

Single-Use Item Regulation (Proposed Bylaw Contents)

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Sep. 17, 2019



SQUAMISH

Agenda

- Background
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Issues – Compostable/Biodegradable Plastics
- Issues - Accessibility
- Proposed Contents: Straws
- Issues – Green House Gas Emissions
- Proposed Contents: Bags
- Next Steps
- Budget Considerations
- Resolutions
- Questions

Background – Federal Action

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste:

- “develop a roadmap to address priority single-use and disposable plastics most commonly released into the environment”
- Science Assessment (2020)
- Standards for bio-based plastic products (2021)



Background – Provincial Action

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) Plastics Action Plan Consultation

- Bans on single use packaging
- Single use inclusion in Recycling Regulation
- National standards on recycled content

Background – Municipal Action

- In February 2019, Council carried the following resolution:

THAT single use plastic bags and straws be banned in Squamish by the end of 2019 with options for an overall single use plastic ban to be brought back to Council after engagement with the business community.

- Other municipalities include: Tofino, Ucluelet, Richmond, Victoria, Vancouver, etc.



Stakeholder Engagement

What we did

Workshop 1 (Aug. 8)	Workshop 2 (Aug. 15)	Individual Meetings	Public Survey (Aug. 14-26)
12 attendees	9 attendees	People with disabilities	16 business owners
5 sectors	6 sectors		524 residents

1. Innovations and best practices
2. Challenges, impacts, and unintended consequences
3. Exemptions
4. Missing voices
5. Future items to be regulated

Stakeholder Engagement

What we heard

Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Education needed to change behaviour2. Composting/recycling systems are confusing
Transition Needs/Concerns	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Businesses need support (from DoS)2. Alternatives must be made available to ensure safety/accessibility3. Consumers will shoulder the burden4. People will now need to buy trash bags
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Items should only be available by request2. Consistency across regions is needed3. Other items for the future: Styrofoam, takeout containers, disposable cups, utensils

Issue #1 - “Compostable”, “Biodegradable” Plastics

- “biodegradable” plastics: degrade into micro-plastics
- “compostable” plastics: require specialized facilities (not available for our residential organics stream)
- Both these items contaminate recycling and compost streams
- Marketed as environmentally superior products

“Biodegradable” Plastics - Marketing

you are paying for clean earth

after disuse, oxo-biodegradating
in nature, return to nature



Green
Certification

starts biodegrading only
when temperature,
humidity is satisfied
when microorganism
can survive.

products: KOMAX BIOKIPS NATURE _ food storage R
size: 2L (67.6oz)

material: body, lid-polypropylene, biodegrading
additives, biomass, packing-silicone

heat resistance: PP -20 ~ 100°C [-4 ~ 212°F],
silicone -20 ~ 200°C [-4 ~ 392°F]

manufacturer: Komax industrial co., ltd.
10F, Woolim Lions Valley B, Gasan Digital 1-Ro,
168 Geumcheon-Gu, Seoul, South Korea (08507)



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Issue #2 - Accessibility



Alice Wong: Founder of the Disability Visibility Project
Photograph: Talia Herman/The Guardian



Veronica Lewis: Writer, Lecturer
Photograph: Veronica Lewis

Accessibility – what about alternatives?

MANY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED PLASTIC STRAWS TO DRINK, EAT, TAKE MEDICATIONS, ETC. HERE'S HOW CURRENT ALTERNATIVE, REUSABLE OPTIONS ARE A HARM TO US.

	CHOKING HAZARD	INJURY RISK	NOT POSITIONABLE	COSTLY FOR CONSUMER	NOT HIGH-TEMP SAFE
Metal		✓	✓	✓	
Bamboo		✓	✓	✓	
Glass		✓	✓	✓	✓
Silicone			✓	✓	
Acrylic		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paper	✓		✓		✓
Pasta	✓	✓	✓		✓
Single-use					

by @sarahbreanep

***Pressure to create bio-degradable straw options that are safe for the environment AND for all disabled people should fall upon manufacturer, NOT marginalized disabled consumers.**

***Once we accept the necessity of plastic straws, we can work together on other environmental initiatives that are effective, inclusive and accessible.**

(image created by twitter user @_sbsmith)

Bylaw Contents: Straws

- If businesses choose to offer non-plastic straws, they must first ask customers if one is required
- Businesses are prohibited from the distribution of all plastic straws unless specifically requested, in which case, they must provide a bendy plastic straw (a small quantity of these items must be kept in stock to ensure accessibility)
- Businesses may not discourage customers from bringing and using their own straw
- Plastic Straws will be defined in the bylaw to include compostable and biodegradable plastic versions

Straw bylaw in practice

Business: Do you need a straw?



Customer:
No (I have
my own)



SUI Reduction



Customer: Yes please

Business: We have paper straws



Customer: Great, thank you!



Plastic Reduction



Customer: Can
I have a bendy
plastic straw?

Business: Yes



Accessibility



Issue #3 - Green House Gas Emissions

- On July 2nd, Squamish Council declared a Climate Emergency
- Different materials have different climate impacts (paper v. plastic)
- Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) considerations:
 - Study funding and bias
 - Cultural norms and context
 - Material production and sources
 - Reusability

“Overall, therefore, it is concluded from the LCAs that have been reviewed that longlife bags outperform single use bags and that plastic outperforms paper” (Welsh Assembly Government)

Green House Gas Emissions – reuse

- To achieve the same environmental efficiency of one *single-use plastic checkout bag*:
 - a paper bag will need to be used 3 times
 - a non-woven polypropylene (synthetic fabric) bag will need to be used 11 times
 - a cotton bag will need to be used 131 times.
- Priority: Encourage reuse!

Green House Gas Emissions – ban v. fees

Two regulation tools:

	Bag Ban	Bag Fees
Increase in Reusable bags?	Yes	Yes
Decrease in disposable bags?	Yes	Yes
What disposable bags are being used?	All paper	Mix of paper and plastic

(Taylor & Villas-Boas, 2016)

Reduction via prompt

Bylaw Contents: Bags

Scenario A (GHGe reduction)	Scenario B (plastics reduction)
<p>If businesses choose to offer bags, they must first ask customers if one is required</p>	<p>If businesses choose to offer bags, they must first ask customers if one is required</p>
<p>Businesses are prohibited from providing compostable and biodegradable plastic bags</p>	<p>Businesses are prohibited from providing plastic bags (including compostable and biodegradable versions)</p>
<p>If customers require a bag, alternatives must be provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of \$0.10 per Plastic Bag (increasing to \$0.25 six months after adoption); and• A minimum of \$0.30 per Paper Bag (increasing to \$0.75 six months after adoption); and• A minimum of \$1.10 per Reusable Bag (increasing to \$2.75 six months after adoption)	<p>If customers require a bag, alternatives must be provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of \$0.30 per Paper Bag (increasing to \$0.75 six months after adoption); and• A minimum of \$1.10 per Reusable Bag (increasing to \$2.75 six months after adoption)

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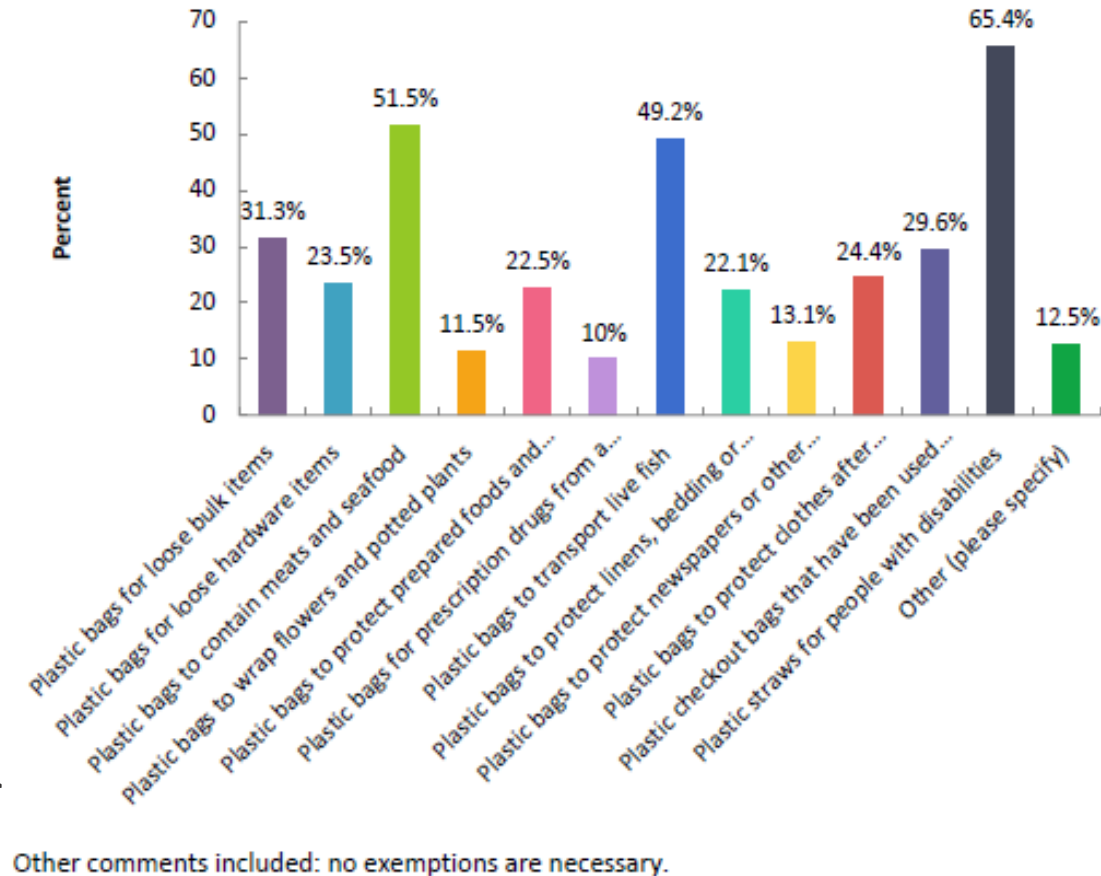
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Exemptions

Plastic bags may be provided:

- for loose bulk items (including food and hardware)
- to contain meat and seafood
- to protect prepared foods and bakery goods
- for transporting live fish
- to protect linens, bedding, or other similar large items that cannot fit easily into reusable bags
- to protect newspapers or other printed material
- to protect clothes after laundering or dry cleaning



Next Steps

- Nov. 5 Regular: Draft bylaw to Council, 1st reading
- Nov.-Dec. 2019: Final bylaw to Council
- 2020: Education campaigns, business transition support, enforcement, monitoring, consideration of other future single-use items for regulation

Budget Consideration (2020)

- **Enforcement: \$42,808**, a part-time term (12 months) Bylaw Enforcement Officer to supplement current staffing levels during the initial phase of enforcement.
- **Increased Detail Level of Waste Composition Study: \$5,000**. To cover increased levels of detail on data regarding single-use plastics.
- **Communications Tools (continued): \$8,000**. Continue printing and distribution of tools and materials to ensure that public and businesses remain engaged.

Council Resolutions:

- **THAT** Council provide feedback to staff on the draft Single Use Items Reduction Bylaw contents as follows:
 - Proceed with Scenario A regarding plastic bags as described in this report; OR
 - Proceed with Scenario B regarding plastic bags as described in this report.
- **THAT** Council approve the staff recommendations regarding plastic straws as described in this report.

Alternatives to Staff Recommendations

THAT Council refer the draft bylaw contents back to staff with direction for review and consideration as Council deems appropriate.

Questions?



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Bags – Environmental Priority Assessment

Regulatory Option	GHG Reduction ----- Plastics Reduction	
	Scenario A	Scenario B
What items are prohibited?	Only compostable and biodegradable bags are prohibited	Plastic bags (including compostable and biodegradable bags) are prohibited
How are bags distributed?	Customers are asked first if they need a bag	Customers are asked first if they need a bag
What bags will be available?	<p>Charges include plastic bags and are weighted according to relative material impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.10 per Plastic Bag (increasing to \$0.25 six months after adoption); and • \$0.30 per Paper Bag (increasing to \$0.75 six months after adoption); and • \$1.10 per Reusable Bag (increasing to \$2.75 six months after adoption) 	<p>Charges do not include plastic bags and are weighted according to relative material impacts :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.30 per Paper Bag (increasing to \$0.75 six months after adoption); and • \$1.10 per Reusable Bag (increasing to \$2.75 six months after adoption)

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Straws – Accessibility Assessment

Regulatory Option	Most Accessible ----- Least Accessible			
	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D
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Are plastic straws available?	Businesses are required to have bendy plastic straws; OR DoS supplies bendy plastic straws to Businesses	Businesses are required to have bendy plastic straws; OR DoS supplies bendy plastic straws to Businesses	Businesses are not required to have bendy plastic straws	Businesses are not allowed to have bendy plastic straws
Do people have to ask for plastic straws?	Straws (including plastic) are offered to everyone (“do you need a straw? We have plastic and paper straws”); AND Customers have the choice to accept or decline	People with disabilities will need to request plastic bendy straws (and they must be available)	People with disabilities will need to request plastic bendy straws (and they may not always be available)	N/A
What support will be provided?	Businesses will post district signage that outlines that straws are being reduced but will still be offered ; AND Messaging and education that is anti-ableist to avoid gate-keeping	Businesses will post district signage that outlines that straws are being reduced but plastic bendy straws will be available upon request ; AND Messaging and education that is anti-ableist to avoid gate-keeping	Businesses will post district signage that outlines that straws are being reduced but plastic bendy straws may be available upon request ; AND Messaging and education that is anti-ableist to avoid gate-keeping; AND The DoS will release a statement recognizing how this bylaw will effect people with disabilities	Businesses will post district signage that outlines that straws are being reduced and that plastic straws are no longer available ; AND The DoS will release a statement recognizing how this bylaw will effect people with disabilities

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