



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works & Transportation Committee **Date:** June 16, 2021
From: Suzanne Bycraft **File:** 10-6370-01/2021-Vol
 Interim Director, Public Works Operations 01
Re: **Single-Use Bylaw No. 10000 Community Engagement Summary Report and Implementation Plan**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Community Engagement Summary Report as presented in the staff report dated June 16, 2021, titled "Single-Use Bylaw No. 10000 Community Engagement Summary Report and Implementation Plan", from the Interim Director, Public Works Operations, be received for information.
2. That the Proposed Implementation Plan, which presents the Community Engagement Summary Report to the businesses and residents and initiates next steps to prepare the community for implementation of the City's Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000 as presented in the staff report dated June 16, 2021, titled "Single-Use Bylaw No. 10000 Community Engagement Summary report and Implementation Plan" from the Interim Director, Public Works Operations, be approved.

Suzanne Bycraft
 Interim Director, Public Works Operations
 (604-233-3301)

Att. 5

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Sustainability & District Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the status of the City's *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000* (the "Bylaw"), as well as a summary of community and business engagement undertaken from July to December 2019 on the Bylaw. This report further outlines a proposed implementation plan to enact the Bylaw. Finally, the report provides an update on current local, regional, provincial and federal government action on single-use plastics.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

Environmentally conscious decision-making that demonstrates leadership in implementing innovative, sustainable practices and supports the City's unique biodiversity and island ecology.

2.1 Continued leadership in addressing climate change and promoting circular economic principles.

2.2 Policies and practices support Richmond's sustainability goals.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #6 Strategic and Well-Planned Growth:

6.2 "Green" and circular economic growth and practices are emphasized.

Analysis

Status of Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000

Richmond City Council gave third reading to the Bylaw on July 22, 2019. When implemented, the Bylaw will ban foam cups and containers, plastic straws and plastic checkout bags. In accordance with the requirements of the Community Charter, the City sought and subsequently received approval of the Bylaw from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on March 11, 2020. Due to the significant impact COVID-19 has had on business and the community, staff have delayed bringing the Bylaw forward to Council for formal adoption.

It is noteworthy that COVID-19 brought about a resurgence in the use of single-use plastic for the perceived hygiene benefits and personal protection it offers for individuals in favour of reusable options. At the height of the first wave (March/April 2020), health organizations such as the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) advised against allowing customers to use reusables (cups, containers and bags) to help stop community spread and to protect employees. These recommendations were quickly updated at the end of April 2020. The BCCDC now provides guidelines for businesses regarding the acceptance of reusable shopping bags during COVID-19, and advises that it is up to each store to determine policies that work for them, their employees and align with their safe work plans.

Community Engagement Summary Report

A four phased implementation plan, inclusive of a broad communications and outreach strategy, was approved for this initiative:

1. Phase 1 – Awareness (completed)
2. Phase 2 – Transition
3. Phase 3 – Bylaw Adoption & Implementation
4. Phase 4 – Enforcement

Phase 1 (“Awareness”) commenced in July 2019 and remained fully active through December 2019. This phase included a broad community engagement campaign to raise awareness about the Bylaw and a comprehensive process that was particularly geared toward business. Particular focus was on sharing information about the Bylaw and collecting feedback on how the City can best support business once the Bylaw is adopted and implemented.

To help support informed and meaningful engagement at the in-person business workshops, the City created a comprehensive Discussion Guide to provide a resource for business. The Discussion Guide (Attachment 1) was used during engagement to provide in-depth information on the Bylaw, environmental impacts of single-use items and examples of alternative materials.

Details of Phase 1 can be found in the Community Engagement Summary Report (Attachment 2) with key findings highlighted in the table below.

Table 1: Top priorities identified in Phase 1

Top priorities identified by business	Top priorities identified by community
General support for the ban.	General support for the Bylaw.
Need clarity about good alternatives that don’t create other problems.	Would like the ban to exclude plastic bags.
Concerned about cost of alternatives (consider incentives/subsidies).	Communication and education about the ban and why it’s needed are essential.
Need time to use up stock and make adjustments.	
Enforcement needs to be consistent and with significant penalties.	
Would like the City to host a trade show to connect local businesses with vendors who offer alternatives.	
Communication and education will be essential to inform the community about the ban, encourage them to bring reusable items and make it clear the City is responsible for the ban.	
Would like the City to lobby for federal and provincial bans.	

A summary of the communication tactics used through the community engagement is provided in Attachment 3.

Recognizing the impact the COVID-19 pandemic was having on business and the community, engagement was placed on hold as staff continued to monitor and gauge overall community

readiness. In late 2020, City staff reengaged with Richmond Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Richmond to gain an understanding of how Richmond businesses are doing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Comments at that time from both associations indicated that Richmond businesses were still struggling and would not be able to make the changes required to abide by the Bylaw. Both estimated that reengaging the business community would be best suited for the third or fourth quarter of 2021.

Of further note, the Retail Council of Canada (RCC) reached out to City staff to discuss the Bylaw and get a better understanding of anticipated adoption dates. RCC staff shared a letter (Attachment 4) confirming that businesses are still struggling amidst COVID-19, further noting that businesses are asking for an extended lead time (estimated at least 26 weeks or approximately 6 months) from adoption to implementation of bylaws to effectively work through back stock and order alternatives. RCC staff also shared that certainty of timelines is important for businesses to change processes and adapt to new requirements.

Given recent public health orders trending toward broader economic reopening and in line with business feedback as outlined above, staff propose to bring the Bylaw forward to Council for adoption in September, 2021. This initiates the six month notice period contained within the Bylaw to come into force and effect as of March, 2022. Enforcement provisions then apply effective September, 2022 (a further six months from the effective date). This implementation period was contemplated and is contained within the Bylaw.

To ensure businesses and the community are appropriately prepared to comply with the Bylaw and as part of the approved implementation plan, staff propose that Phase 2 of the Engagement Strategy, “Transition” commence immediately upon Council acceptance of the proposed implementation plan (July, 2021).

Phase 2 engagement will be used to inform how the Bylaw will be implemented, and will help to frame any additional measures the City can take to communicate the Bylaw and support business through the transition to better alternatives to existing single-use plastics.

Phase 3 “Bylaw Adoption & Implementation” and Phase 4 “Bylaw Enforcement” follow in sequential order and as outlined below.

Phase 2: Transition Support: July – September 2021

- Share Community Engagement Summary publicly.
- Host Virtual Business Transition Sessions: Bylaw Basics and How to Prepare for the Bylaw.
- Present Draft Business Toolkit for feedback.

Phase 3: Bylaw Adoption & Implementation: September 2021 – September 2022

- Adopt the Bylaw at the September 27, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.
- Launch broad public communications campaign.
- Launch Business Toolkit and point-of-sale materials for business.
- Continue support for business through virtual sessions: Bylaw Basics and How to Prepare for Bylaw.
- Work with Chamber of Commerce (COVID-19 pending) to develop additional education opportunities for business.

Phase 4: Bylaw Enforcement: September 2022 – ongoing

- As indicated in Section 6.2, enforcement and penalties will come into force and effect 12 months after adoption.
- Notify those businesses that are found to be contravening the Bylaw and if these business do not make the required changes, Bylaw Officers will enforce Section 4 of the Bylaw.

Should this implementation plan be approved by Council, staff will ensure that all phases of the implementation steps are undertaken in compliance with public health order requirements, as appropriate.

Staff note that the steps outlined above align with the increase in plastics action being taken at various levels of government. These actions have served to heighten awareness and create a groundswell movement towards overall plastics reduction. A high level overview of actions at the municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels is outlined in Attachment 5.

Financial Impact

Funding in the amount of \$563,800 is provided in the 2021 Sanitation and Recycling utility budget to support the implementation of the Bylaw. As these costs were funded from provision, there is no impact to the 2021 utility rate. These costs include auxiliary staff to support the implementation and rollout as well as communication and consulting fees.

As implementation proceeds, staff will evaluate anticipated ongoing staffing and other budgetary requirements for ongoing support and enforcement activities and identify these costs as part of future budget deliberations.

Conclusion

This report presents the Community Engagement Summary Report and outlines a proposed implementation plan to enact and implement the *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000* commencing with Phase 2 engagement activities starting in July, 2021 and Bylaw adoption in September, 2021. This ensures the implementation plan as previously approved is followed, respects the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the business community, appropriately prepares the community for implementation of the Bylaw, and starts the process for Bylaw implementation in March, 2022 with full Bylaw enforcement in September, 2022.

In relation to expected impacts once the Bylaw is fully implemented, staff note that based on the 2020 Waste Composition Study by Metro Vancouver, 24,754,078 plastic checkout bags, 4,398,730 foam cups and foam containers, and 6,261,458 plastic straws were disposed of in Richmond. Implementation of the Bylaw will see these numbers greatly reduced and/or diverted from the waste stream each year.



Kristina Nishi
Acting Waste Reduction and Recycling Coordinator, Environmental Programs
(604-244-1261)

June 16, 2021

- 6 -

SJB:kn

- Att. 1: Business Discussion Guide
- 2: Community Engagement Summary Report
- 3: Summary of Communication Tactics from the Community Engagement
- 4: Letter from Retail Council of Canada to City of Richmond
- 5: Summary of Plastics Action by Other Local, Regional, Provincial and Federal Agencies

Let's be leaders!

Business Discussion Guide:

Proposed Bylaw to Ban Single-Use Plastic and Other Items

We all know it's better to avoid single-use items. In Richmond, a proposed bylaw to ban plastic checkout bags, foam containers and plastic straws has been sent to the provincial government for approval before final adoption.

As *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000* goes through the approval process, the City of Richmond will work with affected businesses to support the transition to better options. The City will also raise awareness about the proposed ban in the community and why it is important to avoid single-use items.



Why we're banning single-use items

It's time to change the way we look at waste. Instead of creating large amounts of unnecessary waste from single-use items, we need to select materials that can be composted, re-used or recycled multiple times into new products. Changes like these take leadership.

The City of Richmond is taking the lead to reduce reliance on some common single-use items, and encourage other communities in Canada and around the world to implement similar measures to help reduce plastic waste and pollution in oceans and other natural areas. While the initial steps involve the proposed bylaw to ban plastic checkout bags, foam food service ware and plastic straws, the City will continue to explore other ways to reduce single-use items that result in unnecessary waste and pollution. We know it's important to make these changes, and we want to work with local businesses to make it happen.

Did you know...

1.1 billion single-use items are disposed of in the Metro Vancouver region each year.¹

HERE'S WHAT WE ALL KNOW...

- Single-use items create unnecessary waste because they are barely used before being tossed away.
- These items are lightweight in nature, which can result in them being blown into public spaces, as well as polluting oceans, lakes, rivers and streams.
- Huge amounts of plastic are generated annually – 3.84 million tonnes each year in Canada alone, with only 11-12% actually collected for recycling.²
- There are better alternatives – some are compostable or recyclable, others can be re-used multiple times.
- Globally, one garbage truckload of plastic is dumped into the world's oceans each minute.³
- By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish (by weight) in the ocean.⁴

SINGLE-USE IS WASTEFUL AND NOT SUSTAINABLE

- It's time to shift to a circular economy, where the materials we use stay in circulation to be used, re-used and recycled multiple times into new products.
- This shift from single-use to a circular economy is more sustainable because it reduces reliance on new raw materials and reduces waste going to landfills.
- Reducing waste from single-use items also helps to address problems like ocean pollution.

RECYCLING IS IMPORTANT – BUT REDUCING WASTE IS ESSENTIAL

- While many single-use items can be recycled at the Richmond Recycling Depot, it's important to remember that most single-use items are very low quality and cannot be recycled more than a couple times – at most. Eventually, they are just waste going to a landfill.
- Some items, like plastic bags labelled biodegradable or compostable, are actually not accepted for composting and are also not recyclable, which means these bags can only be put in the garbage.
- It's equally critical to reduce waste overall by re-using items, making smart decisions when shopping to reduce packaging and other waste, and avoiding single-use items whenever possible.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Businesses in Richmond will play a key role in shifting to better options for the environment. We encourage you to share your feedback about the proposed bylaw and your ideas about how to reduce reliance on single-use items, as well as your preferences for alternative products and communication materials.

SINGLE-USE ITEMS IN THE LANDFILL

In a recent study, Metro Vancouver measured the amount of plastic bags, foam cups and containers, and plastic straws at the landfill each year. It's estimated that more than 35 million of these items come from garbage collected in Richmond.



21,179,775

PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS

(That's 588.57 tonnes!)



5,417,564

FOAM CUPS AND FOAM CONTAINERS

(That's 57.97 tonnes!)



8,761,739

PLASTIC STRAWS

(That's 13.38 tonnes!)

= 35,359,078

PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS, FOAM CUPS AND FOAM CONTAINERS, AND PLASTIC STRAWS

(That's 659.92 tonnes!)

MAKING CHANGES TOWARD A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Did you know...

26% of plastic created world-wide is designed to be used once and then discarded.⁵ With 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic being produced worldwide, that's a lot of unnecessary waste.⁶



Proposed bylaw to ban single-use items in Richmond

Under the proposed *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000*, Richmond Council is taking the lead to ban single-use items that are creating huge amounts of unnecessary waste.

THE PROPOSED BYLAW WOULD BAN:

- Plastic checkout bags, including shopping bags and grocery bags
- Foam food service ware, including but not limited to containers, plates and cups
- Plastic straws

It is recognized that there are some exceptions that must be accommodated within the proposed bylaw to address health and safety considerations, accessibility and bulk purchasing of these items. This section includes an overview of each category within the proposed ban and the exemptions that apply.

Richmond Council has completed the first step towards introducing Bylaw 10000, and has sent the proposed bylaw to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for review and approval. The City is now looking to businesses and the community to provide feedback on the best way to implement the ban when it is approved, including input on proposed alternatives and tips on how to avoid single-use items.

See page 8 for details about the implementation timeline.

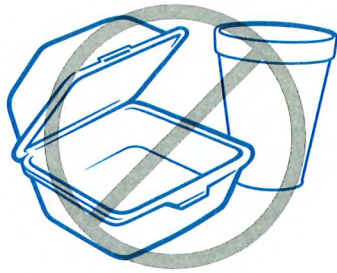
WHO IS AFFECTED

Under this proposed bylaw, a business is defined as any person, organization or group engaged in a trade, business, profession, occupation, calling, employment or purpose that is regulated under the City's *Business Licence Bylaw No. 7360*, and includes a person employed by, or operating on behalf of, a business.

Upon adoption of the bylaw, if you operate a business in Richmond, including commercial, retail and food vendor/ restaurants, or provide retail or food services at an event, you will be required to comply with the bans.

Did you know...

Some items may appear like a better option but are actually worse – such as plastic bags labelled compostable or biodegradable, which are not accepted for composting in the region and are not recyclable, so these items end up in the garbage.



PART 1: FOAM CONTAINERS

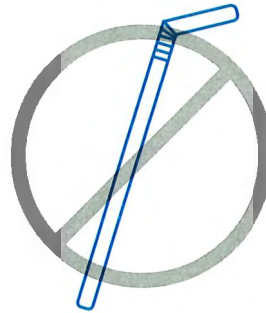
“No business shall sell or otherwise provide Prepared Food in any Food Service Ware that contains Polystyrene Foam.”

- CITY OF RICHMOND BYLAW 10000

If adopted, this means that businesses in Richmond will not be able to sell or provide prepared food in any foam food service ware, which includes but is not limited to plates, cups, bowls, trays, cartons, and hinged or lidded containers. Prepared food includes any food or beverage prepared for consumption by a customer. It does not include any raw, uncooked food, including meat, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs or vegetables unless provided for consumption without further food preparation.

EXEMPTIONS

- This ban does not apply to hospitals or any facility licensed as a community care facility under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* as these facilities have special health safety requirements.
- Organizations incorporated and in good standing under the *Society Act*, or registered as a charitable society or organization under the federal *Income Tax Act*, will have 18 months after adoption to comply (compared to 12 months for other businesses).
- Prepared food containers that have been filled and sealed outside of the City of Richmond prior to arrival at the business location will be permitted under the bylaw.



PART 2: PLASTIC STRAWS

“No business shall sell or otherwise provide any Plastic Straws.”

- CITY OF RICHMOND BYLAW 10000

If adopted, this means that businesses will not be able to sell or provide any drinking straw made with plastic, including biodegradable plastic or compostable plastic.

EXEMPTIONS

- Businesses will be able to provide plastic straws to people with accessibility needs when requested.
- The sale of plastic straws intended for use at a customer’s home or business will be permitted provided that they are sold in packages of multiple straws will be permitted under the bylaw.

Did you know...

The damage from plastic pollution in oceans is horrendous and getting worse every year. Sea turtles caught near the Great Pacific Garbage Patch can have up to 74% of their diets composed of plastics⁷ and the likelihood of diseased coral increases from 4% to 89% when corals are in contact with plastic.⁸



PART 3: PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS

“Except as provided in this Bylaw, no Business shall sell or otherwise provide a Plastic Checkout Bag to a customer.”

- CITY OF RICHMOND BYLAW 10000

Plastic checkout bags include any bag made with plastic, including biodegradable or compostable plastic, that is intended to be used by the customer for the purpose of transporting items purchased or received from the business, or intended to be used to package take-out or delivery food. There are a number of accepted uses for plastic bags that will remain permitted under the proposed bylaw, as listed in the exemptions below.

EXEMPTIONS

- Businesses will be able to provide a plastic checkout bag to a customer if the bag has been returned to the business for the purpose of being reused by other customers. This is intended to support charitable organizations and thrift stores who commonly use this practice to cut costs for their customers and reuse materials already in circulation.
- Plastic checkout bags may be used as packaging for any of the following:
 - Loose bulk food items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains or candy;
 - Loose small hardware items such as nails or bolts;
 - Frozen food, meat, poultry or fish, whether pre-packaged or not;
 - Flowers or potted plants;
 - Prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged; and
 - Prescription drugs received from a pharmacy.
- Plastic checkout bags may also be used for:
 - Transporting live fish;
 - Protecting linens, bedding or other similar large items;
 - Protecting newspapers or other printed material intended to be left at the customer's residence or place of business; or
 - Protecting clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning.
- The sale of plastic bags intended for use at a customer's home or business will be permitted provided that they are sold in packages of multiple bags will be permitted under the bylaw.



COMPOSTABLE/ BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC

As a part of the proposed bylaw, the City will include bans on compostable and biodegradable plastic checkout bags and plastic straws.

Compostable/biodegradable plastic are not guaranteed to biodegrade if littered or in industrial compost facilities because standards and certifications are not aligned with existing infrastructure that is designed to compost food scraps and yard waste. Often times, small flecks of plastic remain in the end product, rendering the product contaminated. It is beyond local government's ability to control compostable packaging design, thus the City is reaching out to other levels of government to advocate for broader measures that will result in consistent standards and policies for compostable and biodegradable plastics.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The bylaw is scheduled for final adoption upon Ministerial approval—it is from this date the following starting points will be used to initiate new phases of the bylaw implementation:

- **Effective Date of the Proposed Bylaw:** 6 months after Council’s final adoption;
- **Enforcement Date of the Proposed Bylaw:** 12 months after Council’s final adoption (6 months after effective date to provide businesses time to use up existing supplies); and
- **Expiry of Charitable Organizations Exemption in the Proposed Bylaw:** The exemption for charitable societies and organizations will end 18 months after Council’s final adoption of the Proposed Bylaw.

The City will begin the enforcement phase by continuing education and working with businesses to support their compliance efforts. This will be a staged approach to ensure that businesses have all the information and resources necessary to successfully comply.

Penalties will be laid only once sufficient education and notice has been issued to the business in non-compliance.

The penalties for not complying with the bylaw include fines of up to \$10,000 and no less than \$1,000, as well as any costs of the prosecution.

Did you know...

The more we purchase items with recycled content, the more demand will increase for these types of products. This supports the economic viability of recycling collection programs.

KEY MILESTONES

JULY 2019

Phase 1

Complete first step towards introducing Bylaw 10000 (first three readings at Council meeting). Submit proposed bylaw for Ministerial approval. Implement education and engagement campaign with affected businesses, stakeholder organizations and community.

6 MONTHS AFTER ADOPTION

Proposed Phase 3

IMPLEMENTATION

Implement the bylaw with six-month grace period.

ADOPTION

Proposed Phase 2

ADOPTION OF BYLAW 10000

Implement business toolkit, customer communication and public awareness campaign.

12 MONTHS AFTER ADOPTION

Proposed Phase 4

ENFORCEMENT

Enforce the bylaw.

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

We recognize that this is a significant change for our local businesses, and we want to work with you to implement the transition from banned items to accepted alternatives. We are providing support in a number of ways.

1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of community outreach, the City is providing opportunities for residents to ask questions and share comments on the proposed Bylaw 10000 via an online survey, and will be inviting business operators to participate in more in-depth discussions about the proposed bylaw and related implementation requirements through workshops.

2. RESEARCH AND FEEDBACK ON ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

City staff have conducted research on a number of acceptable alternatives to replace the banned items. The City will provide businesses with a list of proposed alternatives, what types of materials are accepted – and those that are not. As part of the awareness period, the City is reaching out to businesses to review the alternatives being proposed and collect feedback on other options. *See Section 3: Alternatives to replace banned materials.*

3. RESEARCH AND FEEDBACK ON COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

If the proposed Bylaw is approved and adopted, the City will undertake a further communication campaign to help raise awareness in the community about the new bans. In addition, the City will develop and



provide both a toolkit for local businesses to help guide selection of acceptable alternatives, as well as point-of-sale materials that businesses can use to inform their customers about the City's ban. The City is reaching out to businesses to review the communication support being proposed. *See Section 4: Communication and education support.*

4. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

It is evident that bans of this nature are more effective when applied consistently. The City of Richmond will be petitioning the provincial government to encourage legislation and policy, and has provided feedback on the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan that will be consistent with the City's bylaw. Staff will also follow and respond to updates on the federal government's announcement to ban single-use items in future.



Please use the feedback form to share any comments or questions about the Bylaw 10000, which will ban use of plastic checkout bags, foam food service ware and plastic straws.

Alternatives to replace banned materials

While single-use plastics create unnecessary waste and pollution, finding replacement products is not always as straight-forward as it appears. As part of the implementation of the proposed ban, the City of Richmond will be developing a toolkit for businesses to assist them in transitioning to alternative products. To ensure the list is comprehensive and provides viable options for business, it is important to hear back from affected business about proposed alternatives and other options available.

TIPS FOR ASSESSING ALTERNATIVES

Some alternatives are better than others as they use less energy to produce and can be reused for a long time. When making choices that are the best option for the environment, it's important to note the life cycle considerations outlined below.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ASSESSING ALTERNATIVES

- Recyclable food service ware that is recycled or has a higher recycling rate at end-of-life is frequently found to have lower environmental impacts across all impact categories.
- Materials like paper that are both compostable and recyclable often result in higher energy savings when they are recycled instead of composted.
- Compostable food service ware is often found to increase rates of food scraps recycling.
- Plastic bags labeled "compostable" or "biodegradable" are not permitted under the proposed ban as they are not accepted at composting facilities and cannot be recycled.

PURCHASING TIPS

- If choosing compostable products, ensure the product does not contain poly- and per-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) which are used as moisture or oil barriers. PFAS are chemicals that linger in the environment and can have negative health impacts.
- Choose unbleached paper bags over bleached and look for recycled content.
- Look for reusable bags with recycled plastic content to reduce environmental impact.
- Look for reusable bags that can be used at least 100 times and are washable.
- For net shopping bags, hemp may be better than cotton as it requires less energy to grow and harvest.



PURCHASING AND USAGE GUIDELINES

WHAT TO ASK SUPPLIERS WHEN SELECTING ALTERNATIVES



How are the products produced?

- What resources are required for their production?

Considerations:

- Look for products that take steps to reduce the amount of resources in production – increasing the amount of recycled content is a great option.



The product is “eco-friendly” but what is it made of?

- Is there a plastic lining or has a coating been applied to make it waterproof?
- Is it just one material or a blend?

Considerations:

- If it's made out of paper, ask if it has a lining.
- If there is a plastic lining, ask if it is regular plastic (commonly polypropylene) or compostable plastic (commonly polylactic acid).
- If it is regular plastic, this item is accepted for residential recycling in the City's Blue Box program.
- If lined with compostable plastic, the item will not be accepted in either the recycling or compost in Richmond and should be disposed of in the garbage.
- If there is a coating, ask if it contains poly- and per-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are chemicals that are used as moisture or oil barriers – these chemicals often linger in the environment and negatively impact human health.
- Look for products that are made from one material as it is easier to recycle correctly. Products with multiple materials are often difficult to separate and recycle.



How do they recommend the product be disposed of?

- Recycled or composted?
- If composted, does it contain compostable plastic?

Considerations:

- Check with your recycling provider to ensure the product aligns with the recycling and/or composting requirements.



Does it include recycled content?

Considerations:

- Look for products that contain recycled content as this can help reduce greenhouse gases by almost 70%.



Can the product be reused multiple times?

Considerations:

- Look for items that can be used as many times as possible to keep them out of the landfill longer.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES

The City has compiled an initial list of alternative materials that businesses and residents can use to select items that are **compostable**, **reusable** or can be **recycled multiple times**. It is recommended businesses inquire with their service provider to determine which recycling stream their materials should be diverted to.

STRAWS



Types of Straws Banned in the Proposed Bylaw:

- Plastic straws
- Biodegradable plastic straws
- Compostable plastic straws

Suggested Alternatives:



REPLACE WITH...	REUSE	RECYCLE	COMPOST
Fibre-based with no coating (plain paper)			•
Edible food straws (pasta, candy etc.)			•
Metal*	•		
Glass*	•		
Silicone*	•		
Bamboo*	•		•
Hard plastic*	•		

*Customers may bring these items to help reduce plastic waste. Please adhere to your food safety and sanitation plan.

CONTAINERS AND CUPS



Types of Containers and Cups Banned in the Proposed Bylaw:

- Polystyrene foam

Suggested Alternatives:



REPLACE WITH...	REUSE	RECYCLE	COMPOST
Fibre-based with no coating (plain paper)			•
Fibre-based with polypropylene plastic lining		•	
Recyclable plastic		•	
Ceramic*	•		
Glass*	•		
Metal*	•		
Bamboo*	•		•
Hard plastic*	•		

*Customers may bring these items to help reduce plastic waste. Please adhere to your food safety and sanitation plan.



Please use the feedback form to share your feedback on the following:

- Are there any special considerations related to proposed alternatives and how they impact your business operations?
- Are there other alternatives you would recommend?
- Is there anything else you'd like to share about alternative products?

CNCL – 252

CHECKOUT BAGS



Types of Checkout Bags Banned in the Proposed Bylaw:

- Plastic checkout bags
- Biodegradable plastic
- Compostable plastic

Suggested Alternatives:



REPLACE WITH...	REUSE	RECYCLE	COMPOST
Paper bags		•	•
Reusable plastic (woven polypropylene, non-woven polypropylene)*	•		
Natural cloth (cotton, hemp)*	•		

*Customers may bring these items to help reduce plastic waste. Please adhere to your food safety and sanitation plan.

Please Note: This is a growing sector with new, innovative products and materials coming into the market regularly. This section has been intended to be an overview of alternatives currently accessible locally to replace the proposed banned materials and tips for selecting products.

REPLACEMENT BAG LIFE CYCLE CONSIDERATIONS⁹

PAPER BAG

(Unbleached kraft paper)

Life Cycle Considerations:

- High impacts on resource and energy use, and water contamination during processing
- Has increased effect on the quality of water and uses four times more water than conventional plastic
- Low impact if discarded in the environment

WOVEN PLASTIC BAG

(Polypropylene (PP), thin plastic strips woven together e.g. rice bags)

Life Cycle Considerations:

- Durable, strong
- Uses higher amounts of fossil fuels in production, distribution and use (due to thickness)
- If used more than 16-98 times, environmental impact is less than a conventional plastic bag
- Currently, unknown end-of-life recyclability
- High impact if discarded in the environment

NON-WOVEN PLASTIC BAG

(Polypropylene (PP), melted PP granules, transformed into fibres and hot pressed into a textile)

Life Cycle Considerations:

- Durable, strong
- Uses higher amounts of fossil fuels in production, distribution and use (due to thickness)
- If used more than 11-59 times, environmental impact is less than a conventional plastic bag
- Currently, unknown end-of-life recyclability
- High impact if discarded in the environment

COTTON BAG

(100% natural fibre)

Life Cycle Considerations:

- Durable, lightweight, easy to wash
- High amount of resources and fossil fuels used in production (land use, fertilizers, energy use)
- Replace fossil fuel-based inputs with renewable inputs¹⁰
- If used more than 131 times¹⁰, environmental impact is less than a conventional plastic bag
- Low impact if discarded in the environment

4 Communication and education support

To support businesses and increase awareness in the community about the proposed bans, the City of Richmond will be developing a variety of communication and education materials.

In addition to the toolkit for businesses, it is anticipated that there will also be a need for point-of-sale materials and broader awareness communication throughout Richmond. To help ensure that the materials being developed reflect the needs of business, the City has pulled together examples of what has been done in other cities with similar bans for discussion and feedback, which will be used to develop materials tailored to the needs of Richmond businesses and their customers.

The following are examples of communication and education materials used in other communities with similar bans.

POINT OF SALE AND CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION



INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC MATERIALS

City of Victoria customer materials targeted at retail, grocery and cruise industry (included translated materials), as well as social media posts for use by business



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

City of Palo Alto FAQs for customers and retailers



TIPS AND FAQ

District of Tofino and Ucluelet tips for residents, business FAQ and general FAQ

Town of Saanich business FAQ



Please use the feedback form to share your feedback on the following:

- Looking at the communication examples provided, which tactics are most useful to you?
- What information do you feel is most important to share in public communication?
- What information do you want included in the toolkit for businesses? (See next page)
- What format works best for the toolkit booklet?
- Is there anything else you would like to see developed to support communication and education?

TOOLKIT FOR BUSINESS



FACT SHEETS

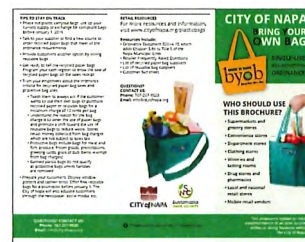
New Zealand and City of Victoria facts about ban and how it affects businesses

City of New Jersey data related to waste from single-use items



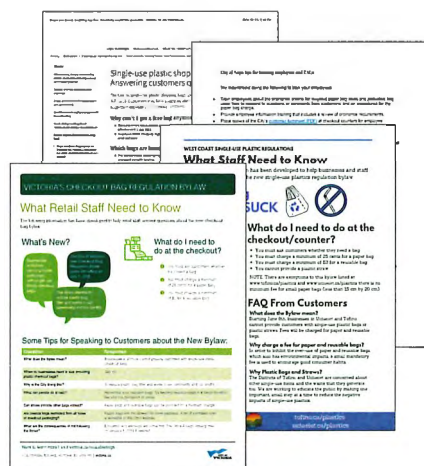
RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVES

New Zealand tips for assessing what businesses need to consider and alternatives



RETAILER CHECKLIST

City of Napa tips for preparing businesses and employees for new ban



EMPLOYEE TRAINING GUIDES

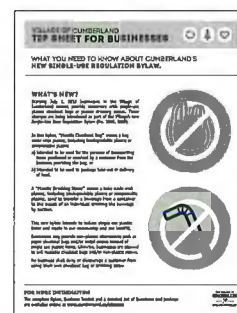
New Zealand, City of Victoria, District of Tofino and City of Napa tips for informing employees and dealing with customers



RESOURCE GUIDES

Recycle BC "Reducing the Distribution of Single-use Shopping Bags" Resource Guide for BC Retailers

PAC Resource "Ocean Plastics: What the packaging industry can do"



TIP SHEETS

Village of Cumberland tip sheet for businesses

City of New Jersey tips for going plastic-free beyond the ban

SOURCES

Page 1:

1. TRI Environmental Consulting, (2019) 2018 Single-Use Items Waste Composition Study Metro Vancouver, available at: www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/SolidWastePublications/2018Single-UseItemsWasteCompositionStudy.pdf
2. Smart Prosperity Institute, 2019, A vision for a circular economy for plastics in Canada: The benefits of plastics without the waste and how we get it right, available at: institute.smartprosperity.ca/sites/default/files/report-circulareconomy-february14-final.pdf
3. Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016, The new plastics economy: Rethinking the future of plastics, available at: www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics
4. Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016, The new plastics economy: Rethinking the future of plastics, available at: www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics

Page 4

5. Environment Protection Authority, 2016, Plastic shopping bags options paper: Practical actions for plastic shopping bags, available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/~media/EPA/Corporate%20Site/resources/waste/160143-plastic-shopping-bags-options.ashx
6. Parker, Laura, 2017, Here's how much plastic trash is littering the earth, available at: news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/?user.testname=none

Page 6

7. The Ocean Cleanup, 2018, What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?, available at: www.theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/#what-are-the-effects-on-marine-life-and-humans
8. Lamb, J.B., et al., 2018, Plastic waste associate with disease on coral reefs. available at: science.sciencemag.org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/content/sci/359/6374/460.full.pdf

Page 13

9. The life-cycle considerations come from the following sources:
 - Ministry for the Environment – New Zealand Government (2019) Environmental pros and cons of alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags, available at: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/single-use-plastic-shopping-bag-ban/pros-cons-of-alternatives>
 - International Reference Centre on the life cycle of products, processes and services (CIRAIG)(2017) Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags, available at: https://monsacintelligent.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/ENGLISH_FINAL-Quebec-LCA-Full-Report.pdf
 - Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark: Environmental Protection Agency (2018) Life Cycle Assessment of grocery carrier bags. Environmental Project no. 1985, available at: www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf
10. Environment Agency – UK Government (2011) Life cycle assessment of supermarket carrier bags: a review of the bags available in 2006, available at: assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291023/scho0711buan-e-e.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Richmond Environmental Programs

604-276-4010

singleuse@richmond.ca

Printed in Canada on recycled paper
(100% post-consumer content)

September 2019



Single-Use Plastic and Other
Items Bylaw No. 10000

Community Engagement Summary Report

This report is a summary of the feedback and key themes from the first phase of communication and engagement, and an overview of future phases.



RICHMOND'S BYLAW 10000:

New ban on single-use plastic and other items

The City of Richmond is taking the lead to reduce reliance on some common single-use items and encourage other communities in Canada and around the world to implement similar measures to help reduce plastic waste and pollution in oceans and other natural areas.

As an integral part of the process, the City has a multi-phase plan to share information and collect input from the community and affected businesses. Phase 1 took place from July to December 2019, and focused on sharing information about the bylaw and collecting feedback on both the ban and how the City can support business.

The next phases of community engagement will involve working with affected businesses in Richmond to support them in the transition and informing the community about the upcoming ban.

THE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AND OTHER ITEMS BYLAW NO. 10000 WILL BAN:

- plastic checkout bags;
- foam food service ware including plates, clamshell containers, bowls and cups;
- plastic straws; and
- compostable and biodegradable plastic bags and straws, as these items are not accepted at commercial composting facilities.

The ban will affect all business license holders in the community – specifically those who currently use plastic checkout bags such as retail shopping or grocery bags, as well as those who use plastic straws or sell or provide prepared food using foam containers. The bylaw includes some exemptions, including health and social service organizations.

In addition, registered charities will be given 18 months from adoption of the bylaw to use up their inventory before the ban applies to them. As well, the bylaw provides exemptions for specific listed uses of plastic bags, plastic straws when required for accessibility purposes, and the sale of plastic straws, plastic bags and foam containers when sold in packages of multiple items.

After completing the first key steps to introduce the new *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000*, including passing the first three readings of the bylaw and submitting it to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for review and approval, the City initiated a comprehensive communication and engagement campaign to reach out to local businesses affected by the bylaw, as well as Richmond residents.

REPORT GENERATED: MARCH 2020 | UPDATED: MAY 2021

The intent was to raise awareness about the issues stemming from single-use items as well as gain insight into how the City can support local businesses through the transition. Recognizing that bans on single-use items are being considered at both a provincial and federal level, the City wants its local businesses to be well prepared and informed about how to adapt to these changes.

The B.C. provincial government has approved local bans on single-use items, including Richmond's new Bylaw 10000, and is drafting a new regulation that will allow local governments to adopt bans on single-use items without requiring provincial approval, as long as they meet certain requirements. As well, more than 35,000 responses in the CleanBC Plastic Action Plan community engagement (cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics) highlighted the need to move toward province-wide bans on certain products. The provincial government is working to develop a legal framework to allow for provincial bans on single-use items such as straws, take-out containers, shopping bags and other priority items.

In addition to the City's new bylaw and the provincial government measures, the federal government has announced a comprehensive plan to take action on single-use items like plastic bags and straws, including restrictions on these items.

SINGLE-USE ITEMS ARE BEING TARGETED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

- These items create unnecessary waste because they are barely used before being tossed away.
- They are lightweight in nature, which can result in them being blown into public spaces, as well as polluting oceans, lakes, rivers and streams.
- Huge amounts of plastic are generated annually – 3.84 million tonnes each year in Canada alone, with only 9% actually collected for recycling.
- There are better alternatives – some are compostable or recyclable, others can be reused multiple times.
- Globally, one garbage truckload of plastic is dumped into the world's oceans each minute.
- By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish (by weight) in the ocean.

SINGLE-USE IS WASTEFUL AND NOT SUSTAINABLE.

It's time to rethink waste and shift to a circular economy, where the materials we use stay in circulation to be used, reused or repaired, and recycled multiple times into new products. This shift from single-use to a circular economy is more sustainable because it reduces reliance on new raw materials and reduces waste going to landfills.

"A circular economy is an economic system where products and services are traded in closed loops or cycles. It is characterized as an economy which is regenerative by design, with the aim to retain as much value as possible of products, parts and materials. This means that the aim should be to create a system that allows for the long life, optimal reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling of products and materials."


KRAAIJENHAGEN, VAN OPPEN & BOCKEN. 2016, ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION, 2016






RECYCLING IS IMPORTANT – BUT REDUCING WASTE IS ESSENTIAL.

While many single-use items can be recycled at the Richmond Recycling Depot, it's important to remember that most single-use items are very low quality and cannot be recycled more than a couple times – at most. Eventually, they are just waste going to a landfill.



Some items, like plastic bags labelled biodegradable or compostable, are not accepted for composting and are also not recyclable, which means these bags can only be put in the garbage. These items are not accepted as compostable/biodegradable as they are not guaranteed to biodegrade if sent to industrial compost facilities because standards and certifications are not aligned with existing infrastructure that is designed to compost food scraps and yard waste. Often times, small flecks of plastic remain in the end product, rendering the product contaminated. It is beyond local government's authority to control compostable packaging design; however, the City is reaching out to other levels of government to advocate for broader measures that will result in consistent standards and policies for compostable and biodegradable plastics.



It's time to change the way we look at waste. Instead of creating large amounts of unnecessary waste from single-use items, we need to select materials that can be composted, reused or recycled multiple times into new products. Changes like these take leadership.

While the initial steps involve adopting Bylaw 10000 to ban plastic checkout bags, foam food service ware and plastic straws, the City will continue to explore other ways to reduce single-use items that result in unnecessary waste and pollution. It's important to make these changes, and the City wants to work with local businesses to make it happen.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTING CHANGE.

As part of introducing the new bylaw, the City recognized that it is essential to connect with businesses affected by Bylaw 10000 to inform them about the changes, recommend alternatives and gain insight into how the City can support them as part of implementing the bans. As well, the City reached out to residents to ask for input on how they are currently making changes at home to reduce reliance on single-use items and to collect comments and questions about Bylaw 10000.

The communication and community engagement campaign involves five phases. This *Community Engagement Summary Report* reflects the feedback and key themes for Phase 1.

PHASE 1: BYLAW AWARENESS – COMPLETE (JULY TO DECEMBER 2019)

- Information and education campaign (ongoing)
- Business engagement (complete for Phase 1)
- Community engagement (complete)

PHASE 2: BYLAW TRANSITION SUPPORT (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021)

- Business information sessions
- Business toolkits (draft for feedback)

PHASE 3: BYLAW ADOPTION AND TRANSITION (SEPTEMBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022)

- Business toolkits
- Business point-of-sale materials
- Public information and education campaign

PHASE 4: BYLAW IMPLEMENTATION (MARCH TO SEPTEMBER 2022)

- Public information and education campaign
- Business transition support

PHASE 5: BYLAW ENFORCEMENT (SEPTEMBER 2022 – ONGOING)

- Commences 12 months after Bylaw 10000 is adopted



Phase 1 Community Engagement

Community engagement for Phase 1 took place from July to December 2019. The campaign focused on increasing awareness about the proposed bylaw and gaining insight into tolerance for cost of better alternatives as well as how residents currently use positive alternatives to single-use items to provide a benchmark for future communication and track behaviour changes. Because this bylaw has a significant impact on local businesses, the City also applied a targeted campaign to consult directly with affected businesses (see Business Engagement on page 14 for details).

The comprehensive communication engagement campaign involved a broad variety of tactics to inform the community about the bylaw, as well as an opportunity to provide comments on the bylaw through an online survey that was available in English, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese.

AWARENESS AND NOTIFICATION COMMUNICATION

The following communication tactics were implemented to raise awareness about the proposed bylaw and why banning single-use items is important, as well as to notify residents and businesses about the opportunity to participate in the community engagement.

ABERDEEN MALL DISPLAY

- Information pull-up banners
- Samples of banned materials and alternatives
- Public handout
- Single-use plastic pop quiz activity

COMMUNITY DISPLAYS

- Maritime Festival
- Bodhi Meditation Festival
- Thompson Community Centre Upcycle & Swap event
- World Festival
- KPU Farmers Market
- Community Energy and Emissions (CEEP) Ideas Fair

ADVERTISING

- *Sentinel* full-page print ad
- *Richmond News* half-page print ad
- *Ming Pao* quarter page print ad
- *Sing Tao* quarter page print ad
- Digital media ads: Chinese Platforms (Eastward Media) and Google ads
- Skytrain: station posters and train ads
- Elevator screen display ad
- Facility screen display ad
- Transit shelter ads

WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook boosted posts
- Twitter posts
- Facebook quiz
- Dedicated web page (richmond.ca/singleuse)

MEDIA RELATIONS

- News release and interviews announcing proposed bylaw and community engagement plan
- Media interviews at business workshops

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Using Richmond’s online survey tool, Let’s Talk Richmond, residents were invited to share input on a variety of topics related to single-use items, and 456 people participated in the survey to varying levels. The survey included a mix of multiple-choice responses and an opportunity to share open-ended comments about Bylaw 10000. It is important to note that this was a self-select survey, and is not considered statistically valid. It is also important to note that this report summarizes key themes shared by survey respondents; that is, the content that reflects input shared most consistently and with the most consensus. This is not a verbatim report of every response and comment shared in the survey.

KEY THEMES: Multiple Choice Responses

- The majority of residents are either “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to choose vendors that use compostable paper products instead of foam food containers, even if it means what they are buying is more expensive.
- Most respondents either have used, or are currently using, reusable shopping bags for grocery or retail shopping.
 - Just over half of those who use reusable bags indicated they use them on all shopping trips.
 - The factor that most influenced their decision to bring reusable bags is concern about ocean plastic pollution, followed by fees for using paper or plastic bags at checkout and social pressures/opinions that it is wrong to use plastic bags.
- For those who do not use reusable bags, the most common reason was that it is inconvenient to bring reusable bags when shopping.
- If there is a 10 cent charge for paper or plastic bags, most respondents indicated they would either always bring reusable bags or would sometimes bring reusable bags.
- There is less use of reusable straws when not at home.
- When it comes to reusable straws being used at home, the respondents were split half and half in terms of usage at home; however, of those who do use reusable straws at home, more than half indicated they do so most of the time.
- Close to two-thirds of respondents have used or currently use reusable cups when purchasing drinks – hot or cold – from vendors, and the majority of respondents indicated they would be more inclined to bring their own cup if there was an incentive such as reduced price or being charged a fee for using a disposable cup.
- Less than a third of respondents indicated they have used, or are currently using, a reusable container to take home leftover food from restaurants.

Top priorities identified by the community:

1. Generally support the bylaw.
2. Would like the ban to exclude plastic bags.
3. Communication and education about the ban and why it’s needed are essential.

97%

HAVE USED REUSABLE BAGS

HAVE USED REUSABLE CUPS

63%

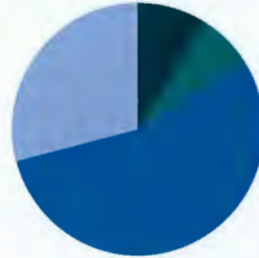
55%

WERE LIKELY TO CHOOSE VENDORS THAT USE COMPOSTABLE CONTAINERS INSTEAD OF FOAM – EVEN IF IT COSTS MORE

Community Multiple Choice Responses (cont.)

1. CHOOSING VENDORS

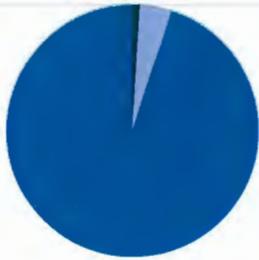
How likely are you to choose vendors that use compostable paper products instead of foam containers or plastic bags, even if that means what you are buying is more expensive?



- **239 (55.8%):** Very likely
- **123 (28.7%):** Somewhat likely
- **38 (8.9%):** Not very likely
- **28 (6.5%):** Not at all likely

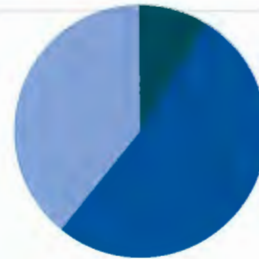
2. USE OF REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

A. Have you or anyone in your household ever used, or are currently using, reusable shopping bags for grocery or retail shopping?



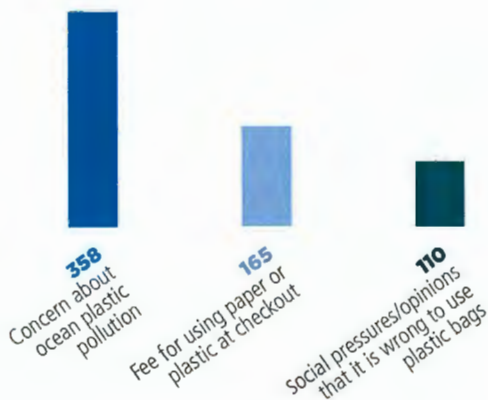
- **414 (96.5%):** Yes
- **14 (3.3%):** No
- **1 (0.2%):** Unsure

B. If yes, approximately how often do you and/or members of your household use reusable bags for grocery or retail shopping?

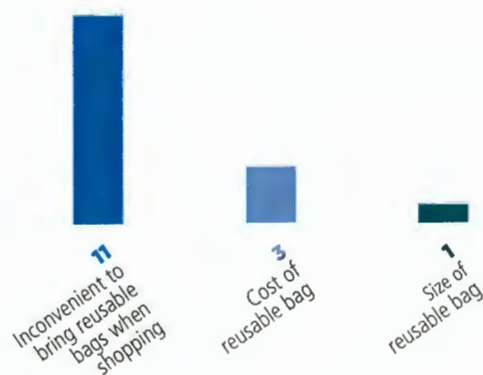


- **216 (52.2%):** All shopping trips
- **161 (38.9%):** More than half of shopping trips
- **37 (8.9%):** Less than half of shopping trips

C. What factors influence your decision to bring reusable bags for groceries or retail shopping?



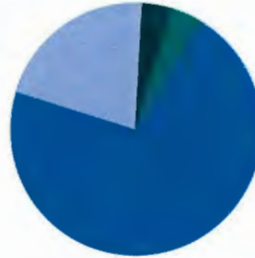
D. If no, what factors influence your decisions related to purchasing and using reusable bags?



Community Multiple Choice Responses (cont.)

3. PAYING 10 CENTS FOR BAGS

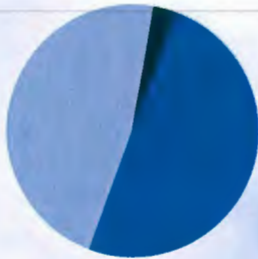
If grocery and retail stores charged 10 cents per paper or plastic bag at the checkout, how would this affect you?



- **301 (70.5%):**
I would always bring reusable bags
- **91 (21.3%):**
I would sometimes bring reusable bags
- **18 (4.2%):**
Unsure
- **17 (4%):**
I would always pay 10 cents per bag

4. USE OF REUSABLE STRAWS AT HOME

A. Have you or anyone in your household ever used, or are currently using, reusable straws at home?



- **213 (49.8%):** No
- **205 (47.9%):** Yes
- **10 (2.3%):** Unsure

B. If yes, is it most of the time, some of the time or rarely?



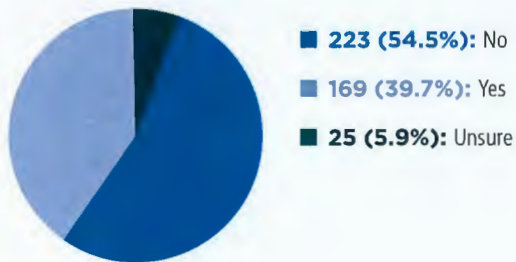
- **130 (63.4%):**
Most of the time
- **50 (24.4%):**
Some of the time
- **25 (12.2%):**
Rarely



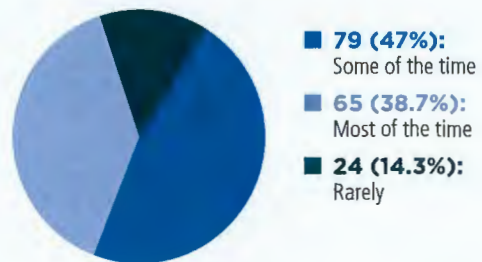
Community Multiple Choice Responses (cont.)

5. USE OF REUSABLE STRAWS WHEN NOT AT HOME

A. Have you or anyone in your household ever used, or are currently using, reusable straws when not at home?

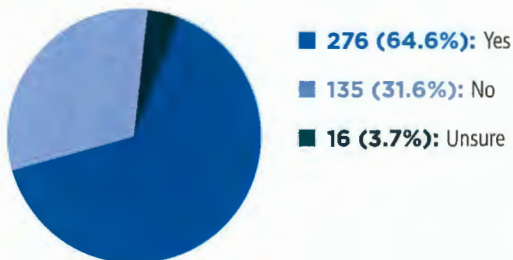


B. If yes, is it most of the time, some of the time or rarely?

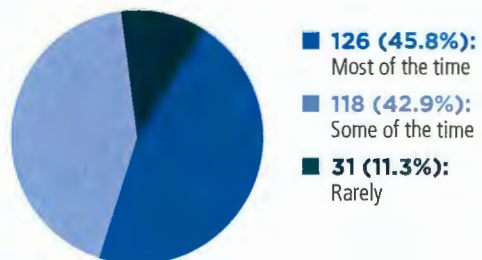


6. USE OF REUSABLE CUPS WHEN NOT AT HOME

A. Have you or anyone in your household ever used, or are currently using, reusable cups when purchasing drinks – hot or cold – from vendors?



B. If yes, is it most of the time, some of the time or rarely?



Community Multiple Choice Responses (cont.)

7. INCENTIVES FOR USE OF REUSABLE CUPS

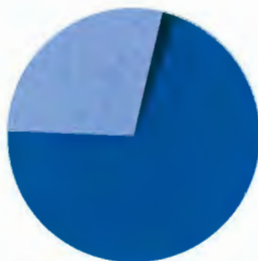
Would you be more inclined to bring your own cup if the coffee shop gave an incentive such as a reduced price or charged a fee for using their cup?



- **334 (78.2%):** Yes
- **61 (14.3%):** No
- **32 (7.5%):** Unsure

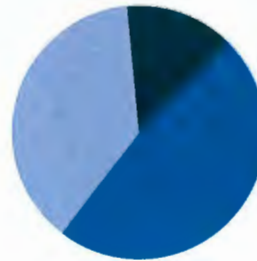
8. USE OF REUSABLE CONTAINERS WHEN NOT AT HOME

A. Have you or anyone in your household ever used, or are currently using, your own reusable containers when at restaurants to take home leftover food?



- **302 (70.4%):** No
- **120 (28%):** Yes
- **16 (3.7%):** Unsure

B. If yes, is it most of the time, some of the time or rarely?



- **57 (48.3%):** Some of the time
- **45 (38.1%):** Most of the time
- **16 (13.6%):** Rarely

KEY THEMES: Community Open Ended Comments

9. Please share any questions or comments you have about the proposed bylaw to ban the following single-use items: plastic checkout bags, plastic straws and foam materials used for prepared food, such as foam clamshell containers, plates, bowls and cups.

COMMENTS THAT RELATE TO GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE BYLAW:

- The largest number of consistent responses indicated support for the bylaw with no qualifiers.
- The next most consistent response was a qualifier that the ban should not include plastic bags as people use these for garbage at home and a ban would impose additional costs for people as they would now need to buy garbage bags.
- There was also a key theme related to expanding the ban to plastic packaging and other plastics like bubble tea cups, cup lids and cutlery.
- Several consistent responses noted that the ban should only be implemented if there are viable alternatives in place, with an emphasis on compostable materials.
- Several consistent responses also related to questions about compostable/biodegradable plastic in terms of wanting these materials to be permitted, as well as the need for explanations around why these materials are not acceptable alternatives.
- There was a key theme related to encouraging people to choose reusable options, including increasing the fees for single-use items, encouraging businesses to accept and provide reusable items and educating people about the importance of reusable items.

OTHER COMMENTS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTING THE BYLAW:

- A key theme related to supporting businesses as part of the implementation, including suggestions such as offering incentives/subsidies for businesses who offer better options, and taking into account the business impacts such as allowing a gradual shift.
- Other consistent responses related to ensuring there was sufficient enforcement with fines/penalties.

COMMENTS THAT RELATE TO LACK OF SUPPORT FOR THE BYLAW:

- While smaller in number, there were some comments indicating that the respondents do not support the ban, saying it is not needed and the City should not be imposing these types of regulations.
- Other consistent comments that indicated lack of support for the ban related to lack of good options for straws, the need for single-use items for hygiene reasons and that it is inconvenient to bring reusable items while out in the community.

COMMENTS BEYOND THE BYLAW:

- While not related directly to the bylaw, there were also consistent themes related to recycling, including the need for commercial recycling, increased recycling by residents, and the need to educate people about how to recycle correctly.

KEY THEMES: Community Open Ended Comments (cont.)

10. Do you have any other suggestion on how the City of Richmond can support measures to reduce reliance on single-use plastics and other items?

LARGEST NUMBERS OF CONSISTENT RESPONSES:

- The largest number of consistent responses involved the recommendation for more communication and education in the community about why reducing single-use items is important and what people can and should do (such as encouraging more use of reusable items), as well as details about the bylaw itself.
- The next largest number of consistent responses related to support for the bylaw and expanding it to other plastics as well as suggestions for the bylaw implementation as follows:
 - Providing incentives for adhering to the bylaw was a consistent theme, both in terms of subsidies or tax incentives for business as well as promoting compliant businesses through City platforms, and incentives such as discounts for customers who bring reusable items.
 - Another key theme related to cost and affordability of alternatives, including suggestions to add a tax to single-use items that are not good for the environment to make them more expensive than recommended alternatives, and to apply consistent enforcement and significant fines as part of penalties.
 - There is a key theme related to applying innovative solutions, including investing in research into more affordable alternatives, implementing reuse programs and implementing a deposit/refund approach for recyclable single-use items to encourage people to bring them to the Richmond Recycling Depot.
 - Similar to the comments about the bylaw, there is a key theme related to permitting compostable/biodegradable items.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MEASURES BEYOND THE BYLAW INCLUDED A NUMBER OF KEY THEMES FOR THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Lobby provincial and federal governments for similar bans, as well as measures to ensure recycling is being processed correctly so it doesn't end up in landfills, and ideally not being sent overseas.
- Impose measures on manufacturing sector to put a stop to production of banned items.
- Require and enforce commercial recycling.

A NUMBER OF KEY THEMES ALSO RELATED TO RECOMMENDED CITY-SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

- The most consistent response related to City actions related to expanding curbside collection to include Styrofoam and all clean plastic, including plastic bags and flexible plastic packaging.
- Another key theme was for the City to ensure it is taking its own steps to reduce single-use plastics and other items in its operations.
- Provide swag items that demonstrate good examples of reusable items, such as reusable bags with information about single-use items ban, bubble tea cups, reusable straws, sporks and souvenir items to target and inform tourists.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Similar to the input on the bylaw itself, there were a small number of comments that the City should stay out of this type of regulation.



Phase 1 Business Engagement

In addition to the Phase 1 community education and awareness campaign, the City implemented a targeted campaign from July to December 2019 to inform and engage businesses affected by the bylaw. The information provided to businesses involved research into alternatives to banned items and the communication and toolkits developed by other cities around the world. The objectives for the business-focused engagement were to ensure businesses were aware about the need to reduce single-use items and their impact on the environment, informed about the bylaw itself in terms of the banned materials, exemptions and alternatives, and to gain insight into how the City can support businesses during the transition. In particular, the City wanted to understand the barriers and challenges affecting businesses, what content should be included in a business toolkit and what point of sale communication materials would be most effective.

To help support informed and meaningful engagement, the City created a comprehensive Discussion Guide to provide a resource for business. The Guide included data and other details related to the harmful impacts of single-use plastic and other items and an overview of the City's bylaw, related exemptions and the timeline for implementation and enforcement.

The Guide also provided information on recommended alternatives, guidance around different options and what to ask suppliers, and communication and business toolkit examples from other jurisdictions that have implemented similar bans. In addition to the Guide, the workshops included a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted content from the Discussion Guide, a Feedback Form to provide individual input and samples of both alternatives and communication materials. Businesses were invited to participate in facilitated group discussions and input was collected both on the Feedback Form and through notes taken at each group table.

The City also engaged directly with organizations in the community who represent various businesses that will be affected by the ban to gain insight into what should be covered in the discussion guide for business and the topics for consultation at the workshop, as well as to explore opportunities to partner with organizations to improve communication and support implementation of the bylaw.



AWARENESS AND NOTIFICATION COMMUNICATION

The notification communication materials were designed to raise awareness about the proposed bylaw and why banning single-use items is important, as well as to notify businesses about the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops.

DIRECT MAIL TO AFFECTED BUSINESSES

(Sent to 4,912 businesses pulled from Business Licensing)

- Letter (English and Simplified Chinese sent in the mail, with Traditional Chinese PDF version on the City website)
- Invitation card for workshop (English and Simplified Chinese sent by mail, with Traditional Chinese PDF on the City website)

EMAIL AND FLYER

- Email invitation and PDF flyer sent to Richmond Chamber, Richmond Hotel Association and Tourism Richmond for distribution to their members
- PDF flyer provided to Lansdowne and Aberdeen mall administration for printing and distribution to mall tenants

DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS (187 businesses)

- Flyer with information and invitation to participate in workshops
- Letter (English and Simplified Chinese provided, with Traditional Chinese PDF version on the City website)

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

Recognizing that business operators have varying schedules and challenges affecting their ability to connect with the City, the business engagement campaign included a number of opportunities to provide input as outlined below.

WORKSHOPS

Hosted at City Hall, the facilitated workshops involved 179 participants at 10, two-hour sessions (6 English, 2 Cantonese, 2 Mandarin). All materials were available in English, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese. The workshop participants included a mix of sectors, such as food service (56), retail (6), grocery (9), distribution (24), hospitality (10) and other (18).

Each workshop included the following:

- PowerPoint presentation explaining the impacts of single-use plastic and other items, an overview of Bylaw 10000, alternatives and examples of communication, such as what to include in a business toolkit and samples of communication from other cities with similar bans;
- Discussion Guide with in-depth information on the topics covered in the presentation;
- Facilitated group discussions including a facilitator and a subject matter expert, with discussion comments and questions being captured as notes; and

- Feedback Forms provided to all participants, who were encouraged to note their individual input to each discussion point prior to the group discussion. 131 Feedback Forms were submitted by participants.

MALL OPEN HOUSES

Mall open houses were held to reach retailers and food court operators as these businesses generally were not able to attend the workshops. The open houses included two sessions at Lansdowne Mall (1 English, 1 Cantonese/Mandarin) and one session at Aberdeen (Cantonese and Mandarin).

Each mall open house included the following:

- PowerPoint presentation explaining the impacts of single-use plastic and other items and an overview of Bylaw 10000;
- Information stations with display boards focused on recommended alternatives and communication options, including sample toolkits and point-of-sale materials from other cities with similar bans. Feedback was recorded on post-it notes; and



- Discussion Guides handed out to retailers and food court operators (staff walked through the mall to provide materials).

B2B EVENTS

Attended two business-to-business events (hosted by Richmond Chamber of Commerce).

DIRECT OUTREACH

Reached out to nine organizations that represent affected organizations by email and phone, resulting in a mix of phone and in-person meetings with the following organizations:

- Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Richmond Hotel Association
- Tourism Richmond
- Steveston Merchants Association/Farmers Market
- Richmond Night Market
- Asian Restaurant Association
- Vancouver Coastal Health

KEY THEMES: Business Workshop Participants

Workshop participants were given a Discussion Guide and Feedback Form. The workshop facilitator presented an overview of each topic covered in the Discussion Guide, which was followed by a facilitated group discussion and an opportunity for participants to share individual input on their Feedback Form.

- During the discussions and through input on the Feedback Forms, there were a number of consistent ideas and concerns identified, which are captured here as key themes. It is also important to note that this report summarizes key themes shared by participants in the engagement process; that is, the content that reflects input shared most consistently and with the most consensus. This is not a verbatim report of everything said or shared through the workshops.



Top priorities identified by business overall:

1. Generally support the ban.
2. Concerned about cost of alternatives (consider incentives/subsidies).
3. Need time to use up stock and make adjustments.
4. Enforcement needs to be consistent and with significant penalties.
5. Would like the City to host a trade show to connect local businesses with vendors who offer alternatives.
6. Communication and education will be essential to inform the community about the ban, encourage them to bring reusable items and make it clear the City is responsible for the ban.
7. Need clarity about good alternatives that don't create other problems.
8. Would like the City to lobby for federal and provincial bans.

Business Workshop Topics

PROPOSED BYLAW 10000

1. Please share any comments or questions you have about Bylaw 10000.
 - Support for the ban as a good idea in general.
 - Some interest in seeing other items included in the ban (e.g. produce/bakery plastic bags, plastic cutlery, plastic coffee cup lids, plastic drink bottles) and felt that buying straws in bulk should not be permitted.
 - Business owners need to have a better understanding of alternatives and how to implement the ban.
 - The bylaw doesn't make it clear that biodegradable/compostable plastic is not permitted.
 - It's essential to educate the public about the ban before it goes into place.
 - There is a mix in terms of an acceptable grace period – some felt 12 months was sufficient, while others felt it wasn't long enough to use up existing inventory.
 - There are not any good alternatives for plastic straws for specialty drinks like bubble tea.
 - Need federal and provincial legislation for these types of bans so consistent in all communities.
 - Need a clear definition of what is considered a health facility exempted under bylaw e.g. homeopathic physicians.

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

2. Are there any special considerations related to proposed alternatives and how they impact your business?
 - Need more low cost alternatives – the current options for alternative items are too expensive.
 - Certification standards are needed for biodegradable/compostable plastic products so these materials will be accepted at local processing facilities.
 - Would like the City to provide a list of vendors for alternatives.
 - Concerns about paper as an alternative for bags and containers as paper is not water resistant, cannot handle as much weight, tears easily and means more trees being cut down.
 - City should be open to alternative products proposed by the public.
 - Recycled paper and reusable bags are a good alternative; however, the reusable plastic bags may end up in the garbage.
 - Product suppliers need to know they should adhere to ban.
 - There is a lack of alternatives in different sizes.
 - Customers may not be happy with alternative products.
 - A food safety and sanitation plan is needed if people are bringing their own containers for take-out/leftovers, and need food safe packaging material to keep products safe for transport home.
 - It's difficult to source alternative containers as many have a chemical lining but not easy to determine whether it is acceptable.
3. Are there other alternatives you would recommend?
 - Bamboo is a good alternative that should be encouraged.
 - Reusable materials prioritized over recyclable; City should be encouraging people to bring their own reusable items, like checkout bags, containers/cups/straws etc.
 - Glass returnables with rubberized lids and a recycling depot for them.
 - Store implemented rental programs for containers.
 - Need to keep researching and updating alternatives as they become available.
4. Is there anything else you would like to add about alternative products?
 - Need to consider current consumer behaviour and provide education in the community about better alternatives and the fact that they cost more (so business has to charge more).
 - Need better options for forks, spoons and cups.
 - Alternative products should not create a new problem e.g. deforestation, reusable bags in garbage.



Business Workshop Topics

COMMUNICATION AND BUSINESS TOOLKIT

See statistics section on page 21 for a detailed breakdown of questions 5-8

5. Please provide input on preferred communication materials for use in your business.

- Posters, till toppers, handbills, window decals and grocery store bags were noted as some of the most useful communication methods (“Very Useful” and “Somewhat Useful”).
- Additional communication tactics for business to use included:
 - Handbills available early to put in bags to notify clients/customers;
 - Tailored communication to business needs – maybe by request or online to order materials, or checklist of options;
 - Recognition program for business – decal/signage – for voluntary compliance;
 - Menu and table drink menu inserts;
 - Reusable bags from City with single-use information on the bags;
 - Signage in parking lots to remind people to bring reusable bags; and
 - Graphics that can be emailed/texted.

6. What information do you feel is most important to share in public communication?

- Participants felt the following were all very important:
 - City needs to take ownership/responsibility for the ban, and to explain why the ban is in place; and
 - Need to provide information on alternative options and encourage use of reusable options.

7. What information would be important to include in a business toolkit?

- Participants felt the following information was important to include:
 - Facts about the ban and how it affects business;
 - Vendors for alternative products;
 - Recommended alternatives;
 - Retail checklist to prepare for the ban;
 - Tips for training employees;
 - Data related to waste management;
 - Tips for going plastic free; and
 - Scenario conversations to handle questions from staff and customers.
- Other suggestions for the toolkit and business implementation support included:
 - Include a test about the ban in the Food Safe exam;
 - Offer a half-day training or test before issuing new business licences;
 - Provide digital assets that business could use in their communication to customers;
 - Provide penalty information; and
 - Provide samples of recommended alternatives.

8. What format would work best for the toolkit?

- Equal interest in printed copies, PDFs for download and a webpage version with links to resource.
- Incorporate bylaw information into business license process.



Sample communications materials were provided to businesses for feedback.

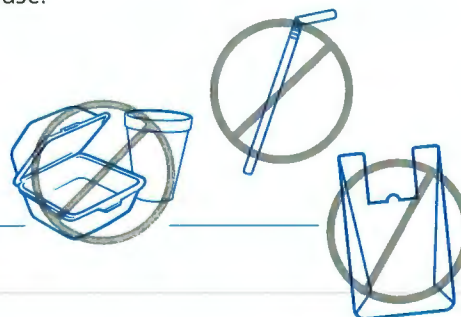
Business Workshop Topics

COMMUNICATION AND BUSINESS TOOLKIT (CONT.)

9. Is there anything else you would like to see developed to support communication and education? (*The following are the most consistent suggestions.*)

- Implement programs in schools.
- Implement broad and ongoing communication in the community for at least a year, including social media, videos, booths in the community, street banners and other advertising.
- Create a hotline for businesses.
- Share case studies (including a business case that applies to small and medium business) and consumer research about alternatives.

- Have more workshops when the bylaw is adopted.
- Develop a campaign hashtag.
- Use graphics, pictures and minimal text as well as a brand/icon for reducing plastic.
- Notify distributors and Richmond businesses directly (by mail) when bylaw is passed.
- Communicate in multiple languages.
- Encourage people to recycle correctly, and to reduce and reuse.



CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM CITY

10. What future activities by the City would be useful to you as a business operating in Richmond? (*See statistics section for a detailed breakdown.*)

- There was general support for:
 - Establishing a City task force, with representatives from various business organizations;
 - Petitioning federal and provincial governments to implement similar bans; and
 - Petitioning for consistent standards/certification for biodegradable and compostable plastics.
- Businesses would like the City to consider more ways to support implementation, such as subsidies to offset higher costs, group/bulk buying coordination, programs for reusable products.
- Would like incentive and recognition programs for businesses who implement changes to better alternatives.
- Would like City to provide subsidies to offset cost of alternative products.
- Would like City to work with suppliers to source and produce better alternatives.

11. Do you have any additional questions/comments about the City's next steps?

- Enforcement will be important.
- Need to work together to implement the ban, including working with BC provincial government for a province-wide ban.
- There is significant interest in the City hosting a trade show featuring suppliers/distributors with alternatives.
- Provide communication about the ban as early as possible when approved.
- Consider applying a charge for paper bags.

12. Do you have any questions/comments about your role as a business when implementing these changes?

- Most respondents indicated they will adapt as needed.
- Financial incentives or lower costs would help with transition.
- Would like more information on how they can help reduce single-use plastic as individuals.
- Would like to be able to charge for takeout products (restaurants).

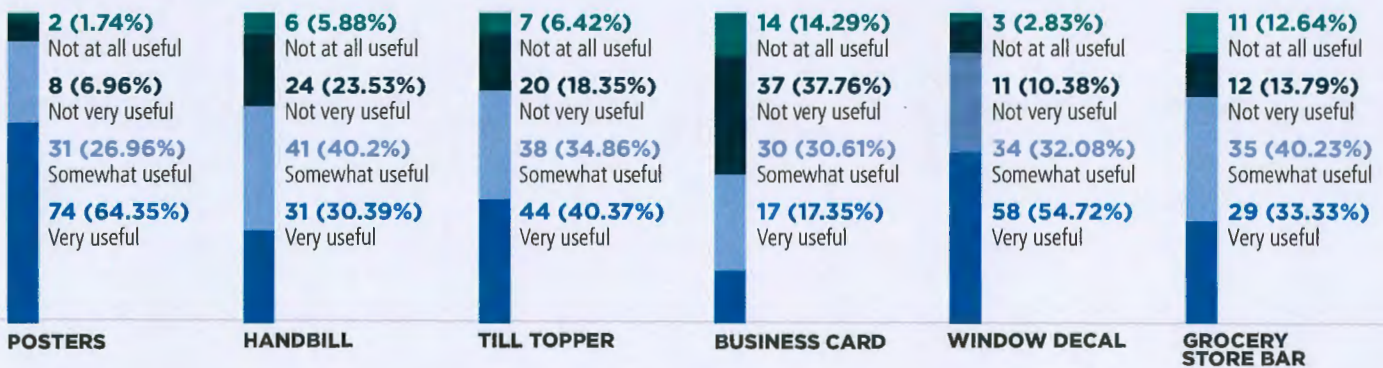
Statistical Responses

While the open ended questions resulted in compiling key themes related to input, there were also a number of multiple choice questions on the Feedback Form that resulted in a statistical result. The following is a summary of these responses, based on 131 submitted Feedback Forms (noting that in many cases, not all respondents completed every question).

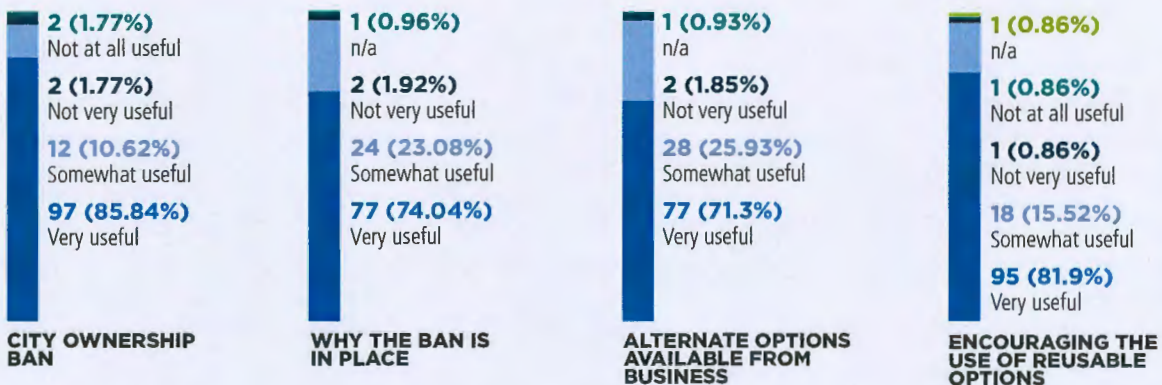
COMMUNICATION AND BUSINESS TOOLKIT

See page 19 for additional discussion of questions 5-6.

5. Looking at the communication examples provided, which tactics are most useful to you?



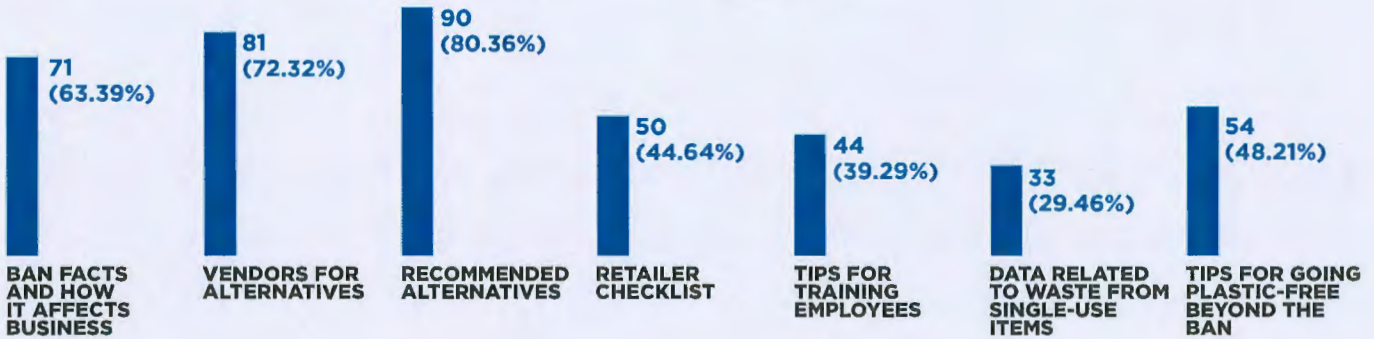
6. What information do you feel is most important to share in public communication?



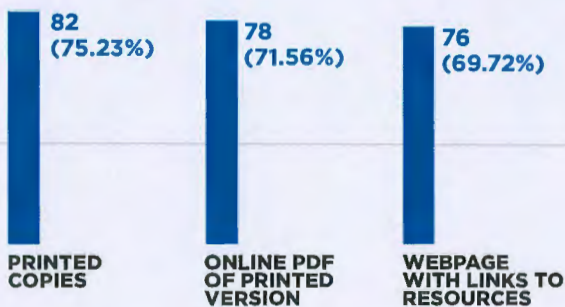
COMMUNICATION AND BUSINESS TOOLKIT (CONT.)

See page 19 for additional discussion of questions 7-8.

7. What information do you want included in the toolkit for businesses?



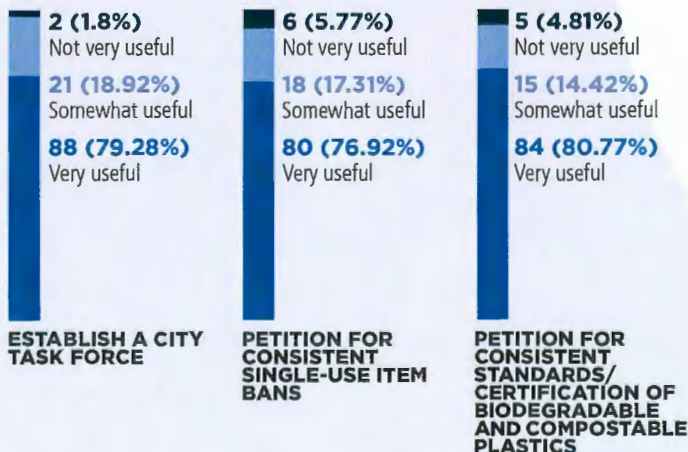
8. What format works best for the toolkit booklet?



CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM CITY

See page 20 for additional discussion of question 10.

10. Please indicate which activities would be useful to you as a business operating in Richmond.





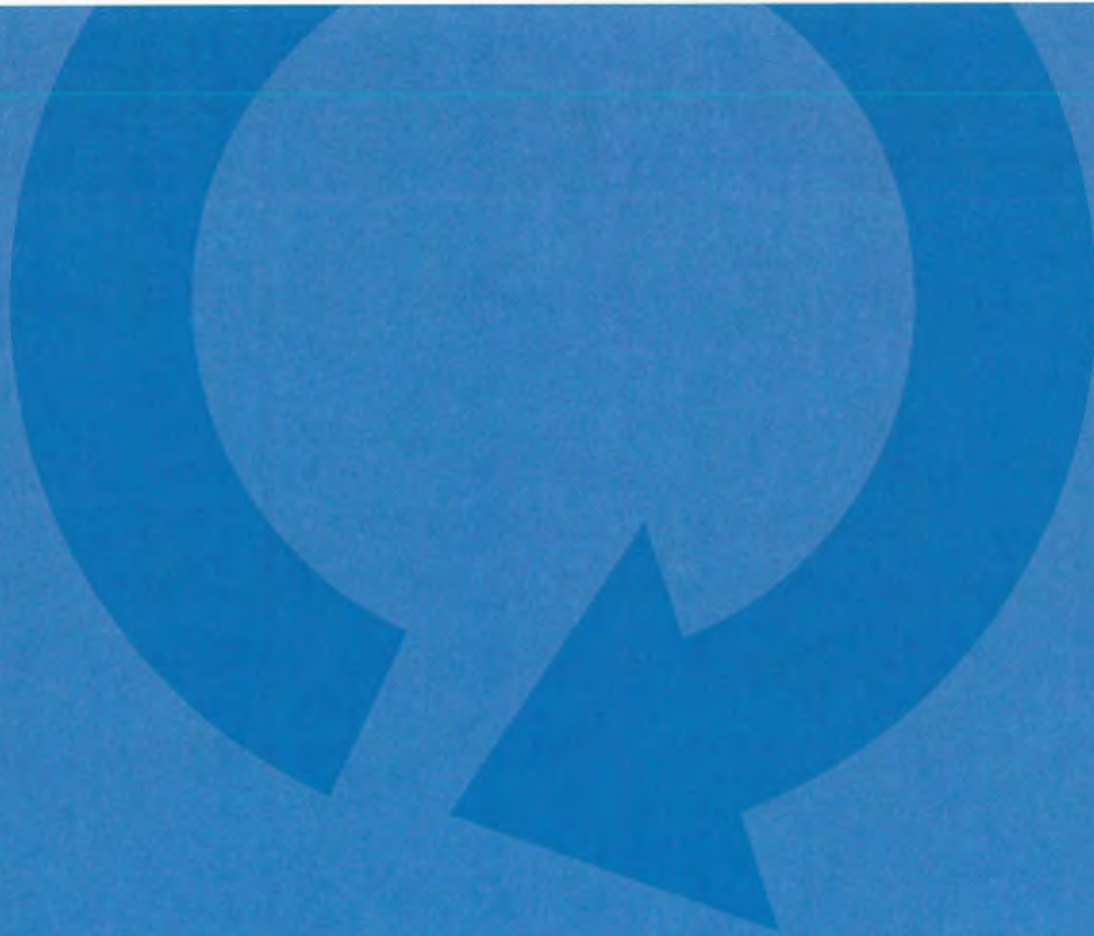
KEY THEMES: **Business Organizations**

Engagement with business organizations was completed through meetings both in-person and by phone. The following are the key themes shared by the seven organizations involved in the meetings.

- There is general support for bans on single-use items, but cost of alternatives is higher, which is a concern for business.
- Businesses need time to use up inventory and prepare for the ban, such as sourcing suppliers with alternatives that work for their business needs.
- There is interest in an incentive approach (subsidies, tax rebates) to encourage businesses to avoid single-use items.
- It's important for businesses to understand the costs of various alternatives and the suppliers/vendors who offer them.
- Ideally, the City could help to coordinate a group/bulk purchasing program for small businesses to help reduce costs.
- It's important to provide information in both Simplified and Traditional Chinese.
- It is important to provide business with examples of the alternatives.
- The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is interested in partnering with the City for future events to help inform business about the bans, such as a vendor trade show, speakers at business and zero waste events, and having City staff attend its events.
- Paper straws are a considerable concern for specialty drink companies like bubble tea.
- Clear food safe guidelines are needed and being worked on by Vancouver Coastal Health.

Next Steps

This report is being shared with Council and through the City's website. The input and feedback from the community and business engagement will be used to inform how the bylaw will be implemented, and the additional measures the City may take to communicate the bylaw and support business through the transition to better alternatives.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Richmond Environmental Programs

604-276-4010

singleuse@richmond.ca

richmond.ca/singleuse



Summary of Communication Tactics from the Community Engagement

Phase 1 Awareness – General Community Engagement Summary:

The community engagement campaign focused on increasing awareness about the Bylaw and gaining insight into the tolerance for the cost of better alternatives, as well as determining how residents currently use alternatives to single-use items.

The City utilized the following methods to achieve this:

- Public information displays (Aberdeen Mall, Maritime Festival, Bodhi Meditation Festival, Thompson Community Centre Upcycle & Swap event, World Festival, KPU Farmers Market, Community Energy and Emissions Ideas Fairs).
- Print and digital advertising (English and Chinese newspapers, digital media, Skytrain stations and train ads, elevator screen displays, facility screen displays, transit shelter ads, social media, news release, media interviews).
- Let's Talk Richmond survey (English, Mandarin and Cantonese).

The City used Richmond's online survey tool, Let's Talk Richmond, to invite residents to share input on a variety of topics relating to single-use items. The survey included a mix of multiple-choice responses and an opportunity to share open-ended comments about the Bylaw. A total of 456 people participated in the survey to varying levels. This was a self-select survey, and is not considered statistically valid.

Top priorities identified by the community overall:

1. General support for the Bylaw.
2. Would like the ban to exclude plastic bags.
3. Communication and education about the ban and why it's needed are essential.

Phase 1 Awareness – Business Engagement Summary

The business engagement campaign focused on:

- Ensuring businesses were aware about the need to reduce single-use items and their impact on the environment,
- Ensuring businesses were informed about the Bylaw in terms of the banned materials, exemptions and alternatives, and
- Gathering feedback on how the City can support businesses during the transition.

The City utilized the following methods to achieve this:

- Direct mail to affected businesses.
- Email and flyer to Richmond business associations and mall administration.
- Door-to-door visits (187 businesses).
- In-person, two-hour workshops facilitated at City Hall (179 participants in 10 sessions - 6 English, 2 Cantonese, 2 Mandarin).
- Open houses in local malls (Lansdowne Mall, Aberdeen Mall).

- Richmond Chamber of Commerce business-to-business events (2 events).
- Direct outreach with Richmond business organizations.
- Inclusion in City's business related communications such as the Business in Richmond e-news and Economic Development Office social media channels.

To help support informed and meaningful engagement at the in-person business workshops, the City created and utilized a comprehensive Discussion Guide to provide a resource for business. The workshop facilitator presented an overview of each topic covered in the Discussion Guide, which was followed by a facilitated group discussion and an opportunity for participants to share individual input on their Feedback Form. Feedback from the business community was they found the Discussion Guide to be particularly helpful.

Top priorities identified by business overall:

1. General support for the ban.
2. Concerned about cost of alternatives (consider incentives/subsidies).
3. Need time to use up stock and make adjustments.
4. Enforcement needs to be consistent and with significant penalties.
5. Would like the City to host a trade show to connect local businesses with vendors who offer alternatives.
6. Communication and education will be essential to inform the community about the ban, encourage them to bring reusable items and make it clear the City is responsible for the ban.
7. Need clarity about good alternatives that don't create other problems.
8. Would like the City to lobby for federal and provincial bans.



410-890 Pender St W
 Vancouver, BC V6C 1J9
 (604) 736-0368
 1 (800) 663-5135

March 11, 2021

Suzanne Bycraft
 Manager of Fleet and Environmental Programs
 5599 Lynas Lane
 Richmond, British Columbia
 V7C 5B2 Canada

Subject: City of Richmond Shopping Bag Bylaw Implementation

Retail is Canada's largest private sector employer – and is also the largest private sector employer in British Columbia. Over 308,000 British Columbians worked in our industry before the onset of the crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The sector annually generates over \$11 billion (2018 data) in wages and employee benefits for British Columbians. Core retail sales (excluding vehicles and gasoline) in B.C. were \$56.4 billion in 2019. Retail Council of Canada (RCC) is a not-for-profit industry-funded association that represents small, medium and large retail businesses in every community across the country. As the Voice of Retail™, we proudly represent more than 21,000 British Columbian storefronts in all retail formats, including department, grocery, pharmacy, specialty, discount, independent retailers and online merchants.

RCC notes that many small retailers maintain up to a year's supply of bags in their stores, larger retailers may maintain even more supply. RCC urges a minimum lead time of at least 26 weeks from the date Richmond's shopping bag bylaw is adopted, and are there is a significant implementation period built into Richmond's bylaw, which we think will be very helpful both for retailers to go through their stock of bags and plan appropriately, and for consumers to gain awareness of the upcoming ban and prepare for alternative bag options.

Retailers elsewhere are struggling to identify supplies of paper bags with more than 40% recycled content in time for implementation dates already passed by councils (City of Victoria on April 15, 2021, the City of Nanaimo on July 1, 2021 and the City of Vancouver on January 1, 2022). The two largest vendor paper vendors in Canada have communicated that they are at maximum production capacity on a standard 12x7x17" bag (with 40% recycled content), and will be until at least late 2021, meaning that retailers are forced to source bags from secondary vendors overseas (mainly in China). The largest grocers and general merchants report ordering lead times for paper bags with over 40% recycled content to be over three months, meaning that independent retailers without access to the same robust supply chains will have a much longer pipeline from order to delivery.

Further to the operational costs of such an improbable implementation timeline, there is the vital question of what retailers are to do with their existing stock of plastic bags and non-compliant paper bags. Fashion retailers for example, have experienced an average 50% drop in sales from pre-pandemic times, meaning that their existing supply of single-use bags will take time to be depleted. Therefore some, if not most, retailers will not be able to use up their existing inventory of single-use plastic bags for at least six months.

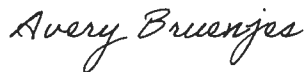
Paper bags are much more expensive, use greater amounts of storage space, and result in significantly higher GHG emissions (both in production and transportation), which is only

exacerbated for rush orders that this timeline would necessitate. Our request for a minimum lead time of at least 26 weeks from the date the bylaw is adopted will both alleviate extra GHG emissions and costs, and avoid most of the unnecessary disposal of already extant single-use bags, which would have environmental outcomes opposite to those desired in enacting this ban.

We also urge Richmond to initiate robust education campaigns prior to implementation of the ban, so as to inform the public as to the goals and objectives of the ban and how it will be put in place, and are glad to hear this is part of the City's plan. Retail store operators and employees have experienced significantly higher negative interactions with customers during the pandemic. The implementation of this bylaw will only increase these number of incidents front-line retail staff experience. The public should be well informed of the upcoming ban and its parameters before implementation in order to ensure the safety of retail employees, which is our top priority throughout the pandemic and beyond.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at abruenjes@retailcouncil.org or (604) 754-1565. Thank you for taking the views of stores and workers into consideration on this issue.

Yours truly,



Avery Bruenjes
Policy Analyst, Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs

Summary of Plastics Action by Other Local, Regional, Provincial and Federal Agencies

A number of local governments have taken action to reduce single-use plastics through adoption of bylaws, with many receiving provincial approvals. For those currently in effect and in light of COVID-19, enforcement is expected to be re-established as health restrictions ease. A summary of other local government bylaws is outlined in Table 1, below:

Table 1: Overview of approved municipal bylaws

Municipality	Adoption/Effective Date	Restriction
City of Vancouver <i>(did not require provincial approval)</i>	Effective January 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Polystyrene foam food service ware for prepared foods
	Effective April 22, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Straws • By-Request Disposable Utensils
	Effective January 1, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee for Disposable Cups • Ban Plastic Bags • Fee for Paper and Reusable Bags
City of Victoria	Adopted and Effective April 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Fee for Paper and Reusable Bags
District of Tofino	Adopted and Effective October 13, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Fee for Paper and Reusable Bags • Ban Plastic Straws
	Adopted October 13, 2020 Effective April 13, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Polystyrene foam food service ware for prepared foods
District of Ucluelet	Adopted and Effective October 13, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Fee for Paper and Reusable Bags • Ban Plastic Straws
	Adopted October 13, 2020 Effective April 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Polystyrene foam food service ware for prepared foods
District of Saanich	Adopted June 21, 2021 Effective August 20, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Fee for Paper and Reusable Bags
City of Surrey	Adoption and effective November 21, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Ban Polystyrene Foam Food Service Ware • Require a fee for Paper and Reusable Bags • Require at least 40% recycled content paper bags with labelling requirements
City of Nanaimo	Adopted February 22, 2021 Effective July 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Require a fee for Paper and Reusable Bags

Municipality	Adoption/Effective Date	Restriction
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require at least 40% recycled content paper bags with labelling requirements
City of Rossland	Adopted March 8, 2021 effective immediately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Require a fee for Paper and Reusable Bags
Township of Esquimalt	TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Plastic Checkout Bags • Require a fee for Paper and Reusable Bags • Require at least 40% recycled content paper bags with labelling requirements

Overall, there has been a marked increased in actions at various levels of government which has served to heighten awareness and create a groundswell movement toward overall plastics reduction. A high level overview of actions at the regional, provincial and federal levels is outlined in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Other government action on single-use plastics

Level of Government	Authority/Action	Detail
Local Government - <i>Metro Vancouver</i>	No authority to regulate single-use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed resource toolkit to support local governments • Developed regional public communications campaign on single-use reduction • Recommended province-wide approach to regulation • Developing standard bylaw provisions • Undertake annual single-use waste audits
Provincial Government – <i>Environment and Climate Change Strategy</i>	Authority to regulate single-use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the packaging category and addition of single-use products to the Recycling Regulation • Developing new regulation that will allow municipalities to pass single-use bylaws without provincial approval if they meet predetermined requirements – expected summer 2021 • Developing new legal framework for provincial ban on single-use items – TBA
Federal Government – <i>Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>	Authority to regulate single-use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added plastic manufactured items to Schedule 1 (toxic substances list) of the Canadian Environmental Act • Developing regulation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ban or restrict certain harmful single-use plastics - Propose performance standards and minimum percentage of recycled content for plastic products and packaging - Develop consistent extended producer responsibility programs