

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

306



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.

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

307

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.

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

308

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

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

309

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

Donna Bucsis

Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

310

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

Jeff Moi

Rosemary Lodge

Paul Rockwood

Dorothy Shermer

Tim Savoie



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

Communication tactics



Targeted direct mail to all Port Moody business license holders (2,310 pieces)

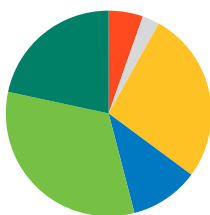


Individual outreach to food and beverage businesses



Project webpage

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 |

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 license holders.

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:

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



Shopping bags (21)



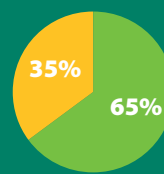
Food containers (14)



Beverage cups (13)



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.



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



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

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

312

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 burdening 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://bccorporation.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.

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

313

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Please move ahead and eliminate single use plastics. People will adjust.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.

Considered at October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

314

- 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.