Resolution to Ban Single Use Plastics: Straws/Stirrers/Cutlery
Single–use plastics are fouling our terrestrial and marine environments:
Plastic straws are in the top ten of beach polluters
Background

• Edmonds led in banning plastic bags: we can lead again
• Approx. 500m single-use plastic straws are used in the U.S. per day (could circle the earth twice!)
• Single-use straws and cutlery are discarded on beach or washed into Sound via stormwater systems
• Plastics break down into microplastics and are consumed by marine life
Background (cont’d)

- Plastic straws and cutlery can’t be easily recycled (too small for sorting machinery)
- Seattle WA, Malibu CA, Santa Cruz CA, Davis CA, San Luis Obispo CA, Oakland CA, Miami Beach FLA, Fort Myers FLA and others banned single use plastic straws/stirrers/cutlery
- Hawaii developing statewide ban
- Scotland, Taiwan announced plans for countrywide bans
Background (cont’d)

• Food industry concerns about bans: cost differential, plastic supplies already purchased, compostables durability, compostables not widely available

• Mitigating factors:
  – Cost differential offset by providing items “on demand”
  – Provide ample time to use existing supplies
  – Compostables now very durable and price points declining as demand increases
Edmonds citizens taking action

- Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition (ENAC) flyers

THE LAST STRAW IN EDMONDS

THIS IS AN INVITATION for your establishment to be part of the solution in the removal of plastic waste from our beautiful Edmonds environment.

SIMPLY, provide straws only when requested by a customer, then provide a compostable straw and make sure it goes into the compost bin.

PLEASE SIP DON'T SUCK

See reverse for plastic straw facts and resources

STRAW FACTS:
- The U.S. uses 500 million straws per day - enough to circle the planet over 2 1/2 times daily!
- Straws are too small to recycle easily.
- Plastic straws are one of the top 10 beach polluters.
- When plastic straws end up in our oceans they are a threat to marine animals which ingest them.
- Producing plastic straws uses fossil fuels which escalates climate change.
- Plastic straws take 200 years to degrade, but they never biodegrade, they just photo degrade into smaller and smaller pieces which still are harmful to people and wildlife.

ALTERNATIVES:
- Kikkerland Paper Straws Wax Coated/Soy Inks sold wholesale from kidspartydeco.com
- ECO Products Compostable Straws sold wholesale through greenrestaurant.com
- World Centric Compostable Straws sold wholesale through worldcentrics.org

Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition Climate and Environmental Committee
Edmonds businesses taking action

• Many local food industry businesses already providing compostable straws/stirrers/cutlery or have announced plans to do so:
  – TacoTime, McDonalds, PCC, Starbucks, Spud Fish & Chips, Cheesemonger’s Table, Walnut Street Coffee and others
Who wants Edmonds to ban single use plastics?

The Draft Resolution

- **Multi-phase approach:**
  - By end of 2018, single use plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery no longer provided in City of Edmonds facilities
  - Beginning in Jan. 2019, single use plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery banned from public events (e.g., Taste Edmonds, Classic Car Show, Arts Festival, Summer Market, etc) — *contracts will outline this requirement*
  - By early 2020, an ordinance will be introduced banning single use plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery by the food/beverage service industry in Edmonds
The Draft Resolution (cont’d)

• By Aug. 2018, Staff will develop a stakeholdering plan for the local food/beverage service industry

• By Nov. 2018, Staff will identify implementation plan and costs (e.g., stakeholdering, mailings, etc) which will be reflected in the 2019 City budget

• By Nov. 2019, Staff will identify full program implementation costs (e.g., enforcement, informational pieces, etc) which will be reflected in the 2020 City budget
The Draft Resolution (cont’d)

• Immediately following Council adoption of the resolution
  – The local food/beverage service industry will be encouraged to begin offering plastic straws/stirrers/cutlery only on demand
  – Patrons will be encouraged to use reusable and durable straws/cutlery (e.g., wood, metal, etc)
  – Compostable items (e.g., paper straws, organic resin-based cutlery, etc) will be highlighted as qualified for placement in yard waste
Overarching goal:

Implement the single-use plastics ban through strong education and effective stakeholdering in a way that elicits the food service industry’s full support, minimizing the need for enforcement and resulting in enhancement of our local environment.
Thank You!!!