

Consultation Summary

Stakeholder Consultation on Single-Use Items



Lead Divisions: Operations, Economic Development



March–April 2019



portmoody.ca/singleuse

Consultation methodology



Online survey

Response period: March–April 2019

of responses: 38

of responses from restaurant, food, and beverage businesses: 12

Scope of the consultation:

On June 26, 2018, Council asked staff to seek feedback from Port Moody business licence holders on their concerns about eliminating the use of single-use items through a survey, and to build a database of contact information for this purpose.

Key findings:

Communication tactics



Targeted direct mail to all Port Moody business owner/operators (2,310 pieces)



Individual outreach, particularly to food and beverage businesses



Project webpage

The top three single-use items used by respondents are:



Shopping bags (21)

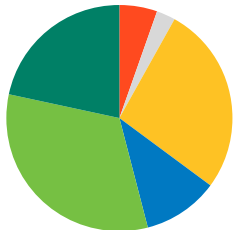


Food containers (14)



Beverage cups (13)

Who responded:



2 (5%) – Health care/medical

1 (3%) – Personal services

10 (27%) – Professional services

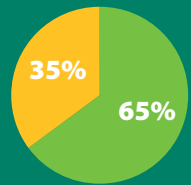
4 (11%) – Retail store

12 (32%) – Restaurant, food, and beverage

8 (22%) – Other

1 (3%) – No answer

Food containers and utensils were the top items deemed “**very difficult**” to eliminate.



13 businesses had concerns about eliminating single-use items, and **24** had no concern.

Please note

While survey results may provide the City with valuable information, please note the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of all Port Moody business owner/operators.



Many respondents indicated moving toward **reducing single-use items** or to **choosing biodegradable items** despite the additional costs involved.



Concerns of eliminating single-use items include a **lack of alternative products**, **increasing costs** for businesses, and **loss of convenience** for customers.

Stakeholder Consultation on Single-Use Items – Comments

Survey respondents were asked **“Do you have any concerns about eliminating single-use items?”** Here are the responses received by the City. Comments are presented verbatim, including typos and grammatical errors. Specific addresses have been removed to protect the privacy of individuals.

- too expensive!
- My business uses mostly biodegradable items and for a restaurant we are pretty small and do not have storage space for reusable dishes.
- as a catering business, we have to use single use items. we only use the Biodegradable/compostable product , we do have our own real dishes for event ect...
- There needs to be an initiation phase to allow for all non single-use items to be utilized first.
- Cannot eliminate use of packaging that the business is dependent on. For example pizza boxes. If they are legislated out you are effectively telling all pizza businesses to close.
- I own a digital agency so I have almost no single use items in my business. And while I understand the motivation for this (I'm all for commitments to the environment). I feel like a bylaw is not the right approach. Currently, businesses in BC are under a lot of pressure. The costs of leases are increasing in the Lower Mainland. Payroll/healthcare tax is an additional expense that businesses are now budgeting for. Minimum wage has increased and will do so again by 2021. And worst of all, businesses that compete globally are being hampered by foreign policy issues (not to mention that US companies have had major tax cuts under Trump). I strongly recommend that this council think about how to implement a policy that incentivizes business owners to "go green" versus penalizing or burding all businesses in Port Moody (many of whom would shut down or move their location to Coquitlam). If you treat this more like a "certification program" offered by the city, the businesses that choose to participate will. The City of Port Moody should recognize these champions but not penalize all businesses. Check out B Corp for a great example of a certification program that works. <https://bcorporation.net/>
- We sell take out beverages in a single use cup.
- Landfill excess. Harm to environment, etc.
- My busieness does not supply single use items, but I would like businessess that do think of ways to eliminate.
- All of our bags are compostable paper bags which are infrequently required by customers but an essential service for those that need one e.g. on a rainy day. We would tend to use around 10-15 per month. I don't think eliminating them from our store will make a large environmental impact. The same goes for the few situations per year when we need to use compostable paper plates to supplement the reusable china we regularly use. The plastic utensils would be the biggest environmental issue for our store. We use these 5-6 times per year so while it may be difficult for us to replace them with metal ones that need to be washed in the dishwasher it is not impossible.
- We are doing our utmost to move all our packaging to be either compostable or recyclable but our business is completely reliant on packaging. We have tried to use reusable items items where ever possible (ie. our pie tins and mason jars). We offer a deposit for returning those however most people don't. The cost of packaging is already incredibly expensive and the costs of it continue to steadily increase. As I mentioned we do continue to challenge our suppliers to provide us with the "greenest" packaging options but there is a threshold of what we can afford to absorb without passing that cost on to consumers. While we are committed to doing our utmost to reduce our environmental impact I strongly believe this needs to be a gradual process that moves along with customer engagement & their adaptation of more environmentally friendly practices. While I can appreciate there may be concerns around how slow people are to change habits and we need to be part of that change I am weary of any government regulation that is put in to effect without effective and substantial consultation with businesses.

- We have made many changes to ensure we are creating as little garbage as possible. We have moved to as many recyclable products as possible despite higher costs. We currently use recyclable cups, spoons, lids, and discounting customers that chose our cones over a cup.
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- It wouldn't be possible to operate as a business if single-use items were to be eliminated.

Survey respondents were asked to **share any new ideas, methods, technologies, or products that you are exploring or considering to help reduce or eliminate the use of single-use items.** Here are the responses received by the City. Comments are presented verbatim, including typos and grammatical errors. Specific addresses have been removed to protect the privacy of individuals.

- Elimination is the most effective. People will adapt. Do you really need a lid for your coffee? Just don't fill it as much. For food items, charging a deposit for returnable containers etc., or having a good old-fashioned dishwasher for stir spoons etc. can help. Discounts for bringing your own container, or fees for using disposable items may encourage people.
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- Some of this doesn't apply to me but answered as best I could. Also in some cases we are bound by what we are provided to use IE plastic bags, etc.
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- At Unipro, we do our best to reuse, reduce and recycle so that we can eliminate single-use items and other things affecting our environment and workspace. It is one of our priorities to try to improve our ways of getting rid of waste and we are open to new ideas, to create a greener world for our community. We make sure that all of the products we use are "ecofriendly" as a effort to help preserve our beautiful Port Moody.
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- Please move ahead and eliminate single use plastics. People will adjust.
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- We are not providing any of the following: single use cups, stir sticks, plastic bags, single use utensils or single packet sugar. We are thinking of ways to get customers in the habit of bringing their own cups and take out containers, bread bags and shopping bags. We are for a system where we can reduce our waste as best we can.
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- We are switching to plastic single-serve beverage containers in part to eliminate straw requests associated with canned beverages. We have had compostable plastic bags and cutlery for several years and our pizza boxes are compatible with composting facilities as the ink is vegetable-based. Our salad containers are also compostable. Basically anything that leaves the store as part a a customer's order is recyclable or compostable. One thing the City can do more is to enforce compost and recycling requirements as per GVRD regulations. Don't know if this is the jurisdiction of a given city though. A tour of many restaurants would reveal no composting in the kitchen and recyclables thrown out with solid waste.
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- I provide glass containers for clients to take extra food products away. Is costly, they bring them back to reuse , if returning for a stay. There is a cost incentive for them to do so . No longer give out single use soaps, etc. Use refillable glass decorative containers for such.
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- I am the Ceo of FoamOnly recycling Corp. I have a fabrication shop in Port Moody. 8-12 % of the volume of industrial waste is foam. Municipalities should provide guidance to business owner where this product can go or who can pick it up. And encourage networking with the cHamber of commerce to instigate a closed loop recycling model. We export 60 ton of Ps plastic which could be consumed
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- I am the CEo of FoamOnly recycling Corp. We have a research shop in port moody. First a awareness campaign with solutions on where to go with the materials for businesses owners. 8-212% Of the volume of industrial waste is foam. We export 60tons monthly. A networking opportunity with the chamber of comerce to create a closed loop for Recyclables. example. We sell our product extruded into a shape the municipality or a business currently purchases. Thus closing the loop.

- I'm all for eliminating single-use items where possible, but plastic bags, straws and styrofoam containers should be banned outright. Compostable cups and take-out containers are ok in my mind; ideally better for customers to bring their own cups or containers. Maybe these items could be sold at the business as an option for take-out?

- My customers are very eco-friendly and often have their own bags or don't take a bag. If they need one, I only use paper.

- We bundle goods in fabric wraps or reusable containers like fabric bags. We teach classes to make your own reusable tote or gift bags and food wraps etc. We up-cycle nearly all our textile waste into textile art or stuffing for other projects. We use china cups and plates for our tea and cookies which are available for students during classes or events. We try to avoid plastic or disposable products.

- We are all for eliminating single use items!! Let's do it!!

- YAY!!!! Port Moody Refillery is all about reducing single use plastic!!! We are thrilled to see the direction the City is taking!

- I offer to my patients ceramic cups for hot drinks and glasses for cold drinks.

- We do offer totes for purchase in the brewery and do encourage customers to bring their own bags when purchasing to go product.

- We have had discussion around charging to "to-do" bags which are currently paper bags with handles but are not sure what the tolerance level would be for that as it would have be more like a \$0.25 charge and what does happen often is a customer has already paid and then asks for a bag. We have also looked at charging a "to-go" price for all our coffee beverages to maybe encourage customers to bring travel mugs with them but have just had to increase prices due to various other taxes etc. so are holding off on this. We're also trying to eliminate all of the packaged sugar etc. to go to refillable containers though some customers do have "health" concerns around that.