Plastic Carryout Shopping Bags Banned

- Passed 2011, effective 2012.
- Paper bags allowed with minimum $.05 fee.
- A number of exceptions.

Green and Brown-tinted Plastic Bags Banned

- Compostable bags allowed and must be correctly labeled and must be tinted green or brown.
Disposable Food Service Packaging Prohibited

- Passed 2008
- Banned Expanded Polystyrene food service packaging effective 2009.
- Ban on disposable food service packaging effective 2010, requiring that all food service packaging be compostable or recyclable.
Seattle’s Existing Ordinances: Disposable Food Service Packaging

Collection of Food Service Packaging and Director’s Rules

- Passed 2010

- Requires food service businesses to provide recycling and compost containers for packaging

Allows for temporary one-year waivers to requirement that all food service be compostable or recyclable through Director’s Rules only under two circumstances:

- If commonly used recycling and composting technology cannot process the food service ware, or

- Suitable alternative products that meet performance and food health and safety standards are not available.
Temporary one-year exemptions through Director’s Rule have been provided for straws, utensils and a few other items.

Announced to stakeholders that temporary exemptions would end for straws and utensils at March 1, 2017 stakeholder meeting and in follow-up email to about 350 stakeholders.

Ten years after passage of the ordinance, temporary one-year exemptions for straws and utensils will not be put in place again as of July 1, 2018.

This effectively bans plastic straws and utensils, as they are not collected for recycling in local programs and they are not able to be recycled through local recycling facilities.

Plastic straws and utensils will no longer be allowed to be provided by food service businesses in Seattle as of July 1, 2018.
What are Options?

- Compostable paper or plastic straws will be allowed that meet appropriate standards/certifications and have been field tested for compostability (compost at local compost facilities).

- Providing durables, and providing compostable utensils and straws only on request is best.
  - This can provide significant cost savings too.

- Compostable plastic straws and utensils don’t address marine plastic pollution concerns. Paper straws do.

- Compostable plastic addresses problem of traditional plastic contaminating our compost at local compost facilities.
strawless in seattle

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