



Please sign our petition!

Single-Use Waste Reduction Proposal Styrofoam/Plastic Bag/Straw Ban

This proposal has the following components:

1. ban on single-use expanded polystyrene (**EPS, also called styrofoam**) containers
2. ban on all **single-use plastic bags**
3. **plastic straws** by request only

1. EPS:

The problem: EPS food containers don't biodegrade, instead becoming litter that piles up in streets, parks, and waterways. It fragments into smaller pieces that harm or kill marine life and wildlife when ingested. Styrene, a component of EPS, is a known hazardous substance, classified as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" and also recognized as a food and beverage contaminant that may "leach from polystyrene containers used for food products."

The proposal: Troy retail and food service vendors would be prohibited from utilizing EPS food containers for food products or beverages, whether for takeout or consumption on the premises.

Retailers would be prohibited from selling expanded polystyrene products (such as plates and cups) in their stores. This applies to any food service products designed for one-time use, including take-out containers, bowls, plates, trays, cups, and other items. Food containers replacing EPS must be either recyclable or compostable.

2. Plastic bags:

The problem: Plastics (including bioplastics) do not biodegrade, but instead break up into small particles that persist in the environment, adsorb toxins, and enter the food chain through fish and animals. The most commonly used plastics, when exposed to the elements, release methane and ethylene: two powerful greenhouse gases that can exacerbate climate change. Plastic bags clog recycling machinery, making municipal recycling more expensive. Cleanup of plastic bags is costly.

The proposal: Single-use plastic bags will no longer be given to customers. Instead, to encourage RE-USE of bags, customers may **purchase** recycled paper bags from the retailer. ALL bags will be charged a minimum fee, which the retailer may keep.

3. Plastic straws:

The problem: Straws are often littered, or caught by the wind, and washed into storm drains that empty into rivers and other waterways. Plastic straws are frequently cited as one of the top ten contributors to marine debris pollution.

It is easier to get rid of straws than any other single-use plastic because they aren't a necessary means to consume a beverage.

The proposal: Plastic straws may be provided ONLY UPON REQUEST by food and beverage providers. Food establishments will display a sign explaining that single-use plastic straws are available by request only.

What you can do:

1. sign the petition
2. ask for non-styrofoam containers when you take food home from a restaurant
3. take your own re-usable bags to shop with--**everywhere**: grocery, hardware, clothing etc. stores
4. do not take/refuse straws when buying beverages
5. Volunteer for this campaign with Troy Zero Waste: contact us on facebook under "Troy Compost"

Yes! I support Troy's Single-Use Waste Reduction Proposal—Styrofoam/Plastic Bag/Straw Ban

Information on provided on this sheet will be used by Troy Zero Waste for the purposes of this campaign only.

1. Sign _____ Print Name _____

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