



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: September 23, 2019
Submitted by: Engineering and Operations Department – Solid Waste, Fleet, and Shared Services Division and Economic Development Office
Subject: Stakeholder Consultation Summary on Single-Use Items

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the results of Port Moody's Single-Use Items Consultation Survey.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT the report dated September 23, 2019 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Solid Waste, Fleet, and Shared Services Division and the Economic Development Office regarding Stakeholder Consultation Summary on Single-Use Items be received for information.

Background

At the April 11, 2006 Regular Council meeting, Council considered a report dated April 3, 2006 from the Environmental Protection Committee regarding Plastic Bag Position Paper and passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS product manufacturers and users should bear the full costs of excess waste;

AND WHEREAS other places, such as Ireland, have successfully implemented environmental fee-based plastic bag reduction schemes;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Port Moody request the GVRD, the provincial government, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the federal government, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to work towards the implementation of a full cost accounting environmental fee on plastic shopping bags.

At the February 13, 2018 Regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

RC18/053

THAT staff prepare a timeline for a comprehensive public consultation process that would include businesses, interested stakeholders, and residents in preparation for a bylaw restricting the use of single-use plastic bags, and Styrofoam and plastic containers.

AND THAT in preparation for the bylaw restricting the use of plastic and other Styrofoam, staff be directed to monitor Vancouver's and other neighbouring municipalities' strategies on single-use containers and report back on potential wording of a bylaw on plastic bags (e.g. drawing from Montreal's example).

RC18/054

THAT the following motion be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA), to push the issue regionally and provincially:

"THAT Metro Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia move towards banning the use and manufacture of single-use disposable plastic bags and Styrofoam."

At the March 27, 2018 Regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

RC18/167

THAT the following motion be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA), as a replacement to the previously sent motion on the topic:

"THAT Metro Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia move towards banning the use and manufacture of single-use disposable plastic items (including, but not limited to bags, containers, styrofoam, straws, etc.)."

At the June 26, 2018 Regular Council meeting, council passed the following resolution:

RC18/366

THAT staff participate in the Metro Vancouver (MV) Single-Use Item Reduction Consultation as recommended in the report dated June 18, 2018 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Operations Division and Economic Development Office regarding Stakeholder Consultation Summary on Single-Use Items;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back after the MV consultation is completed with recommendations on next steps in adopting bylaw updates or further consultation efforts.

RC18/367

THAT staff be directed 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.

As directed by Council, the survey to Port Moody business license holders regarding single-use items has been completed. This report provides a summary of the results of that survey and an update on the status of the Metro Vancouver Single-Use Item Reduction Consultation.

Discussion

All levels of government have begun to take action using regulatory and non-regulatory tools, initiating consultations, and implementing strategies to reduce or eliminate the production and use of single-use items. Approaches on all scales share the common goal of preventing further harm to the environment by reducing the use of single-use items.

From March to April 2019, a survey was issued to all Port Moody business license holders seeking feedback on their use of single-use items in their operations and potential impacts of a policy eliminating single-use items. The survey was distributed through targeted mail to all Port Moody business license holders as well as individual outreach to food and beverage businesses. Following is a summary of the results:

- 38 businesses responded with the restaurant, food, and beverage sector the highest represented at 32%;
- the top three single-use items used by respondents were shopping bags, food containers, and beverage cups;
- many businesses indicated efforts were already being made to reduce single-use items and to replace plastic single-use items with biodegradable single-use items; and
- while 65% of respondents had no concern about eliminating single-use items, businesses that expressed concern indicated that a ban on single-use items would result in cost increases, potential challenges in finding appropriate alternative products, and a loss of convenience for customers.

A summary of the City-led consultation is attached to this report.

Over the last year, work has also been under way at regional and higher levels to try to reduce single-use items.

Staff attended a Single-Use Item Workshop hosted by Metro Vancouver on June 14, 2019, where a 2018 Waste Composition Study by Metro Vancouver was presented for review. Resources, best practices to inform initiatives, and approaches that include analysis, education, and regulatory options were reviewed for the purpose of developing a Single-Use Item Reduction Toolkit for municipalities to use. The finalized Single-Use Item Reduction Toolkit is expected to be published by Metro Vancouver later in 2019. Staff will review this toolkit once it is finalized and report to Council with any relevant actions requiring Council endorsement or approval.

Regional, provincial, and federal government priorities that are inclusive of feedback from all stakeholders and industry are aligning to develop feasible strategies and regulatory frameworks that will address the impacts of and reduce the use of Single-Use Items. In recent months, the following notable developments have occurred:

- the Plastics Advisory Panel, including representatives from local government and affiliate organizations has forwarded recommendations to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to be considered as part of the Zero Waste Plastic Waste Strategy;
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Canadian Government is committed to banning harmful plastics such as plastic bags, straws, and similar products and

packaging as early as 2021. The government will work with provinces and territories to develop industry standards and targets and to require responsible actions that reduce plastic pollution;

- the Retail Council of Canada has asked Premier Horgan to “Harmonize province-wide action on single-use item reduction”; and
- the BC Court of Appeals has ruled that Ministerial approval will be specifically required to regulate the provision of bags used for purchased goods by businesses.

In discussions with other municipalities and Metro Vancouver, it has become clear that a coordinated regional (or higher level) approach is required to have the most success in reducing the use of single-use items while also trying to ensure equity between competing businesses and commercial areas. Considering that work on single-use items is now under way by higher levels of government, staff recommend that City staff continue to participate in these initiatives and report back to Council once a coordinated regional approach (such as via the toolkit under development by Metro Vancouver) has been completed.

Other Option(s)

THAT staff be directed to report back with other strategies to reduce use of single-use items in Port Moody in the interim.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the receipt of this report.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

The results of the Single-Use Items Stakeholder Consultation will be posted on the City’s website.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

This report is consistent with Council’s strategic priorities of Exceptional Service Delivery and Environmental Leadership.

Attachment(s)

1. City of Port Moody Stakeholder Consultation Summary on Single-Use Items.

Report Author

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Stakeholder Consultation Summary on Single-Use Items.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1. Stakeholder Consultation Summary - Single Use Items.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 2, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Donna Bucsis

No Signature - Task assigned to Paul LeBlanc was completed by workflow administrator Dorothy Shermer

Paul LeBlanc

No Signature - Task assigned to Jeff Moi was completed by workflow administrator Dorothy Shermer

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