

# Reducing Single-use Items

Edmonton

## Best Practices for Event Organizers

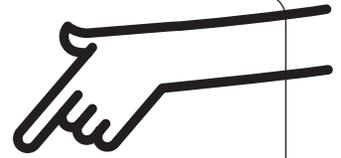
**Edmonton's Single-use Item Reduction Bylaw helps reduce waste by targeting items that can easily be replaced with reusable options or avoided altogether.**

This guide is for event organizers. It can help reduce waste at all types of events; everything from large festivals to programs run by community leagues and charities, to neighbourhood gatherings like block parties and play streets.

## Reasons to reduce

- An estimated 450 million single-use items are thrown in the garbage each year in Edmonton, plus more that are recycled and littered.
- Single-use items are often littered. Reducing the amount of single-use items you use can help keep the community cleaner, and protect wildlife and the environment.
- Single-use items are energy intensive. Cutting back can help reduce the emissions created by making, shipping and disposing of these items.
- Switching to reusables may help save money.

## When working with vendors



*If a community league, charity or community organization is hosting an event, they do not need to comply with most parts of the bylaw.*

*However,*

- *If it is a large event with 1,500+ attendees and the organizer holds a City permit, different rules will apply.*
- *If an organization hires a service provider with a business licence (e.g., a food truck), that provider would need to comply with the bylaw.*

Check out the **[Event Decision Chart](#)** for more information about how the bylaw applies to events.



# Alternatives to single-use items



# Reducing food waste



## PLASTIC, PAPER AND FOAM PLATES AND CUPS

### Alternatives:

- Glass, metal, ceramic, wood/bamboo and reusable plastic plates and cups

### Things you'll need:

- Sinks or dishwashers to wash and sanitize
- Space to store reusables



## FOODWARE ACCESSORIES

(e.g., condiment packets, disposable utensils, paper napkins, straws)

### Alternatives:

- Condiments in bottles, rather than single-use packages
- Metal cutlery and straws (or avoid using straws altogether)
- Cloth napkins, rather than single-use napkins

### Things you'll need:

- Sinks, dishwashers or washing machines to wash and sanitize
- Space to store reusables

**Reducing food waste is the number one thing you can do to help combat climate change.**

**Food storage:** While plastic wrap and aluminum foil aren't restricted by the bylaw or federal regulations, we suggest using reusable alternatives like beeswax wraps, reusable food covers and glass food storage containers to store food.

**Food waste:** Only order or prepare as much food as you think you'll need. Freeze or donate leftovers, or give food to attendees to take home.

# Preparing to reuse

## **BEFORE USING REUSABLE ITEMS, ASK YOURSELF:**

- How many attendees am I expecting?  
How many of each item do I need?
- Can I rent these items instead of buying (see the [Food Serviceware Supplier List](#))?  
How does the cost compare?
- Is there a risk these items could be lost, broken or damaged?
- Can I buy these items locally?
- Are there any public health restrictions in place that might prevent me from using reusables?
- Am I able to safely handle reusable items per [Alberta Health Services' best practices](#)?
- Where will I store these items before/after my event?
- Where and how will I wash and sanitize these items?
- How will I transport the items to the event?
- Can I ask for help from attendees or members of my organization?



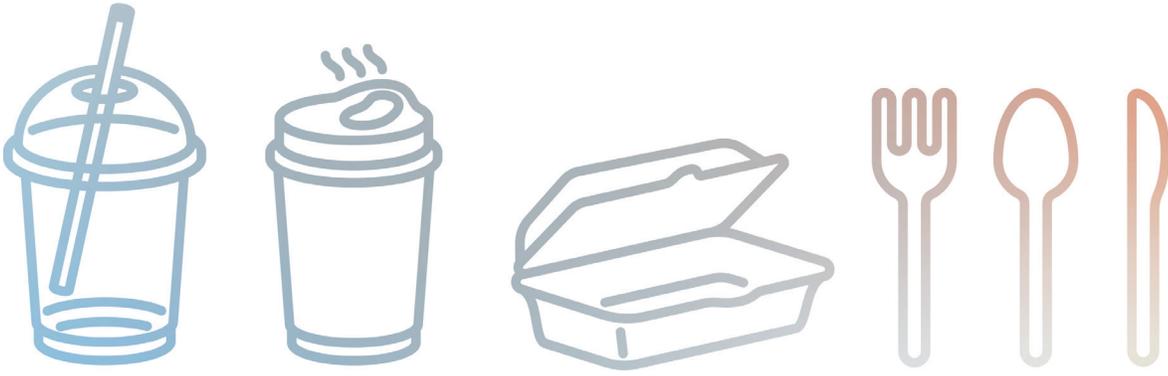
Encourage attendees to bring their own reusable cups, plates and cutlery!

Sometimes using single-use items might be unavoidable. But you can still reduce the amount you need.

Be sure to follow Alberta Health Services' guidelines for the safe use of reusables.

## **BEFORE USING SINGLE-USE ITEMS, ASK YOURSELF:**

- How much do these items cost? Will I save money in the long run by using reusables?
- Is this item necessary?
- Is there a recyclable option I can use? (see the [Guide to Choosing Sustainable Cups, Containers and Cutlery](#))
- How many of each item do I need?  
Can I reduce the amount I buy?
- Are there other ways for me to reduce waste at my event (e.g., reusing bags or boxes)?



At some events, it might be difficult to use reusable items safely. If you do need to use single-use items, Try to choose options that can be diverted from landfill via recycling or composting:

- Cardboard
- Aluminum containers
- Wooden cutlery
- Recyclable plastics



If you choose items labelled as compostable, check with your waste collection company to ensure they can be properly processed. They don't break down in most industrial composting facilities, and can generate greenhouse gases in landfills.

# Be WasteWise

Ensure you are correctly sorting and disposing of your single-use items by using the WasteWise app.



Find more resources at [edmonton.ca/SingleUse](https://edmonton.ca/SingleUse)

## Canada

### Government of Canada Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

Federal regulations on single-use plastics, which ban the sale of six kinds of single-use plastic, apply to all organizations.

- Checkout bags
- Ring carriers
- Cutlery
- Stir sticks
- Foodservice ware
- Straws

**Learn more here!**

