



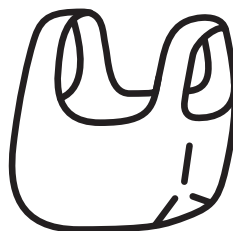
# Edmonton's Plan to Reduce Single-use Items



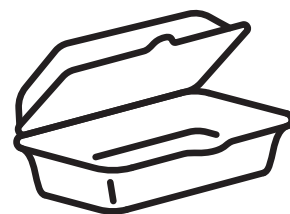
- The City of Edmonton's Plan to Reduce Single-use Items will help
- Edmontonians and organizations limit their reliance on single-use items (SUI). Taking action to restrict SUI is an example of the approach the City—along with residents, businesses and other organizations—needs to take to shift towards a zero waste future. Together, we can reduce waste and help make Edmonton more climate-resilient.

An estimated 450 million SUI are thrown in the garbage every year in Edmonton—that's about **1.2 million items every day!** And that doesn't include items that are put into recycling or littered.

## Each year Edmontonians throw out...



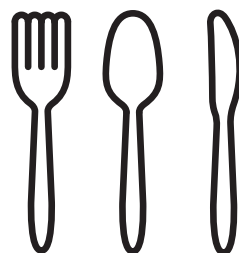
**92 million** shopping bags\*



**105 million** takeout containers\*



**91 million** disposable cups\*



**119 million** utensils\*



**39 million** straws\*

### What are single-use items?

SUI are designed to be thrown away after being used only once. They are made from a range of materials, including conventional plastics, alternative plastics that may be compostable or biodegradable, wood, bamboo, paper and other fibre products. The City aims to reduce all SUI, instead of replacing plastics with items made of other materials.

The City's SUI Plan addresses a number of SUI that are commonly provided for convenience, including shopping bags, straws, utensils, cups and takeout containers. It does not address essential items like masks and other protective equipment.

\* estimated disposed of annually in Edmonton



## How will this impact residents?

It's crucial to preserve the environment, but we also must keep people in mind, especially equity-seeking groups, such as people living with low income, that could be disproportionately affected by measures like fees on SUI.

As such, the bylaw directions include specific measures to help mitigate impacts on non-profit organizations. For example, it is directed that non-profit organizations be allowed to choose whether or not they charge a fee on paper and new reusable shopping bags, and that they be given extra time to stop using foam serviceware.

The SUI Plan includes a grant to help non-profits adapt to these changes, encourages solutions like establishing ways for residents to share excess bags with those who need them, and identifies the need to work with equity-seeking groups and the organizations that serve them to develop additional support programs.

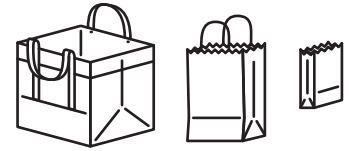
Single-use cups are one of the most-littered items in Edmonton, and present a significant opportunity for reduction. Some other cities have implemented a fee on single-use cups to reduce their use, but without robust exemptions and support programs, those fees can disproportionately impact vulnerable populations. Edmonton's approach will first focus on reducing barriers (such as increasing the accessibility of reusable cups) before considering a fee.

## Proposed Regulations



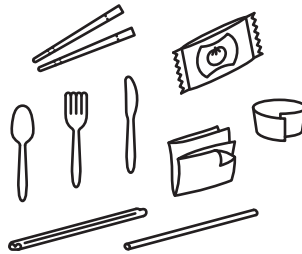
### Plastic bags

Banning single-use plastic shopping bags.



### Reusable and paper bags

Setting a mandatory minimum fee for paper shopping bags and new reusable shopping bags.



### Accessories

Making accessories available by request only (utensils, straws, stirrers, pre-packaged condiments, napkins, etc.)



### Styrofoam

Banning foam cups and containers.



### Reusable cups

Requiring that dine-in drink orders at restaurants be served in reusable cups.



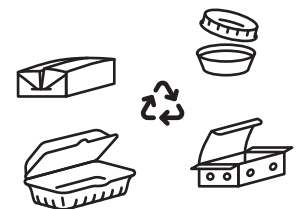
### Bring your own cup

Requiring restaurants to accept reusable customer cups for dine-in and takeout orders.

## Proposed Voluntary Measures

### Reusable or recyclable takeout containers

Encouraging organizations to use reusable or locally recyclable takeout containers.



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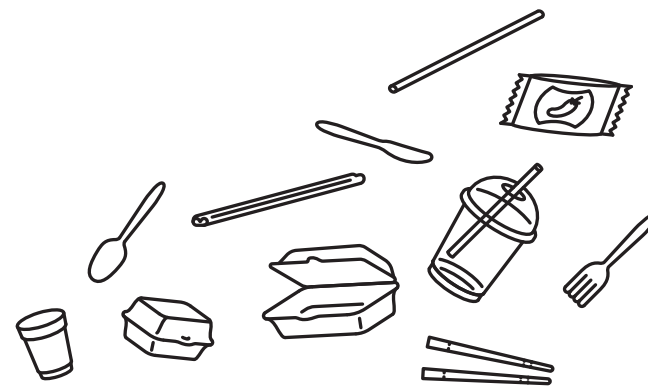
## Why does this matter?

Producing, using and disposing of SUI leads to environmental impacts like greenhouse gas emissions, the consumption of natural resources, the release of toxic chemicals, habitat damage and water pollution.

Over time, it's actually more expensive for businesses to purchase SUI than their reusable alternatives. SUI also cost the City money through garbage and recycling disposal and processing, litter clean up and clearing clogged storm drains.

From a social perspective, research also shows that litter affects feelings of well-being and safety. Reducing littered SUI, which represent up to 42 per cent of "large" litter items (bigger than 5 cm by 5 cm, or about half the size of a pack of gum) in Edmonton, is expected to improve community well-being and result in more attractive and vibrant urban places.

Edmontonians have told us that reducing SUI is important. During public engagement, we heard that residents and businesses largely support a ban on plastic shopping bags and polystyrene foam (Styrofoam, or "foam") cups and containers, as well as elimination of plastic straws. Furthermore, 81 per cent of respondents said they want to use fewer disposable cups.

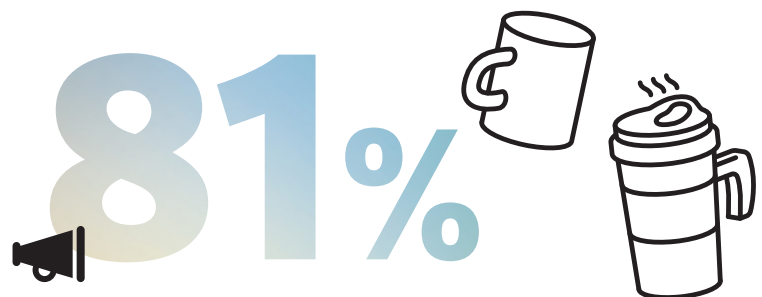


# 42%

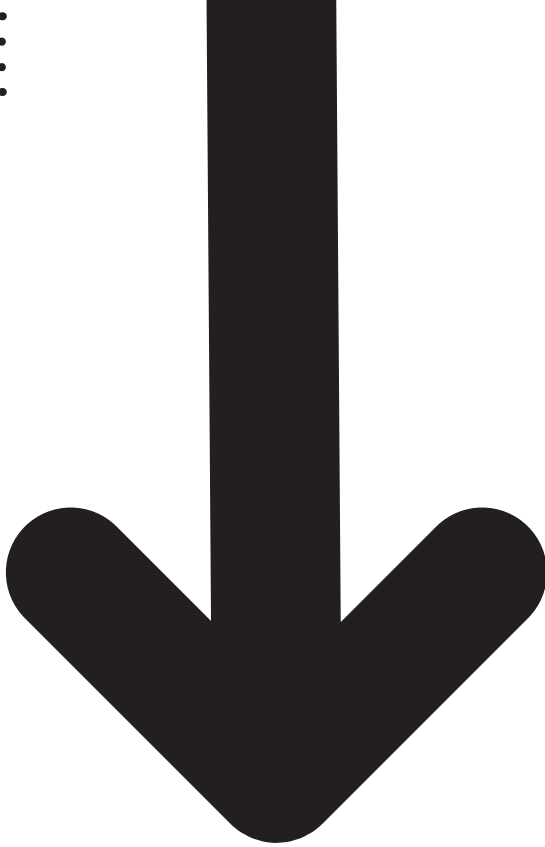
- of large litter items
- collected in a 2019
- litter audit were
- single-use items.



- Single-use
- cups were
- among the
- most littered
- items in 2019.



- of public engagement
- respondents said they
- want to use fewer
- disposable cups.



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### How will the SUI plan impact businesses and organizations?

Administration recommends bringing the bylaw into effect one year after it is approved by City Council. During that year, the City will focus on raising awareness among organizations and residents, and helping businesses comply. Affected businesses will be offered plain language toolkits and printable signage, and a grant program will be offered to support non-profit organizations with the transition.

Businesses will keep the revenue charged for paper and new reusable bags. Registered non-profits will not be required to charge fees on single-use items used to provide charitable food services.

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### For more information...

Please visit [edmonton.ca/wastereduction](http://edmonton.ca/wastereduction) or call 311.

## What happens next?



### March – April 2022

Recommendations were presented to Utility Council and City Council, and approved on April 4. The recommendations are now being developed into a bylaw.



### Q3 2022 (tentative)

Residents and businesses will have the opportunity to speak at a public hearing before the bylaw is approved.



### 2022 – 2023 (tentative)

Business and consumer awareness campaigns and support programs for businesses and equity-seeking groups will be developed and implemented.



### 2023 (tentative)

Bylaw will be in effect one year after approval. Education and support programs are ongoing.