

# Single-use Items

Edmonton

## Community Programming and Special Events

On July 1, 2023 Edmonton's Single-use Item Reduction Bylaw (20117) will come into effect, reducing waste by targeting items that can easily be replaced with reusable options or avoided altogether.

While the bylaw doesn't apply to community organizations, you can still voluntarily reduce waste by making changes to your events.

Community organizations this voluntary guide applies to:

- Community leagues
- Community organizations: cultural associations, non-profit organizations, religious organizations, clubs, etc.
- Volunteer events
- Neighbourhood gatherings like block parties, play streets and block socials

## Reasons to reduce

An estimated 450 million single-use items are thrown in the garbage each year in Edmonton, plus more that are recycled and littered.

- **Single-use items are a significant source of litter.** Reducing the amount of single-use items you use can help keep the community cleaner, as well as protect wildlife and the environment.
- **Single-use items are energy intensive.** Cutting back can help reduce emissions that are created while making and shipping these items.
- **Single-use items are expensive.** Switching to reusables will save businesses money, even factoring in up-front costs like dishwashers and reusable dishes.



### When working with vendors

#### REMEMBER!

*If a league is hosting an event they do not need to follow the bylaw (e.g., they don't need to have reusable cups).*

*However, if a league hires a service provider with a business licence, that provider would still need to follow the bylaw (e.g., a food truck)*



# Some alternatives to single-use items



## PLASTIC, PAPER AND STYROFOAM PLATES AND CUPS

**Alternatives:** Glass, metal, porcelain, wood/bamboo and plastic reusable plates and cups.

**Things you'll need:** Sinks or dishwashers to wash and sanitize, space to store reusables.

### Additional ways to reduce:

- **Food storage:** While plastic wrap isn't considered a single-use item under the bylaw, we suggest using reusable alternatives like beeswax wraps, reusable food covers and glass food storage containers to store food.
- **Garbage bags:** The bylaw doesn't apply to garbage bags, but they also aren't required to dispose of waste. When possible, you can opt not to use a bag.



## FOODWARE ACCESSORIES

**Alternatives:** Condiments in bottles, rather than single-use packages. Metal cutlery and straws (or avoid using straws altogether). Cloth napkins, rather than single-use napkins.

**Things you'll need:** Sinks, dishwashers or washing machines to wash and sanitize, space to store reusables.



If you don't have the space to store and sanitize reusables, you can still encourage everyone to bring their clean, undamaged reusable containers, cutlery, cups, plates and bowls.

## QUICK QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE USING SINGLE-USE ITEMS

- ☐ Is this item necessary?
- ☐ Is there a reusable alternative I can use? If I don't own the reusable items I need, can I borrow or rent them?
- ☐ How many of each item do I need? If I'm using single-use items, can I reduce the amount I buy?



# Things to consider

### Things to consider before your community event:

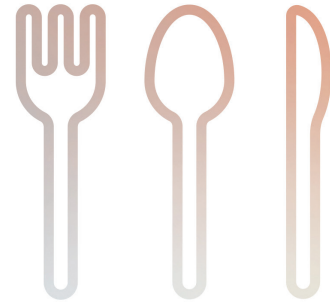
- Quantity and cost
- Where to buy reusable items
- What material to rent
- Current public health restrictions
- Safe Food Handling / AHS requirements
- City of Edmonton Bylaws

### Things to consider during your event:

- Users (number of people, age group, etc.)
- How to pick up / clean-up
- Communicating with attendees about the transition, asking for their participation
- Do you have items you could reuse during the event, e.g., bags, boxes, containers?

### Things to consider after the event:

- Who will clean the pieces?
- Where to safely store them?
- Are there broken / damaged / missing items?



# Choosing single-use items

If you are choosing single-use items, try to choose recyclable options. Compostable and biodegradable plastics need very specific conditions to break down. They don't break down in most industrial composting facilities.

Ensure you are correctly sorting and disposing of your single-use items by using the WasteWise app.



Visit [edmonton.ca/SingleUse](https://edmonton.ca/SingleUse) and check out the Business Toolkit for more information.

Incorporating reusables whenever possible will help reduce the amount of single-use items you have to buy, and that end up in our landfill.

**Canada**

## Government of Canada Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

Federal regulations on single-use plastics, which ban the sale of six kinds of single-use plastic, apply to all organizations.

The ban on the sale (which includes free distribution) of single-use plastics begins December 2023.

**Learn more here!**

