Reducing Single-Use

City of Vancouver's Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy

Monica Kosmak

Senior Project Manager, Zero Waste

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

#ReduceSingleUse

vancouver.ca/zerowaste

Why does Vancouver need a Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy?

PLASTIC BAGS

2 million plastic shopping bags are thrown in the garbage every week

DISPOSABLE CUPS

2.6 million paper cups are thrown in the trash every week

TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS

50% of all garbage collected from street litter cans, is disposable cups and containers

FOAM CONTAINERS

9% of items collected in shoreline cleanups are small foam pieces

STRAWS & UTENSILS

2% of shoreline litter is plastic straws and stir sticks

It costs taxpayers $2.5 million a year

to collect single-use items from public waste bins and as litter.

Marine Plastics

- The **Great Pacific Garbage Patch** is now bigger than BC and Alberta combined
- Scientists predict there will be **more plastic than fish** in oceans by 2050
- **Researchers at the Vancouver Aquarium and B.C. universities** are studying:
  - **Microplastics** in the Strait of Georgia (including from single-use items)
  - Plastic **ingested by plankton, shellfish and whales**
- Plastics **harm marine wildlife** that eat, inhale or get tangled in them

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

These challenges have been decades in the making...

Dixie advertisement, 1954
Source: Hugh Moore Dixie Cup Company Collection, Skillman Library, Lafayette College

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

It's time to
#ReduceSingleUse
This bag contains the amount
of cups that are thrown in

Moving to a Circular Economy

How did we create the Strategy?

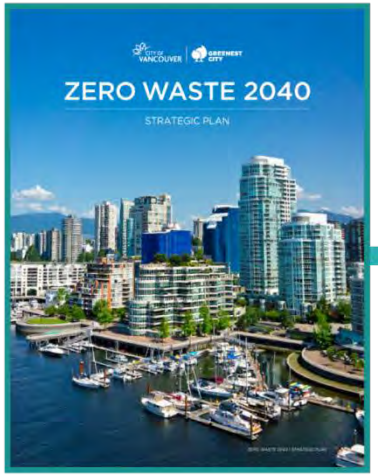
Feb. 3, 2016:
Council directs staff to investigate options to address single-use items

Strategy Scope

- Covers **bags, cups, containers, foam, straws,** and **utensils**
- **All material types** (not just plastic)
- **2018-2025**

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

The Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy is an early priority and transformative action in Vancouver's Zero Waste 2040 strategic plan.



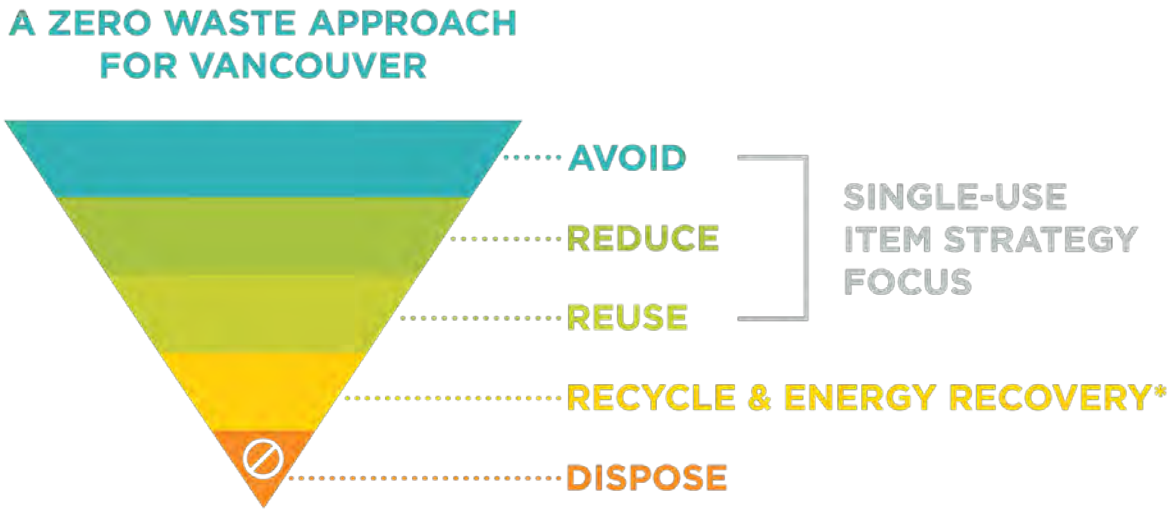
Zero Waste 2040
(June 5, 2018)

Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy
(June 5, 2018)

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Strategy Objective

1. Maximize reduction and reuse.
2. Recycle/compost any SUI's that must be used.



*Recovering energy from organic materials such as food and, in the case of single-use items, compostable packaging

Consultation & Engagement

Over 8,000 people and hundreds of businesses contributed to creating the strategy.

49th Parallel Coffee Roasters
500 Foods Corporation
7-Eleven Canada
Adaptation to Climate Change Team SFU
A.E. Vancouver Private Tours & Charters Inc.
All India
Ara Mental Health
ARC Restaurant - Fairmont Waterfront
Aritzia
A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.
Azuza Inc.
Ba Le Sandwich Shop
Ba-Le Deli & Bakery
Bali Thai
BC Bottle and Recycling Depot
BC Housing
BC Place Stadium
Binner's Project
Belkhin House
Bokoeco
BOMA BC
Boteco Brasil
BRANDLIVE
BSI Biodegradable Solutions
Bubble King
Buy Low Foods & Associated Grocers
Cadillac Fairview
Canadian Beverage Association
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Canadian Plastics Industry Association
Canra Sri Lankan Plus
Cara
Carnegie Centre
Cartems Donuts
Cascades Recovery Inc.
CCPA
Centric Culinary Café
Charisma
Chao Veggie Express
Chinatown BBQ
ChopSwap
Chutney Villa
City of Port Coquitlam
CKF Inc.
CleanStart
COBS Bread
Commercial Street Cafe
Common Energy UBC
Dairy Queen Canada
Dart Canada
Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak Centre
Deloitte Canada
Dillon Consulting Limited
Dollarama
Dollar Meats
Dosa factory
Downtown Vancouver BIA
The Drive Coffee Bar
Drop the Straw
Dyne-a-Pak
EcoGuardian
Ecoinspire
Eddie's Hang-Up Display Ltd.
Eight½ Restaurant
El Caracol Mexican Café
Emterra
Encorp Pacific Canada
Eternal Abundance
Ethical Bean
Evergreen
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fairmont Waterfront
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Floata Seafood Restaurant
Foam Only
Foodservice Packaging
Fortis BC
Fraser AcademyFraser Health Authority
Fuud
Gain Wah
G.E.N Trading Ltd
Giant Panda Szechuan Cuisine
Grandview Woodlands Food Connection
Green Chair Recycling.
Green Coast Coffee
Greenpeace Canada
The Handle Handle
Helder Ventures
Hermes Canada Inc.
heroX
Hua Foundation
Hudson's Bay Company
Hoang Yen
Home Depot
Home on the Range Organics
Jade Dynasty
JINYA Ramen Bar
JJ Bean
J Rush Agency
Kent's Kitchen
Kinpack
Kissa Tanto Restaurant
Laughing Bean Coffee
Left Coast Naturals
Leverage Lab
Loblaw Companies Ltd.
LOCO BC
London Drugs Ltd.
Lululemon
Lunapads International
Lupii Cafe
Malachite Management Inc.
Marquis Wines
Maxim Bakery & Cafe
McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd.
Metro Vancouver
Money BBQ
Mountain Equipment Co-Op
Mount Pleasant BIA
Ms Tiffin
Museum of Anthropology
Nadatodo Communications Inc.
The Naked Business
Net Zero Waste Abbotsford
New Mitzie's
New Town Bakery
Nusa Coffee
Ocean Ambassadors
Ocean Wise
Olive and Ruby Cafe
One Earth
Open Door Group
Pabla's
Pacific National Exhibition
Panago Pizza
Patex Research
Pathway Group
Pharmasave Drugs (Pacific) ltd.
Planted Food Network
Plastic Oceans Foundation
Potluck Café Society
Powell River Regional District's "Let's Talk Trash Team"
Pride Enterprises Ltd.
Product Care
Provence Restaurant
Provincial Health Services Authority 35
Raincity
RANA Inc
Recyce BC
Recycle Smart Solutions
Recycling Alternative
Recycling Council of British Columbia
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee – Solid Waste Sub-Committee
Restaurants Canada
Retail Council of Canada
Rhinofish
RISE Kombucha
Salt Spring Coffee
Sal y Limon
Save-On Foods
Science World British Columbia
School of Community & Regional Planning, UBC
Scout Environmental
Self Employed
Simon Fraser University
The Soap Dispensary
Sobeys Inc.
SPEC
Stand.earth
Starbucks Coffee Company
Stojo Cups
Sun Fresh
Suzuki Elders
Tap and Barrel – Convention Centre
Tetra Tech
Tourism Vancouver
Tractor Everyday Healthy Foods
Trees Organic Coffee
Union Gospel Mission
University of British Columbia
University of British Columbia – Botanical Garden
UBC/JJ Bean Coffee Roasters
Urban Impact
Vancouver Aquarium
Vancouver Airport Authority
Vancouver Aquarium an Ocean Wise Initiative
Vancouver Civic Theatres
Vancouver Coastal Health
Vancouver Convention Centre
Vancouver Farmers Markets
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
Vancouver Food Tour
Vancouver Pride Society
Vancouver Visitor TV
Vera's Burger Shack
V Taste
Waste Control Services
West Coast Management Association
White Spot Ltd
WISH
Wow Thai Food
Zero Waste Canada
Zero Waste Vancouver Meetup
Zhao Ma Bakery

...and more!

Phase 1 Consultation

Informed strategy development

- 1-day workshop
- 80 people
- Part of workshop series to develop Zero Waste 2040

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Phase 2 Consultation

What actions to include in the strategy

	Participants
Stakeholder Consultation	**520**
Consultation Paper	
10 Roundtable Meetings (8 Vancouver, 1 Toronto, 1 Montreal)	233
19 Other Meetings/Events	258
Written Responses	29
Public Engagement	**4,869**
Talk Vancouver Survey	3,163
City Lab Pop -Up Space	715
CoV Citizen Advisory Committees	89
Vancouver School Board Student Conference	80
Listserv Emails	18
Social Media (Likes, comments, shares)	804
Opinion Research	**1,000**
TOTAL	**6,389**
Target	**5,000**

Phase 3 Consultation

Feedback on draft strategy

	Participants
Stakeholder Consultation	**106**
Small business and industry meetings	43
Interviews with small ethnocultural businesses	31
Other stakeholder meetings	22
Formal letters from stakeholders	7
Calls to 3-1-1 on dedicated phone line	3
Public Engagement	**1,342**
Online comment form	189
Open House	70
Comments received through email	18
Social media interactions (likes, comments, shares)	1,065
TOTAL	**1,448**

Strong Support

86% of Vancouver residents feel it's important to reduce single-use items

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

“While I appreciate the steps that this plan lays out, they are not enough. The only solution is to ban all plastic and paper bags outright.”

-Public Comment

“I agree with the environmental concerns, but the City of Vancouver needs to consider the business ramifications.”

-Restaurant Interviewee

Strategy Highlights

Ban Foam Cups/ Take-out Containers

Staff to bring final by-law for Council approval:

- **June 1, 2019** effective date
- Apply to all business license holders

Next step: Engage businesses and support them with the change

Rationale:

- Not collected in residential or streetscape recycling programs
- 78% of Vancouver residents support the ban
- 82% willing to pay more for containers that are recyclable in residential programs

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Plastic Straw Ban

Consulting on draft by-law this fall for Council approval:

- **June 1, 2019** effective date
- Provisions to ensure access to plastic straws as an important accessibility tool
- Applies to all business license holders (not hospitals or health care)
- Accompanied by implementation plan

Rationale:

- Restaurant support: easy way to reduce plastics
- Consultation feedback: ban is stronger and preferable to by-request by-law

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Utensil “By-Request” By-Law

Consulting on draft by-law this fall for Council approval:

- Effective 2019-2020
- Business license holders can only provide disposable utensils if customers ask for them
- Applies to all business license holders

Opinion research:

- 71% of Vancouver residents would reduce their use of single-use items if they had to ask for them

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Reduction Plans for Shopping Bags & Cups

Consulting on draft by-law this fall for Council approval:

- Effective 2019-2020
- Applies to all business license holders
- Options to:
  - Not give out bags or cups
  - Charge a fee
  - Other options that achieve a set reduction target (TBD through consultation)

Rationale:

- Offers businesses flexibility & choice
- Modeled after organics and recycling plans in Solid Waste by-law

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Compostable & Recycled Paper Content Requirements

Consulting on draft by-law this fall for Council approval:

- **Compostable packaging to be approved compostable**
  - Tested and approved at a local commercial compost facility
- **Minimum 40% post-consumer content for paper-based packaging**

Strategy includes actions to **align compostable packaging and compost facilities (2021-2025)**

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

Supportive Actions

- **Education & outreach**
  - Social media campaign, language-appropriate tools and resources, outreach to affected businesses, Zero Waste Ambassadors volunteer program
- **Infrastructure & programs to support reuse**
  - RFEOI for solutions like travel mug & take-out container exchange programs streetscape recycling, feasibility of mandatory dishwashers
- **Collaboration & dialogue**
  - E.g. Convene a forum for small businesses to explore group purchasing and reusable container programs

In closing

Public awareness of the need to address the issue of single-use items is on the rise

Governments around the world are taking action to reduce single-use.

Momentum is building!

Thank You!

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY

For more information, visit **https://vancouver.ca/zerowaste**

CITY OF VANCOUVER | GREENEST CITY