

edmonton.ca/**SingleUse**

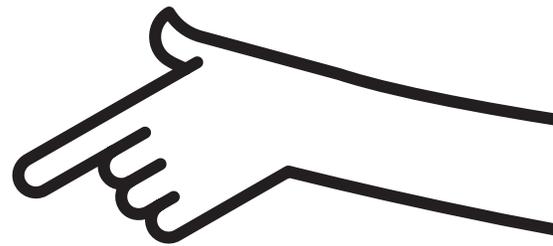
Single-use Item Reduction Bylaw

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Guide for Charities

Updated May 2024

Edmonton



As of December 20, 2023:

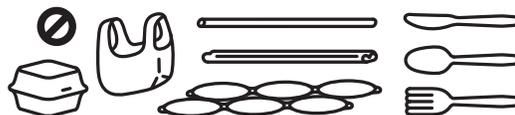
Charities must comply with these parts of the bylaw:



- Single-use plastic shopping bags can no longer be distributed.



- Foam plates, cups, bowls, containers, etc. can no longer be used.



- Canada's Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations also prohibit several categories of single-use plastics your organization may use:

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

The Single-use Item Reduction Bylaw helps reduce waste by targeting items that can easily be replaced with reusable options or avoided altogether. This means fewer disposable items are thrown in the garbage or littered, leading to a cleaner, more sustainable Edmonton.

The bylaw came into effect on July 1, 2023, with exemptions for charities and some types of businesses.

As of December 20, Canada's regulations will override some bylaw exemptions for charities. Edmonton's bylaw has been amended to align with these regulations.



Scan to learn more about the federal regulations, or visit edmonton.ca/SingleUse





Shopping bags

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Plastic shopping bags can no longer be distributed as of December 20, 2023.

This includes shopping bags made from biodegradable and/or compostable plastics.



Charities are exempt from the bylaw requirement to charge a minimum fee for paper and new reusable bags.

Plastic bags can still be used to:

- Package bulk items such as hardware or fasteners
- Serve as primary packaging for food items including baked goods, produce or bulk food items
- Package goods from a pharmacist
- Protect non-food items from becoming dirty or unusable (e.g., bags holding newspapers)



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Speak with your supplier about alternatives to plastic shopping bags.
- Use up your stock of plastic shopping bags before December 20, 2023.
- Use the printable posters and tent cards at edmonton.ca/SingleUse to help inform patrons and customers and remind them to bring their reusable bags.



Foam

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Polystyrene foam (“Styrofoam”) cups, plates, bowls and containers can no longer be used as of December 20, 2023.

Foam trays or containers can still be used to contain uncooked foods including meat and eggs.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Speak with your supplier about alternatives to foam. Try to use reusable or locally recyclable containers. (See the Sustainable Foodware Guide on page 4.)
- Use your remaining stock of foam cups, plates, bowls and containers by December 20, 2023.

Choosing Sustainable Cups, Containers and Cutlery



Charities face different challenges than businesses, and waste reduction may not be a top priority. If your organization is ready to take steps to reduce and divert waste, consider some of the foodware options below.

	Cups	Containers	Cutlery
<p>Best</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use reusable cups for dine-in Accept clean, reusable cups from patrons and customers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use reusables for food to be consumed on-site Accept clean, reusable containers from patrons Provide containers that can be reused by patrons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use reusables for food to be consumed on-site 
<p>Acceptable</p> <p>Look for single-use options that are accepted in Edmonton's recycling and food scraps processing programs.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recyclable plastic cups <p><i>Currently, no paper cups are accepted for recycling by the City.</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recyclable plastics Recyclable unlined cardboard and pulp (similar to egg cartons) Recyclable aluminum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-use cutlery is acceptable, but its use should be limited (wood, bamboo, plastics other than polystyrene or polyethylene) 
<p>Avoid</p> <p>Check with your waste collection company to ensure items labelled as compostable can be properly processed.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper cups or containers lined with plastic or wax Compostable/biodegradable plastic cups and containers, including paper lined with compostable plastic 		<p><i>Single-use wooden cutlery can be composted by the City.</i></p> <p><i>If you choose cutlery labelled as compostable, check with your waste collection company to ensure they can be properly processed.</i></p>



For the most current waste sorting information, download the **WasteWise app** or use the tool online at edmonton.ca/Waste

For a list of local suppliers of alternatives to foam plates, containers, etc., visit edmonton.ca/SingleUse

Answers to common questions

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What can we do with extra supplies of plastic shopping bags and foam items?

According to Canada's Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations, as of December 20, extra supplies of prohibited items can only be used privately (e.g., plastic bags can be used in homes to carry items or hold garbage). They cannot be publicly distributed by any business or organization.

Are community leagues exempt from the bylaw?

Like charities, community leagues are not exempt from the federal regulations on single-use plastics, so they are not able to distribute plastic shopping bags or foam plates, bowls, cups and containers.

Additionally:

- Any third parties using community league facilities to operate a business will need to adhere to the bylaw
- Events organized by a league that receives a civic event permit from the City and expects over 1,500 attendees will also be required to comply with the bylaw

Visit edmonton.ca/SingleUse > Businesses and Events to learn more.

Do I need to comply with the bylaw if I'm a gift shop at a care facility or food service at a charity?

Visit edmonton.ca/SingleUse > Charities and Exemptions for a complete list of exempt business licence types. But remember, the federal regulations override municipal exemptions.

If your organization does not hold one of these exempt business licence types, you need to comply with the bylaw, even if you are a supplier at a facility where the bylaw does not apply; e.g., a gift shop in a hospital.

Do charitable organizations need to charge the minimum fee for paper and new reusable bags when they sell items to the general public?

No, charities that sell items to the public (e.g., Goodwill) do not need to charge the minimum fee for shopping bags.

Will charities be expected to comply with other parts of the bylaw in the future?

There are currently no plans to require charities to comply with other parts of the bylaw (like requiring reusable cups for dine-in drinks and providing accessories by request only). The bylaw is being amended to remove exemptions on plastic shopping bags and foam items only to align with federal restrictions, which will make these items unavailable.

Can businesses, organizations, etc. hand out free reusable bags as swag?

While organizations are encouraged to rethink gifts and swag and prioritize waste reduction, they are not required to charge for bags used to contain free gift items. Event organizers are encouraged to ask attendees to bring their own reusable bags, if needed. If the event is expecting 1,500+ attendees and holds a City permit, a fee must be charged for bags needed for a purchase.

How will this bylaw be enforced?

If a complaint is received, the City will first work to educate the business licence holder about the requirements of the bylaw. In cases of deliberate and ongoing non-compliance, fines are a possibility.



**Thank you
for doing your
part to help
reduce waste!**

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