



# City of Richmond

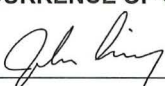


## Report to Committee

**To:** Public Works and Transportation Committee      **Date:** December 21, 2022  
**From:** Suzanne Bycraft      **File:** 10-6370-01/2022-Vol  
 Director, Public Works Operations      01  
**Re:** **Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw 10000 – Implementation Update**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report dated December 21, 2022, titled “Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw 10000 – Implementation Update”, from the Director, Public Works Operations, be received for information.

Suzanne Bycraft  
 Director, Public Works Operations  
 (604-233-3338)

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report presents an update on the enforcement of the City's *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000* (the "Bylaw"), as well as a summary of recent federal and provincial actions to further restrict and regulate several single-use plastic items.

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

#### Update on Enforcement of the Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000

On September 27, 2022, enforcement of the Bylaw came into effect to ban foam food service ware, plastic checkout bags (including biodegradable and compostable plastic) and plastic straws (including biodegradable and compostable plastic). Enforcement is actively underway and City staff are following-up with businesses that have been reported to be non-compliant. The City is utilizing a three strike approach that leads with education and working with businesses to support their compliance efforts. After an initial education based visit, staff will follow-up with the business after 30 days to check for compliance. If a business is found to be still out of compliance, City Bylaws Officers will be activated to provide a warning ticket and ticket as required. Non-compliance will result in Bylaw Officers issuing a \$250 - \$500 ticket, with escalation beyond that under the ticketing provisions of the *Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122* and *Municipal Ticketing Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321*.

To date, the City has received complaints against 12 businesses – 10 regarding plastic checkout bags, and 2 regarding plastic straws. Three complaints have since been closed and the businesses have been confirmed by staff to be in compliance. The additional nine complaints remain open in the Strike 1 Phase, with staff planning to conduct follow-up site visits to determine Bylaw compliance, provide education, and move the complaints through the enforcement phases as appropriate.

Overall, the City’s implementation of the Bylaw has been very effective. This is due in large part to the comprehensive four-phased approach that was used to engage and educate businesses and the community on the purpose of the bylaw and available alternatives. The engagement program was robust and incorporated feedback received to support businesses through the transition. Engagement consisted of 20 in-person and virtual workshops involving 300 businesses, 857 door-to-door visits with businesses, 3 mall open houses, and the cohosting of a vendor trade show with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

The Bylaw was among the first to be initiated and has demonstrated the City’s leadership on the important issue of the need to address plastic pollution. The combined efforts of many local governments and the public support for change in this regard has also sparked additional actions at the federal and provincial levels of government to further regulate single-use plastics. A review of these actions is outlined in the following sections.

### Federal Government Actions

On June 22, 2022, the Canadian Federal Government announced the new *Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulation* (SUPPR) to prevent plastic pollution by eliminating the six categories of single-use plastics that pose a threat to the environment. Under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, (CEPA)* SUPPR will prohibit the manufacture, import, sale and export of the following six categories of single-use plastics:

- checkout bags;
- cutlery;
- foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics that are hard to recycle;
- ring carriers;
- stir sticks; and
- straws (with some exceptions).

The timeline for the bans to take effect on the manufacture and import, sale and export of these items is shown in Table 1.

*Table 1: Summary of banned single-use categories and implementation dates*

<b>Ban Implementation Timeline</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Manufacture &amp; Import</b>	<b>Sale</b>	<b>Export</b>
Checkout bags	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Cutlery	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Foodservice ware <sup>1</sup>	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Stir sticks	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Straws	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Ring carriers	June 20, 2023	June 20, 2024	December 20, 2025
Flexible straws packaged together with a beverage container <sup>2</sup>	N/A	June 20, 2024	December 20, 2025

<sup>1</sup> includes expanded or extruded polystyrene, PVC, oxodegradable plastic, and black plastic made with carbon black

<sup>2</sup> single-use plastic flexible straws that are not packaged with beverage containers are excluded and will remain available for sale in stores, under certain conditions, for people who need them.

To encourage alignment with the Bylaw, comments were provided on the *Proposed Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations* on March 4, 2022.

### Provincial Government Actions

On April 22, 2022 the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy released the *Preventing Single-Use and Plastic Waste in British Columbia Intentions Paper* which recommends a phased implementation of a proposed waste prevention regulation under the *Environmental Management Act* to regulate the following single-use and plastic items:

- checkout bags;
- disposable foodservice accessories;
- problematic plastic foodservice packaging; and
- oxodegradable plastic.

The proposed timeline for the bans and restrictions to take effect is presented in Table 2.

*Table 2: Summary of proposed waste prevention regulation*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Regulatory Tool</b>	<b>Proposed Implementation Timeline</b>
Checkout bag <sup>1</sup>	Ban (plastic checkout bag) Fee (reusable bag)	2023
Disposable foodservice accessories	By-request	2023
Problematic foodservice packaging <sup>2</sup>	Ban	2024
Oxo-degradable plastic	Ban	2024

<sup>1</sup> includes compostable plastics

<sup>2</sup> includes foodservice ware made from polystyrene foam, PVC and compostable plastics

To encourage alignment with the Bylaw, comments on the proposed regulation and intentions paper were provided to the Province on July 4, 2022.

Next steps for the Province are anticipated to be a review of all comments received on the intentions paper. This review will help formulate the final regulation with the proposed implementation timeline expected to proceed as indicated.

The mix of federal, provincial and local policy actions help frame collective efforts toward reduction of plastic waste, with particular focus on single-use plastic at this time. Future alignment of those items regulated under the Bylaw will be necessary to correspond with federal and provincial regulations, which staff are currently evaluating as the final provincial regulation has not been released.

Staff note that the province highlighted its intention to align with and complement the federal regulations in its *Preventing Single-Use and Plastic Waste in British Columbia Intentions Paper*. Overall, the SUPPR will set the minimum requirement for restricting or prohibiting single-use plastics. The Bylaw will be required to not conflict or be inconsistent with the federal and

provincial regimes to remain valid and enforceable. In the meantime, the Bylaw remains applicable and important to foster change at the local level and ahead of senior government legislation.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

This report presents an update on the implementation of the City's *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000*, and summarizes recent federal and provincial actions to further restrict and regulate several single-use plastics.

The City will need to maintain an active and leading role to have meaningful benefits in plastic waste reduction, particularly since neither the provincial or federal levers have clearly identified enforcement mechanisms. As clarity on this issue emerges, staff will bring forward any additional policy recommendations to ensure the City remains not only compliant with federal and provincial regulations, but also a leader in actions to reduce plastic pollution.



Kristina Nishi  
Manager, Recycling and Waste Recovery  
(604-244-1280)

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