



Committee of the Whole Meeting Single-use Plastics (SUPs)

Public Works Services

March 22, 2021

Purpose of Report



Provide an overview on the single-use plastics (SUPs) issue



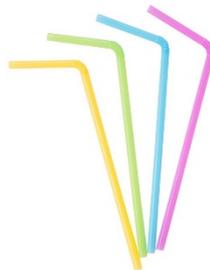
Highlight how other governments are addressing SUPs



Provide options and recommendations to help reduce SUPs

Types of SUPs

- Single-use plastics (SUPs) are plastic items that are normally used once and then discarded. They are not typically designed for durability, reuse, or recyclability.
- **SUP items include:**
 - Straws, stir sticks, cutlery
 - Plastic bags
 - Take-out cups
 - Foam food and beverage containers
 - Water bottles intended for single-use



Environmental Impacts of SUPs

- Approximately 10,000 tonnes of plastic debris enter the Great Lakes annually
- More than 80% of litter collected during volunteer clean ups along the Great Lakes shorelines is plastic
- Can cause harm to fish and wildlife through entanglement or consumption, as plastic can be mistaken for food
- Takes a long time to decompose and creates microplastics as it breaks down, which has been found entering the food web
- Often becomes litter found on roadways and in parks and waterways

Federal Government Action

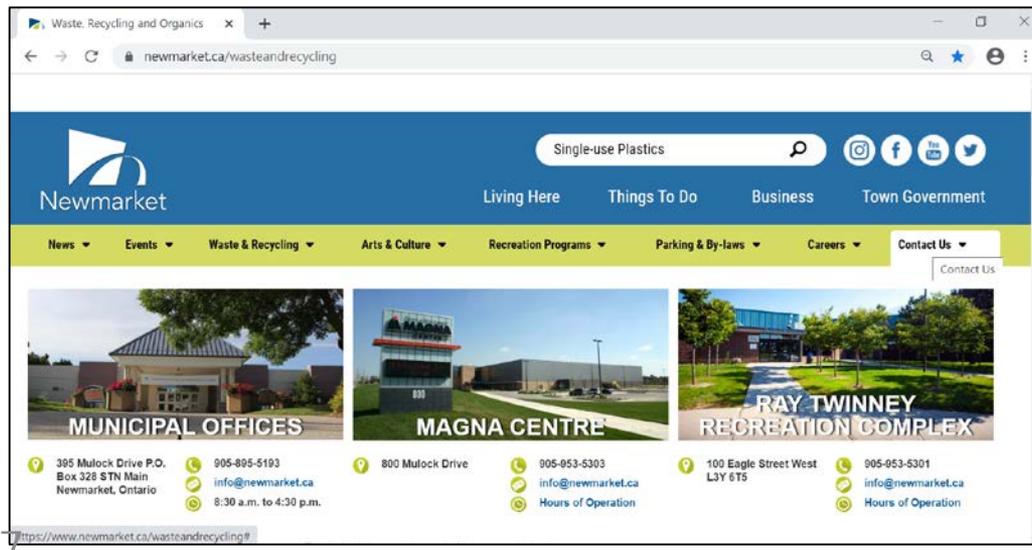
- June 2018 - the Federal Government uses its presidency of the G7 to push the creation of the **Ocean Plastics Charter**, committing signatories towards a more resource-efficient and sustainable approach to the management of plastics
- Commitment made to **diverting at least 75% of plastic waste by 2030 from federal operations** and eliminating the unnecessary use of single-use plastics in government operations, events and meetings
- June 2019 - the Federal Government announces their plan to implement a **ban on SUPs by 2021** under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA)*

Provincial Government Action

- March 2019 - *Single-Use Plastics Ban Act, 2019*, aims to eliminate the distribution and supply of SUPs in Ontario by 2025
- March 2019 - the Provincial Government releases a discussion paper on reducing litter and waste which lists a number of commitments including reducing plastic waste and litter in our neighbourhoods and parks

Options for Eliminating SUPs

1. Eliminate SUPs at Town facilities
2. Eliminate SUPs at Town events
3. Public education program



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1. Eliminate SUPs at Town Facilities

Actions already taken:

- Replacing plastic stir sticks with wooden alternatives
- Banning the provision of bottled water at the municipal offices
- Providing all staff with reusable beverage containers
- Replacing plastic cutlery with reusable cutlery at the R.N. Shelton Operations Centre and Municipal Offices

The elimination of municipally supplied SUPs from Town facilities publicly demonstrates the importance the Town places on environmental stewardship, aligning with Council's Strategic Priority

1. Eliminate SUPs at Town Facilities Continued

Recommendations:



Eliminate the following municipally supplied SUP items available for staff use within Town facilities by July 1, 2021 to coincide with Plastic Free July, a global movement focused on reducing plastic pollution:

- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic straws
- Stir sticks
- Black plastic
- Single-serve milk and cream containers



Conduct a comprehensive review of current municipal practices at Town facilities to identify additional opportunities to further reduce, replace, or eliminate municipally supplied SUPs.



Plastic Free July – A Global Movement



2. Eliminate SUPs at Town Events

Touch-a-Truck 2019

- Compostable plates provided by event sponsor Wolfpack Packaging Inc.
- Paper napkins provided to guests disposed of in green bin program
- Beverages provided to guests (bottles, cans, tetra packs) disposed of in recycling program

SUP items at Town events could be replaced with compostable or recyclable alternatives

2. Eliminate SUPs at Town Events Continued

Recommendations:



The same items identified to be eliminated at Town facilities to also be eliminated at Town events by July 1, 2021:

- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic straws
- Stir sticks
- Black plastic
- Single-serve milk and cream containers

Identify additional opportunities to further reduce or eliminate the use of non-essential SUP products sold or distributed to the public by the Town and third-party vendors at Town events with exceptions for accessibility.

3. Public Education Program

- Would raise awareness on SUPs issue and promote options to reduce SUP use
- Utilize the Town's website and social media channels to provide educational information to the public
- Use existing communication platforms to recognize local organizations and businesses that have taken action towards reducing or eliminating their use of SUPs
- Provide educational information to staff to raise awareness on the Town's SUP reduction initiatives and encourage individual action

Helps prepare residents for potential regulations being brought forward by the Federal and Provincial governments

Conclusion

- Both the Provincial and Federal governments have made strong commitments to banning SUPs
- Many municipalities across Canada are taking steps towards addressing SUPs within their communities
- Important to recognize that many businesses are already leading by example, having voluntarily implemented changes within their establishments to reduce or substitute SUPs
- Recommended actions provide an opportunity for the Town of Newmarket to become a part of this movement and implement measures that will support the reduction and elimination of SUPs

Report Recommendations

1. That the report titled “Single-use Plastics” be received for information; and,
2. That the Town of Newmarket continue to support federal and provincial commitments to develop policies and action plans to curb the use of single-use plastics (SUPs) in Canada; and,
3. That plastic cutlery, plastic straws, stir sticks, black plastic, and single-serve milk and cream containers available for staff use within Town facilities be eliminated by July 1, 2021; and,
4. That staff conduct a comprehensive review of current municipal practices at Town facilities to identify additional opportunities to further reduce, replace, or eliminate municipally supplied SUPs; and,
5. That the same items identified to be eliminated at Town facilities also be eliminated for Town events by July 1, 2021; and,
6. That staff identify additional opportunities to further reduce or eliminate the use of non-essential SUP products sold or distributed to the public by the Town and third-party vendors at Town events with exceptions for accessibility; and,
7. That a public education program on reducing or eliminating SUPs be implemented; and,
8. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.