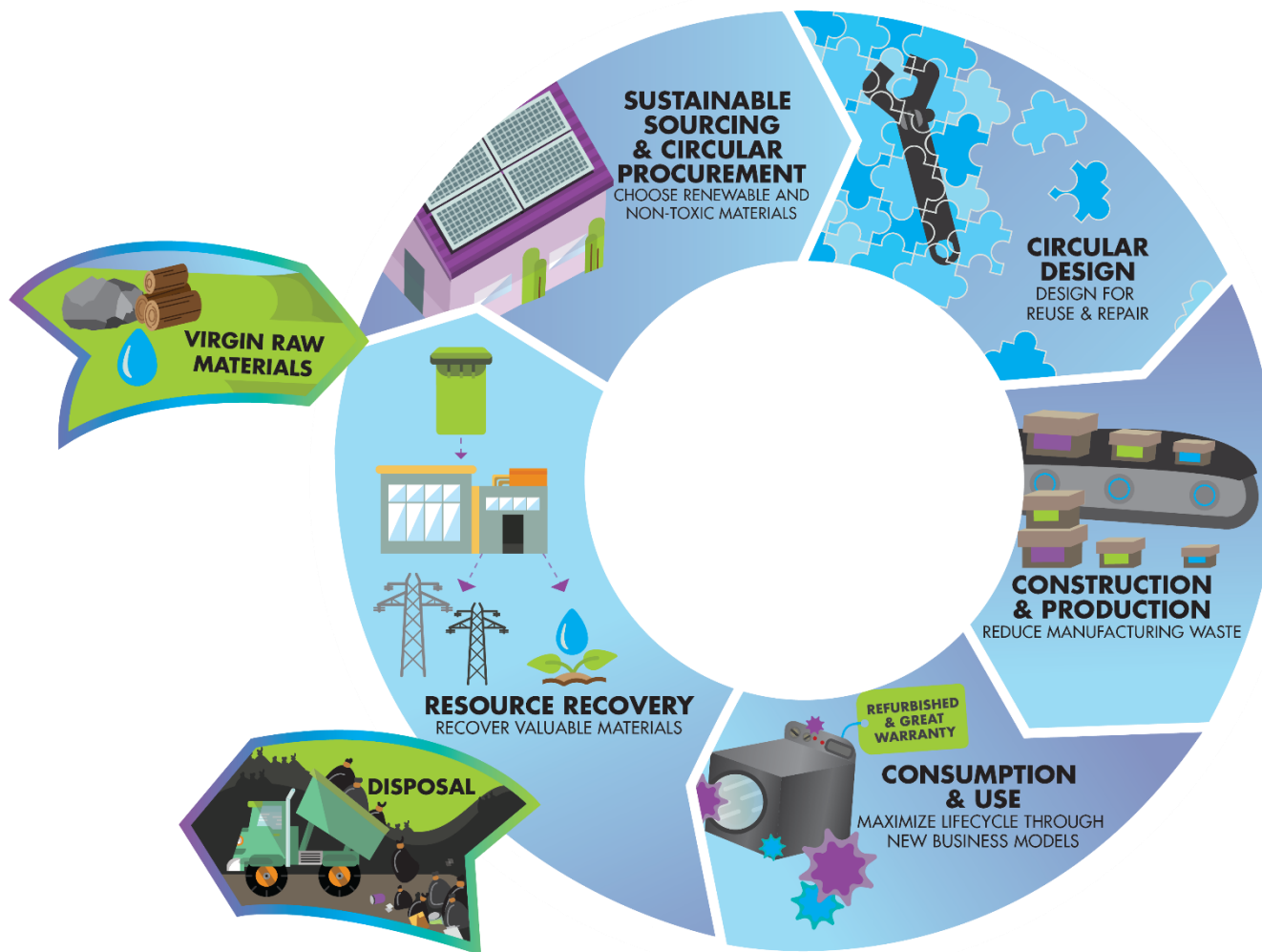


- Federation of Canadian Municipalities



- June 2018 resolution requesting Federal Government address plastic marine litter
- September 2018 resolution requesting a Federal strategy to address single use items and plastics; in part due to Toronto's letter to FCM requesting a motion

What is the Circular Economy?



Phase 1 Consultation – Fall 2018












Phase 1 Consultation – Objectives

- For consultation purposes, a single-use or takeaway item was presented as:

"any product designed for a single-use after which it is disposed of, whether into garbage or a waste diversion stream, as solid waste. Typically, these products are not designed for durability or reuse."

- The objectives of Phase 1 consultation were to obtain input and feedback on:
 - Which single-use or takeaway items should be addressed by future policies and programs;
 - The preferred methods or approaches (through mandatory or voluntary approaches, or a combination thereof) to reduce these items; and
 - Additional opportunities to promote reuse.

Examples of Single-Use and Takeaway Items

Item	Description	Image	Item	Description	Image
Disposable Hot To-Go Cups	Most disposable hot to-go cups are made of paper and lined with plastic or wax.		Black Plastic Containers	Plastic containers that are coloured black.	
Disposable Cold To-Go Cups	Most disposable cold to-go cups are made of paper and lined with plastic or wax.		White or Clear Plastic Containers	Plastic containers that are coloured white or clear.	
Plastic Bags	A type of bag or pouch made of thin and flexible plastic film.		Plastic Straws	Used for drinking hot or cold liquids.	
Paper Bags	A type of bag or pouch made of paper.		Expanded Polystyrene Foam Containers (Styrofoam)	Polystyrene is the "number 6" plastic.	
Disposable Cutlery	Disposable utensils used for eating including forks, spoons, knives, chopsticks, and stir sticks.				

Possible Approaches – Mandatory

Mandatory approaches may include fees, bans, or signage with or without enforcement. Generally speaking, changes to the Toronto Municipal Code are required to mandate approaches to waste management. The City of Toronto Act, 2006, grants the City broad authority to enact bylaws which address waste reduction. Examples of mandatory approaches could include, but are not limited to:

- A "By-Request" Bylaw - commercial establishments should only distribute single-use and takeaway items such as straws or cutlery upon request from the customer
- A Signage Bylaw - commercial establishments are asked to post information for customers on how to reduce their use of takeaway items
- A Disposal Ban at City transfer stations and landfills, where loads exceeding a threshold for designated single-use and takeaway items may be charged an additional fees

Possible Approaches – Voluntary or a Combination

Voluntary approaches may include City programs, incentives or rewards, or education and promotion campaigns focussed on reducing use of single-use or takeaway items. Examples could include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary posting of signage to encourage reusable products, or to provide information for customers on how to reduce their use of single-use or takeaway items
- Single-use or takeaway item waste reduction plans for registered commercial establishments

A combination of mandatory and voluntary approaches would include a combination of fees, bans, or signage, or education based approaches to reducing single-use or takeaway items.

Phase 1 Consultation – Activities

- Stage 1 consultation activities:
 - Online survey (Fall 2018, 20,000+ respondents)
 - Public event, webcast and webinar (240 participants)
 - Four stakeholder meetings (30 participants)
 - Extensive print & digital advertising and notification campaign
 - Over 1.85 Million social media impressions
- A polling survey of 1,000 Toronto residents was also completed to gather statistically significant data

Phase 1 Consultation – Results

- In the Phase 1 consultation, 20,512 individuals participated with 95 per cent of individuals residing in Toronto or the GTHA
- Results from online survey include:
 - +70% of survey respondents were very likely or somewhat likely to use a reusable option for all items listed
 - Consistent support for mandatory measures and voluntary approaches to reduce many items. Respondents expressed consistent strong support (75%, 1% variation) for mandatory approaches to reduce: plastic bags, expanded polystyrene foam and black plastic takeout containers.
 - All other items listed received support for mandatory (52% - 63%) or a combination of voluntary and mandatory (24% - 35%) approaches to reduction (with the exception of paper bags).
- Results from polling reinforced the results of the online survey, however had typically lower levels of support

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback – Phase 1

- 150+ stakeholders invited to participate in consultation representing: restaurants, retailers, manufacturers, food & beverage, environment, and accessibility
- 10% of City of Toronto survey respondents (~2,000) identified as reps/employees of retail, manufacturing, restaurants, waste management industry)

What we heard:

- Use of single-use items has gone up significantly over past 5-10 years.
- There are perceived challenges related to meeting health and safety regulations for reusable items.
- New regulations require a phased in approach to implementation, including a mix of mandatory and voluntary approaches.
- To support implementation consistent messaging and education for the public, producers, and vendors is necessary, and supply chains need to be ready to meet demand with products that comply with new regulations.
- Single-use items required for accessibility (like straws and lids) should be exempt from new regulations.
- Environmental, equity, and health criteria can help determine which items to target for reduction.
- A national or provincial strategy would be easier to comply with.
- Comments regarding potential impacts of programs on business operations
- Suggestions for policies, programs, testing, incentives, process improvements, and consumer education initiatives

Proposed Phase 2 Consultation – Fall 2019



Considerations for development of Phase 2 workplan

- Consistent with feedback received during Phase 1 consultation, a proposed Reduction Strategy will consider and prioritize policies and programs which, in no prioritized order:
 - Address materials which are not recyclable or are not effectively recycled in Toronto's Blue Bin Recycling Program.
 - Target materials which are known to contribute to street litter and marine litter.
 - Reflect survey and polling data on preferred approaches and items to target.
 - Achieve a measurable environmental impact.
 - Are harmonized or consistent with policies and programs being developed nationally and locally to reduce Single-use or Takeaway Items.

Staff development of proposed policies and programs for Phase 2 Consultation

- Developing a proposed work plan by:
 - Reviewing feedback and polling data from Phase 1 Identifying public and stakeholder priorities for future programming to address these items and materials
 - Conducting a jurisdictional scan
 - Reviewing available data
 - Considering operational challenges related to identified materials and items
 - Considering readily available alternatives to the items evaluated
- An external consultant has been retained to help inform and develop a set of considerations for selecting Reduction Strategy approaches, and refine any associated policies and programs.

Phase 2 consultation plan

- Outreach and Engagement Activities will remain similar to the approach taken in Phase 1 Consultation
- Objectives of Phase 2 consultation will be to:
 - Share results of Phase 1 Consultation and communicated how Single-use and Takeaway Items were selected and prioritized for action
 - Solicit feedback on recommendation of how materials could be addressed in a proposed Reduction Strategy
 - Timelines for Reduction Strategy
 - Recommended Mandatory and Voluntary policies/Programs

Next Steps – Phase 2 Consultation

Phase 2 Consultation

Outreach and Engagement
Activities, Online Survey and
Feedback period

Q3-Q4 2019

Report to Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Q2 2020

- Information about consultation and stakeholder engagement sessions will be emailed to the Long Term Waste Management Strategy Listserve and relevant Stakeholders in advance of consultation
- Final report will recommend Committee / Council adopt the proposed measures and establish a Single-use and Takeaway Reduction Strategy for Toronto.

Engagement with TABIA and its members

- Solid Waste Management Services is seeking to develop policies and programs to reduce Single-use and Takeaway Items which are informed by stakeholder input and function effectively for all affected residents, businesses and institutions in Toronto
- How can Solid Waste Management Services best engage with TABIA and its members for Phase 2 Consultation?
- To ensure fulsome engagement with BIAs and small business, can TABIA share consultation notices and information with its members on our behalf?

Questions & Answer



Thank you!



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