

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: December 6, 2023</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: January 24, 2024</p>

Subject

Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations Policy

Recommendation

That the draft Corporate Policy and Procedure – Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the Corporate Report entitled “Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations Policy” dated December 6, 2023 from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.

Executive Summary

- The City of Mississauga is responsible for waste generated in city-owned facilities and city-run parks and roads. Waste is managed across various City divisions. Keeping our city free of litter is also the responsibility of the City.
- Waste, and in particular plastics and litter, is a growing problem. In order to limit the amount of material generated at the City going to landfill and positively contribute to litter mitigation, the Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations Policy was created to provide direction to staff around avoiding purchasing, using, and disposing of these one-time use materials.
- The draft corporate Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations policy has been created to help reduce waste and litter by limiting the purchase and use of single-use items in City facilities and operations.
- The draft policy with the attached guidebook is designed to inform, educate and transition the City towards the replacement of, and find alternatives for, single-use items.

Background

The City of Mississauga is responsible for waste management (e.g. waste generation, collection and disposal services) in City-owned facilities, City-run parks and along roadsides and is managed across various City divisions. The City is committed to reduce waste and single-use plastics, increase recycling and address litter city-wide. This was reinforced through Motion 15.4¹ passed by City Council on June 20, 2018. The resolution supports the City's long-standing commitment to create a sustainable city as laid out in the Strategic Plan and the Climate Change Action Plan. The City committed to the following actions in relation to the reduction of single-use plastics:

- Make every effort to educate and promote the reduction of waste to all internal staff, with a focus on single-use plastic.
- Reduce the use of non-recyclable, single-use plastics from use or purchase within internal operations, where feasible.

Recent examples of the City's commitment include:

- The roll-out of approximately 2,000 dual garbage and recycling containers throughout our parks, transit terminals, recreation centres and in Business Improvement Areas.
- Implementation of 12 corporate waste diversion initiatives (e.g. dog waste program in parks, scrap metal, batteries, shredding and organics).
- Food Services discontinued the sale of plastic water bottles at Golf Courses.
- Installation of water bottle refill stations at City-owned facilities including Civic Centre, Courthouse and all recreation centres as well as select parks including Celebration Square.
- Special event recycling and organic collection for select events (e.g. Ontario Summer Games and Ontario Paraspport Games).
- Launch of a city-wide litter campaign "Own Your Litter" www.ownyourlitter.ca.
- Internal process established for surplus City assets through the Surplus Asset Solutions tool on Inside Mississauga. Applying this process led to 120 tonnes of material diverted during the Hazel McCallion library renovation and 7 tonnes at the Living Arts Centre.

Present Status

The Federal Government implemented the Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations (SOR/2022-138) on December 20, 2022². On November 16, 2023, the Federal Court overturned Canada's ban on single-use plastics. The Regulations prohibited the manufacture, import and sale of single-use plastic checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from or containing

¹ Council Minutes June 20, 2018:

https://www7.mississauga.ca/documents/committees/council/2018/2018_06_20_Council_Minutes.pdf

² Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2022-138.pdf>

problematic plastics, ring carriers, stir sticks and straws. The nullification of the Regulation will have little impact on this policy. City staff will continue to monitor for any future compliance requirements for single-use plastics.

In order to limit the amount of material generated at the City going to landfill and positively contribute to litter mitigation, the Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations Policy was created to provide direction to staff around avoiding purchasing, using, and disposing of these one-time use materials. This corporate policy compliments other policies, plans and initiatives in the City such as the Sustainable Procurement Policy, Disposal of Surplus City Assets Policy, and the Climate Change Action Plan by advancing circular economy initiatives.

Comments

The intent is to take a phased approach to implementing the policy by limiting the purchase and use of single-use items, guided by principles like transparency in procurement and promoting responsible purchasing decisions. This will allow time to build awareness, explore alternative options and establish a baseline with supporting key performance indicators.

The overall goal of the policy is to reduce single-use items through education and awareness for City staff on environmentally sustainable alternatives to single-use items. Careful consideration was also made to exclude from the policy single-use items required for use in City facilities and operations where an equivalent (re-usable) alternative is unavailable. Some examples include accessibility items, health and safety items and single-use items that can be readily recycled or composted in Mississauga (e.g., plastic beverage containers and aluminum cans). In addition to plastics, the policy also includes items made from materials that are not durable and are intended for short-term use.

A guidebook has been developed which offers alternatives and resources to help City staff reduce single-use items commonly found in City facilities and operations. Additional resources will be offered to divisions that are most impacted. As outlined in the Guidebook, the following principles shall guide staff to:

- Be transparent about the City's procurement preferences and work with suppliers to identify appropriate alternatives to Single-use Items.
- Influence the broader community to be less reliant on single-use items by leveraging City resources, expertise and practices.
- Review and consider the impacts of purchasing and using alternatives to single-use items and make environmentally responsible purchasing decisions in a way that balances fiscal responsibility and social equity and contributes to the circular economy.
- Engage in ongoing learning and development to leverage emerging opportunities and current information.

- Evaluate operational activities with the intent to implement environmentally responsible processes/decisions to achieve continuous improvement.

Strategic Plan

This policy aligns with the Green and Prosper Pillar in Mississauga's Strategic Plan.

Engagement and Consultation

During the development of this policy, different divisions and departments were consulted to provide comments and feedback including but not limited to: Procurement Services, Food Services, Recreation & Culture, Internal Audit, Legal and Extended Leadership Team. A deputation was presented to the Environmental Action Committee on November 7th, 2023. The Environmental Action Committee is in support of the Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities & Operations policy.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the Recommendations in this report. The policy acts as a framework for decision making on the purchase and use of single-use items. Any monetary changes associated with the implementation of this policy will be captured through each individual Division's budgets.

Conclusion

City staff are committed to reducing single-use items within City facilities and operations to further progress waste reduction efforts. The draft corporate policy along with the guidebook will provide guidance and direction to enable staff to make more informed decisions. It is recommended that City Council approve the corporate Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations policy.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Reduction of Single-use Items in City Facilities and Operations Policy

Appendix 2: Reduction of Single-use Items Guidebook



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Diane Gibson, Environmental Sustainability Supervisor