



# Taking Toronto's **Single**-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy to the Next Stage

*Reuse Workshop for Stadiums*

March 28, 2025

Erwin Pascual  
Manager, Solid Waste Policy and Planning  
Solid Waste Management Services  
City of Toronto

Myron McLelland  
Senior Project Manager  
Solid Waste Policy and Planning  
Solid Waste Management Services  
City of Toronto

Emily Marmoreo  
Senior Project Manager  
Solid Waste Policy and Planning  
Solid Waste Management Services  
City of Toronto

# Agenda

- Development of the Single-use and Takeaway Item (SUTI) Reduction Strategy
- Consultations with Interested Parties
- Three Stages to develop the Reduction Strategy
  - Stage 1: Reducing Single-use Program
  - Stage 2: About the SUTI Bylaw
    - Supports provided during Bylaw implementation
  - Stage 3: Expanding the Bylaw
  - Stage 3: Workplan
- Call to Action

Single-use and takeaway items (SUTI):



# Development of SUTI Reduction Strategy

**2018:** City Council directed SWMS to identify options to reduce SUTI. **Consultation** conducted to determine items to target.

**2021:** City Council adopts the SUTI Reduction Strategy – **Stage 1 – Voluntary Measures Program**, which provided supports for businesses to reduce SUTI

**2023:** New SUTI Bylaw (**Stage 2**) was adopted by Council, with ask first/ by request approach and acceptance of reusable bags and cups. Council directed staff to determine the feasibility of large event venues abiding by the SUTI Bylaw (Stage 3)

**2025:** **Consultations (Stage 3)** will be held with large event venues and businesses on the Bylaw. Report back to Council in 2025

**2019 :** **Consultations** conducted to determine approaches and timelines.

**2022:** **Consultations** were held on the proposed timing of mandatory measures (Bylaw), along with additional SUTI to be addressed

**2024:** SUTI Bylaw came into effect for retail business establishments

We are here

# Consultations



# Consultations with Interested Parties

Staff consulted with the various groups during different phases of consultation:

- General public
- Accessibility groups
- Business, retail & hospitality industry
- Business Improvement Areas
- Environmental organizations
- Non-profits
- Manufacturing sector
- Restaurants and Food Providers
- Shelters
- Schools

## 2018

**Objectives:** To identify the priority SUTI to reduce and the preferred approaches (e.g. voluntary, Bylaw, or both) to reduce items

**Results:** Majority of participants expressed support for:

- The reduction of SUTI
- Using reusable items
- The implementation of both mandatory (Bylaw) and voluntary approaches to achieve SUTI reduction

## 2019

**Objectives:** To gather feedback on the types of approaches and implementation timelines to reduce SUTI

**Results:** 75% Toronto residents supported an ask first/by-request Bylaw for single-use eating utensils and straws, and a ban on foam food containers/cups

## 2022

**Objectives:** To gather feedback on the proposed timing of mandatory measures, along with additional SUTI to be addressed

**Results:** Majority of participants expressed support for ask first/by-request for accessory food items, fees on reusable bags, and mandating fee on reusable bags

# Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy Stages



# Three stages to develop the Reduction Strategy

Stage 1 – Support for businesses to voluntarily reduce single-use items

Stage 2 – Implementation of Bylaw (ask first / by request)

Stage 3 – Investigating the feasibility of expanding the Reduction Strategy and Bylaw to include reusables and more businesses, including large venues

# Stage 1: Reducing Single-Use Program

## City of Toronto Website

### Reducing Single-Use – Directory of Businesses



Name of Business	Business Type	Ask-First/By-Request*	Provides Reusables*	Accepts Reusables*	Discount for Bringing Reusables*	Reusable Container Program*
<a href="#">Alimentari Italian Grocery</a>	Food retailer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<a href="#">Alternity</a>	Food retailer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<a href="#">At Origin Coffee</a>	Food retailer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<a href="#">Bagel Brigade</a>	Food retailer	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

In June 2021, Toronto City Council approved the *Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy – Stage 1*, with three actions:

- 1. Voluntary reduction measures** - Businesses were encouraged to ask the customer if they needed the single-use item and provided the item to the customer only after the customer confirmed that they needed the item (Voluntary Measures Program or Reducing Single-Use Program).
- 2. Recognition** - The City of Toronto featured retail business establishments taking action to reduce single-use and takeaway items and reusable companies on our website (see image to left)
- 3. Education and support for the public** - Promoted single-use waste reduction and supported community efforts to reduce waste



# Stage 2: About the SUTI Bylaw

- In 2023, Toronto City Council adopted the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw, Chapter 702, which came into effect on March 1, 2024.
- The Bylaw applies to retail business establishments defined as:
  - a premise, location, or operation where goods and/or services are offered for sale, such as stores, on-line businesses, eating or drinking establishments, convenience stores, grocery stores, delicatessens, caterers, mobile food vendors, street vendors, vending machines, bookstores, and clothing stores
- The Bylaw does not currently apply to large event venues or events on City property.



# Stage 2: About the SUTI Bylaw cont'd

The City of Toronto is reducing waste from single-use items

As of March 1, 2024, Toronto businesses are required to:

### Only provide items you really need

Before receiving single-use items such as utensils, napkins, condiment packages, stir sticks and straws, you will be asked if you need them or they will be available by self-serve or by request.



### Accept your reusable cups and shopping bags

They accept clean reusable shopping bags and cups.



### Questions?

Contact 311 or email [reducewaste@toronto.ca](mailto:reducewaste@toronto.ca).



- The Bylaw uses an Ask-First/By-Request and/or a self-service kiosk approach for:
  - Accessory food items, such as utensils, straws, stir sticks, spill plugs, napkins (serviettes), condiment cups and packets, cup sleeves, and cup trays.
- The Bylaw requires retail business establishments to:
  - Accept reusable shopping bags and reusable beverage cups provided by customers
  - Post signage that they accept reusable beverage cups

# Supports provided during Bylaw implementation

## Resources and support provided:

- Business and community-facing posters and postcards
- SUTI webpage and resources
- “Understanding the New SUTI Bylaw” Webinar
- Toronto Public Health Guidelines
- Bylaw supported by social media, web, outreach and public education

## **Enforcement:**

- Complaints-based approach to enforcement through 311
- First point of contact is Municipal Licensing and Standards, includes education on how to achieve compliance
- A fine will be levied after multiple infractions



# Stage 3: Expanding the Bylaw

In December 2023, Council directed Staff to report back on the feasibility of expanding the SUTI bylaw and Reduction Strategy in the following areas:

	Retail business establishments	Restricted events	Large event venues
Ask-first / by-request for SUTI	Current Bylaw applies	Current Bylaw applies	Consulted in Stage 3
Self-service kiosk for SUTI	Current Bylaw applies	Current Bylaw applies	
Accept reusable cups and bags	Current Bylaw applies	Consulted in Stage 3	
Accept reusable food containers	Consulted in Stage 3	Consulted in Stage 3	
Provide reusable food containers and cups for dine-in	Consulted in Stage 3	Consulted in Stage 3	

# Stage 3: Workplan

A jurisdictional scan will be conducted of other municipalities' SUTI reduction activities, policies and bylaws

Consultations will ask Large Event Venues organizer's and operator's opinions the following:


Bylaw expansion

Challenges and opportunities

Support and resources required

The general public will also be asked for feedback on the expansion of the bylaw and reusables at large event venues

Recommendations to Council on how the Reduction Strategy should be expanded, based on the results of the scan and consultations



# Call To Action – Help Us Help You

We want to expand the Strategy and Bylaw in a clear and transparent way that considers your feedback.

- How you can help us:
  - Participate in upcoming consultations for large event venues in 2025 – survey and workshops
  - Spread the word
  - Contact us directly with feedback
  - Join our SUTI mailing list to be kept up-to-date on the latest project information
- Next Steps:
  - Stay informed Reducing Single-Use & Takeaway Items [webpage](#)
  - Anticipated report back to Council in 2025

Questions?





Erwin Pascual

Manager

Solid Waste Policy and Planning  
Solid Waste Management Services  
City of Toronto

416-338-8471

[Erwin.Pascual@toronto.ca](mailto:Erwin.Pascual@toronto.ca)

Myron McLelland

Senior Project Manager

Solid Waste Policy and Planning  
Solid Waste Management Services  
City of Toronto

416-395-6932

[Myron.McLelland@toronto.ca](mailto:Myron.McLelland@toronto.ca)

Emily Marmoreo

Senior Project Manager

Solid Waste Policy and Planning  
Solid Waste Management Services  
City of Toronto

416-392-0045

[Emily.Marmoreo@toronto.ca](mailto:Emily.Marmoreo@toronto.ca)