



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** June 12, 2019
From: Tom Stewart, ASCT. **File:** 10-6370-01/2019-Vol
01
 Director, Public Works Operations
Re: **UBCM Resolutions – Provincial Single-Use Item Strategy and Compostable
Single-Use Items**

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed UBCM resolutions titled “Comprehensive Provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy” and “Compostable Single-Use Items” be submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities as outlined in the staff report titled “UBCM Resolutions – Provincial Single-Use Item Strategy and Compostable Single-Use Items”, dated June 12, 2019, from the Director of Public Works Operations.

Tom Stewart, ASCT.
 Director, Public Works Operations
 (604-233-3301)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Law City Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CS	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

This report responds to a referral made at the May 21, 2019 Special Council Meeting where the staff report, “Single-Use Plastic Items – City of Vancouver Proposals”, was considered. The referral is as follows:

- (1) *That:*
 - a. *staff be directed to bring forward appropriate bylaw amendments to the Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7360 to ban the commercial use or commercial distribution of foam cups, foam plates and foam take-out containers effective January 1, 2020, with exceptions provided for charitable organizations and hospital/care facilities;*
 - b. *staff be directed to bring forward appropriate bylaw amendments to the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 7321 to incorporate a ticketing provision for those businesses who violate Business Regulation Bylaw 7360 as amended per item (a) above, effective January 1, 2020; and*
 - c. *staff be directed to bring forward appropriate bylaw amendments to the Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122 to incorporate a fine of \$250 for each instance where a business violates Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7360 as amended per item (a) above, effective January 1, 2020;*
- (2) *That the implementation plan, as outlined in Attachment 2, with funding in the amount of \$300,000, from the Sanitation and Recycling provision, to support implementation of a foam cups, foam plates and foam take-out containers ban, be approved;*
- (3) *That funding for ongoing support, education and bylaw enforcement, for item (a) above, be included for Council’s consideration in the 2020 and future Sanitation and Recycling utility budget and rates;*
- (4) *That staff bring forward two resolutions for the 2019 Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention requesting the provincial government’s support to address single-use items by:*
 - a. *adopting a comprehensive provincial single-use item reduction strategy; and*
 - b. *developing provincial standards for compostable single-use items ensuring they are designed to fully biodegrade if littered in the natural environment, that any standards and certifications for compostability are aligned with provincial composting infrastructure, and that compostable single-use items are collected and managed through an extended producer responsibility program that covers the residential and commercial sectors as well as materials from the public realm;*

- (5) *That the Mayor write the Chair of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to develop a provincial single-use item reduction strategy;*
- (6) *That staff be directed to bring forward appropriate bylaw amendments to ban straws, similar to the City of Vancouver's approach, together with an implementation plan and budget effective January 1, 2020, and also report back on the City of Vancouver's research being undertaken regarding the ban on straws;*
- (7) *That staff be directed to examine the issue of single-use food utensils, and report back;*
- (8) *That staff be directed to bring forward appropriate bylaw amendments to prohibit the commercial use or commercial distribution of plastic checkout bags and regulate paper and reusable bags with incremental fees, effective January 1, 2020, with appropriate exemptions listed in Table 2, in the staff report titled "Single-Use Plastic Items – City of Vancouver Proposals", dated May 12, 2019 from the Director, Public Works, with a six-month grace period to permit the use of existing plastic bag stock that was purchased by a business prior to the first reading of the bylaw; and*
- (9) *That staff be directed to bring forward an implementation plan and budget to prohibit plastic checkout bags, for item (8) above.*

This report responds to resolutions (4)(a) and (4)(b) as stated above.

Staff are working to bring forward a report responding to the remaining referrals to the July 15, 2019 General Purposes Committee.

Analysis

The process to submit resolutions to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) requires formal consideration and endorsement by Council. The deadline for submissions is June 30th. To comply with the deadline requirements, this report presents the resolutions for Council endorsement. The remaining referral items will be fully addressed in an upcoming report to General Purposes Committee.

Staff note that the Government of Canada, on June 10, 2019, announced two steps to reduce Canada's plastic waste by:

- banning harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021; and
- working with provinces and territories to introduce extended producer responsibility programs across the country.

The announcement indicated that these measures will be grounded in scientific evidence and will align with actions being taken in the European Union and other countries. Canada will also support the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's development of an action plan to implement the Canada-wide strategy on Zero Plastic Waste.

Full details of the intended measures have not yet been made public. These federal actions lack clear and defined actions from which to properly assess impacts and implementation timelines as it relates to the proposed UBCM resolutions.

Proposed UBCM Resolutions

It is recommended that two resolutions be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities calling for the province to develop a comprehensive single-use item reduction strategy (Attachment 1), and to standardize compostable packaging, ensuring its alignment with composting infrastructure and collection and management through extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs (Attachment 2). This action supports Council's recent direction for staff to take action to ban unnecessary single-use items such as plastic bags, plastic straws and foam food service ware beginning January 1, 2020.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Council has directed staff to undertake actions designed to effect meaningful change in reducing unnecessary waste through banning certain single-use items. Creating alignment across municipal, regional, provincial and federal platforms is a necessary aspect of eliminating single-use items as well as enhancing circular economy objectives.

This report presents two resolutions for submission to the UBCM calling for the province to adopt a provincial single-use item reduction strategy, and to develop provincial standards for compostable single-use items so that they may align with commercial composting infrastructure and be collected and managed effectively through EPR programs in the residential, commercial and public sectors.



Suzanne Bycraft
Manager, Fleet and Environmental Programs
(604-233-3338)

SJB:kn

- Att. 1: Proposed UBCM Resolution – Comprehensive Provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy
- 2: Proposed UBCM Resolution – Compostable Single-Use Items

Comprehensive Provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

WHEREAS the British Columbia extended producer responsibility program for packaging and printed paper currently provides recycling collection for single-use items generated by the residential sector, but does not yet focus on reduction or reuse, or cover single-use items that are compostable or disposed of at businesses or in the public realm;

AND WHEREAS inter-municipal differences in policy for reduction of single-use items make it challenging for businesses to comply with multiple regulations, and the business community has expressed a strong desire for harmonization and consistent regulation for single-use items on the broadest possible scale;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government adopt a provincial single-use item reduction strategy for single-use items that emphasizes reduction and reuse, covers single-use items generated by all sectors and made of all material types, and would include but not necessarily be limited to plastic and paper shopping bags, disposable drink cups, take-out containers, straws and utensils, but would exclude all single-use items needed for medical use or accessibility needs.

Compostable Single-Use Items

WHEREAS businesses are beginning to switch to compostable single-use items for to-go meals and beverages, yet this material is not designed to biodegrade if littered, and is not guaranteed to biodegrade in industrial compost facilities because standards and certifications are not aligned with existing infrastructure that is designed to compost food scraps and yard waste;

AND WHEREAS local governments are facing increasing pressure to collect and manage this material, yet it is beyond local government's ability to control compostable packaging design or finance the specialized collection and processing infrastructure required for compostable packaging;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government ensure that compostable packaging (including single-use take-out foodware) distributed in Canada is designed to fully biodegrade if littered in the natural environment, that standards and certifications for compostable packaging are aligned with composting infrastructure, and that compostable single-use items are collected and managed through an extended producer responsibility program that covers the residential and commercial sectors as well as the public realm.