

Seattle's Existing Ordinances: Related to Bags



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

- Passed 2016, effective 2017.
- Compostable bags allowed and must be correctly labeled and must be tinted green or brown.

Seattle's Existing Ordinances: Disposable Food Service Packaging



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.
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Straws and Utensils

July 1, 2018

- 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.



A photograph of the Seattle skyline at dusk. The Space Needle is prominent on the left side, illuminated. The city lights are visible against a darkening sky. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

strawless in seattle

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