

City Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 05/22/2018

A Resolution Stating Edmonds' Intent to Ban Single Use Plastic Products

Staff Lead: Shane Hope, staff/Dave Teitzel, council

Department: City Council
Preparer: Maureen Judge

Background/History

Council Members Buckshnis and Teitzel presented a draft of this resolution on April 5, 2018 and again on May 3, 2018 to the Mayors' Climate Protection Committee (CPC) for input and suggestions. The CPC now unanimously endorses this proposal, as does Zero Waste Washington, the Washington Environmental Council, Washington Conservation Voters, Port of Edmonds, Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition and others. Edmonds was honored to be an environmental protection leader in 2009 when it banned plastic bags in the city. We can again take an environmental protection leadership role by moving to ban single use plastic straws/stirrers and plastic cutlery in the Edmonds food service industry

Staff Recommendation

The proposal to ban single use plastic straws/stirrers and plastic cutlery in Edmonds will be presented for discussion and potential Council actions. After incorporation of any amendments, the final resolution will be introduced to Council on the consent agenda on June 5, 2018.

Narrative:

A number of cities, including Malibu, CA, Santa Cruz, CA, Miami Beach, FLA, Seattle, WA and others have taken action to ban single use plastic straws and cutlery to better protect their terrestrial and marine environments. A number of citizens and Council members now have a strong interest in taking similar action in Edmonds to reduce the harmful effects of these products upon our local environment and marine life. The mayor's Climate Protection Committee, comprised of Edmonds citizens, staff and Council noted that the City of Edmonds Climate Change Action Plan vision states that by 2050, "Edmonds is one of many flourishing communities in the Puget Sound region of Western Washington with our energy coming from nearly 100% renewable sources, our waste streams approaching zero, and nearly all our products and services obtained from sustainable sources." Item B.4 in Edmonds' Comprehensive Plan states: "Promote a healthy community by seeking to protect and enhance the natural environment through a balanced program of education, regulation, and incentives. Environmental programs in Edmonds should be tailored to and reflect the unique opportunities and challenges embodied in a mature, sea-side community with a history of environmental protection and awareness."

In April 2014, Edmonds City Council passed Resolution 1357 (see attachment #1) that addresses Zero Waste Washington's and the State of Washington's "Beyond Waste Plan" as the City's long-term goal to

eliminate waste and pollution in the extraction, manufacture, transportation, storage, use, reuse and recycling of materials, by using strategies, policies and action plans that significantly reduce waste and pollution. A University of Washington study conducted in June 2017 sampled sand on twelve Puget Sound Beaches (including Marina Beach in Edmonds) and found: “small plastics are widespread along the shore of Puget Sound. All 12 samples contained microplastics, at an average of 1,776 pieces per 3-foot-square sampling plot” (1) and plastic straws were cited as one of the top ten contributing factors for marine debris pollution. (2) Additionally, approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the ocean each year, and this amount is expected to double by 2025, (3) and it is estimated that the average American uses 1.6 disposable straws per day, meaning that our population of 325 million uses approximately 500 million straws per day. (4) What continues to remain troublesome is that it is estimated that only 9% of the plastic produced to date has been recycled, and annual recycling rates in the U.S. have stagnated at around 9% since 2012. (5) Plastic in marine environments does not biodegrade but instead breaks down into smaller pieces that can turn into microplastic, which is becoming more prevalent in salt water bodies and has been shown to enter the marine food chain (6) and plastic is commonly transported into salt water bodies from land-based sources via rivers/streams and stormwater conveyance systems. (7)

In recognizing the negative environmental effects caused by single use plastics such as straws and cutlery, hundreds of restaurants around the United States and the world have already voluntarily stopped providing plastic straws and plastic cutlery or are providing them only at the request of the customer. Many municipalities—including Seattle, WA, Santa Cruz, CA, Malibu, CA, Davis, CA, San Luis Obispo, CA, Miami Beach, FLA, Fort Myers, FLA—currently have single use plastic bans in effect, and entire Countries such as Scotland and Taiwan have announced plans to enact similar bans. Where these bans are in effect, food service entities are providing compostable products and are using paper-based straws, as paper straws are both compostable and break down into inert components when exposed to the marine environment. In looking at the cost factors, the paper straw costs are approximately triple the average cost of plastic straws (\$0.015 vs. \$0.005) and as such, restaurants utilizing paper straws are typically supplying straws only on demand to help negate the cost differential. The average cost of compostable cutlery is also about triple the cost of plastic cutlery (roughly \$0.03 versus \$0.01 per item) and again, the net cost of these items can be mitigated by providing compostable cutlery only on demand. As supply and demand increases for durable (e.g., metal, glass, wood, etc) straws, these alternatives are becoming readily available and are becoming cost-effective alternatives to single-use plastic products.

This resolution will be the starting point to begin the process of discontinuing single use plastic straws/stirrers and plastic cutlery by the Edmonds food service industry and replacing these items with environmentally-friendly alternatives. The intent of this resolution is to put forth notice to the citizens and food service businesses of Edmonds that by early 2020, an ordinance banning single use plastic straws/stirrers and plastic cutlery in Edmonds will be established. This resolution also outlines the intent to ban these items by the end of 2018 in city-owned buildings and in 2019 at outdoor festivals/events in Edmonds.

Footnotes:

(1) UW oceanography senior finds plastic microfibers are common on Puget Sound beaches <<http://www.washington.edu/news/2017/06/29/uw-oceanography-senior-finds-plastic-microfibers-are-common-on-puget-sound-beaches/>>

(2) Ocean Conservancy, International Coastal Cleanup 2017 Report, https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-ICC_Report_RM.pdf

(3) J.R. Jambeck, R. Geyer, C. Wilcox, T.R. Siegler, M. Perryman, A. Andrady, R. Narayan, and K.L. Law, Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, *Science*, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1260352>

(4) <https://www.seattleweekly.com/news/international-campaign-to-stopsucking-plastic-straws-launches-in-seattle/>

(5) R. Geyer, J.R. Jambeck, K.L. Law, Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made, *Science*, 2017. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1700782>

(6) C. Rochman et al., Anthropogenic debris in seafood: Plastic debris and fibers from textiles in fish and bivalves sold for human consumption, *Sci. Reports*, 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/srep14340>

(7) M. Cole, P. Lindeque, C. Halsband, T.S. Galloway, Microplastics as contaminants in the marine environment: A review, *Mar. Pollut. Bull.*, 2011. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2011.09.025>

Attachments:

Zero Waste Resolution 1357

Draft 517 plastics ban resolution

Plastics powerpoint draft

RESOLUTION NO. 1357

WHEREAS, the State of Washington's Waste Not Washington Act ESHB 1671 of 1989, is a comprehensive solid waste management bill that establishes the fundamental strategies of waste reduction and source separation of solid wastes; and

WHEREAS, the Waste Not Washington Act also established an aggressive state goal to achieve a fifty percent recycling rate by 1995, which included the efforts of local governments to help achieve this goal by including waste reduction and recycling elements in their own comprehensive solid waste management plans; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Ecology issued in 2004 a state solid and hazardous waste plan titled "Beyond Waste Plan" as required under Chapter 70.95 and Chapter 70.105, Revised Code of Washington [RCW] to be developed and regularly updated (updated in 2009 and 2015), which is a 30 year plan for eliminating wastes and the use of toxic substances; and

WHEREAS, the Beyond Waste Plan is the state plan to support the waste management hierarchy established in the main solid and hazardous waste statutes which both identify waste reduction as the highest priority. The 30-year vision outlined in the Beyond Waste Plan seeks to eliminate most solid wastes and toxics and use any remaining waste products as resources; and

WHEREAS, the Beyond Waste Plan uses a sustainable materials management approach that looks at the full life cycle of materials from the design and manufacturing phase, through the use phase and to the end-of-life phase when the material is either disposed of or recycled, which is an approach also used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County 2013 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan embraces the State strategies and goals, including the Beyond Waste Plan, and has a vision that shifts to a more sustainable future, where people are generating less waste and handling wastes they do generate using environmentally sound and approaches; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County 2013 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan includes waste prevention, reduction of waste and toxic materials pollution prevention, reuse, recycling, and equitable and efficient waste collection services for County residences and businesses, and supports product stewardship that acknowledges that not all products and packaging are suitable for reuse or recycling and that some products require special handling for disposal such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides and other hazardous

waste; and acknowledges that the reduction of waste and toxics, pollution prevention and reuse, make up the highest tier of the solid waste hierarchy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds is a signatory on the interlocal agreement to follow the County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and indeed continually carries out waste reduction and recycling actions and activities as outlined in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a philosophy and visionary goal that supports the Beyond Waste Plan and is ethical, economical, and efficient and will guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not dispose of them; and

WHEREAS, implementing Zero Waste strives to eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health; and

WHEREAS, Edmonds 2015 Comprehensive Plan identifies Zero Waste as a strategic goal for consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Edmonds hereby adopts both Zero Waste and Beyond Waste as long-term goals in order to prevent and eliminate waste and pollution in the extraction, manufacture, transportation, storage, use, reuse, and recycling of materials. These goals can be achieved through action plans and strategies that significantly prevent and reduce waste and pollution.

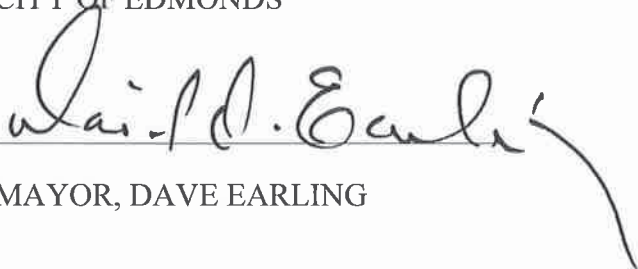
These strategies will include 1) encouraging residents, businesses and agencies to use, reuse, and recycle materials judiciously, in addition to encouraging manufacturers to produce and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, recycled, and recyclable products; 2) investigating mandatory waste collection in support of the Snohomish County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; and 3) investigating construction and demolition waste source separation strategies such as permit incentives, mandatory source separation and recycling, education and outreach.

In order to establish short- and long-term goals, and monitor city efforts, City staff will first identify quantitative metrics and establish dependable baseline measurements. Staff may collaborate with the Climate Protection Committee to assist in program evaluation. Data measures should mirror State and County measures when possible, and should include reasonably attainable local per capita rates, and other pertinent data. Quantitative

targets should strive to meet or exceed State and County targets and be updated accordingly.

RESOLVED this 19th day of April, 2016.

CITY OF EDMONDS



MAYOR, DAVE EARLING

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK, SCOTT PASSEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO.

April 15, 2016
April 19, 2016
1357

Attachment: Zero Waste Resolution 1357 (A resolution stating Edmonds' intent to ban single use plastic products)

Draft #4

RESOLUTION NO. XXXXXXXX

A RESOLUTION STATING EDMONDS' INTENT TO BAN SINGLE USE PLASTIC STRAWS/STIRRERS AND SINGLE USE PLASTIC CUTLERY PROVIDED BY THE FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF EDMONDS

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds Climate Change Action Plan states our vision by 2050 as: "Edmonds is one of many flourishing communities in the Puget Sound region of Western Washington with our energy coming from nearly 100% renewable sources, our waste streams approaching zero, and nearly all our products and services obtained from sustainable sources," and

WHEREAS, item B.4 in Edmonds' Comprehensive Plan states: "Promote a healthy community by seeking to protect and enhance the natural environment through a balanced program of education, regulation, and incentives. Environmental programs in Edmonds should be tailored to and reflect the unique opportunities and challenges embodied in a mature, sea-side community with a history of environmental protection and awareness," and

WHEREAS, the Edmonds City Council adopted Resolution 1357 on April 16, 2016 which adopts both Zero Waste Washington's and the State of Washington's "Beyond Waste Plan" as long-term goals to eliminate waste and pollution in the extraction, manufacture, transportation, storage, use, reuse and recycling of materials, and

WHEREAS, these goals can be supported through strategies, policies and action plans that significantly reduce waste and pollution, and

WHEREAS, a June 2017 University of Washington study which sampled sand on twelve Puget Sound Beaches (including Marina Beach in Edmonds) found: "small plastics are widespread along the shore of Puget Sound. All 12 samples contained microplastics, at an average of 1,776 pieces per 3-foot-square sampling plot," and

WHEREAS, approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the ocean each year, and this amount is expected to double by 2025, and

WHEREAS, the average American uses 1.6 disposable straws per day, meaning that our population of 325 million uses approximately 500 million straws per day, and

WHEREAS, durable (e.g., metal, glass, wood, etc) straws are now readily available alternatives to single-use straws, reducing the need for eateries to provide single-use straws to patrons, and

WHEREAS, only 9% of the plastic produced to date has been recycled , and annual recycling 4 rates in the U.S. have stagnated at around 9% since 2012, and

WHEREAS, plastic breaks down into smaller pieces that can turn into microplastic, which is becoming more prevalent in salt water bodies and has been shown to enter the marine food chain, and

WHEREAS, single use plastic products are commonly transported into salt water bodies from land-based sources via rivers/streams and stormwater conveyance systems, and

WHEREAS, plastic straws are consistently cited as one of the top ten contributors to marine debris pollution, and

WHEREAS, while paper straw costs are approximately triple the average cost of plastic straws (\$0.015 vs. \$0.005), restaurants now utilizing paper straws report—when only supplying straws on demand—patrons request straws only 1/3 of the time, negating the net cost difference between paper and plastic straws, and

WHEREAS, while the average cost of compostable cutlery is approximately triple the cost of plastic cutlery (roughly \$0.03 versus \$0.01 per item), the net cost of these items can be mitigated by providing single use compostable cutlery only on demand, and

WHEREAS, recognizing the negative environmental effects caused by single use plastics, hundreds of restaurants around the United States have already voluntarily stopped providing plastic straws and plastic cutlery, and

WHEREAS, food service businesses should be strongly encouraged to provide paper-based straws—when straws are demanded by patrons—as they are both compostable and break down into inert components when exposed to the marine environment, and

WHEREAS, municipalities such as Seattle, WA, Santa Cruz, CA, Malibu, CA, Davis, CA, San Luis Obispo, CA, Miami Beach, FLA, Fort Myers, FLA and others now have single use plastics bans in effect, and entire countries such as Scotland and Taiwan have announced plans to introduce similar bans, and

WHEREAS, compostable alternatives to plastic straws, plastic stirrers and non-compostable plastic cutlery are now readily available in the retail and wholesale markets, and

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds desires to protect the integrity of the natural environment and wildlife from litter and pollution caused by plastic straws, plastic stirrers and plastic cutlery, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Edmonds will ban by 2020 single use plastic straws, single use plastic stirrers and single use plastic cutlery by food service providers (e.g., restaurants, fast food providers, cafes, convenience markets, delicatessens, coffee shops, schools, hospitals, grocery store take-out food counters, vending trucks or other businesses selling prepared food and beverages for consumption on or off the premises within the Edmonds city limits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notifying the local food industry now of the single use plastics ban that will take effect by early 2020 will provide the food industry a fair opportunity to use up their current supplies of single use plastic products and order supplies of compostable alternative products before the ordinance banning the single use plastic products takes effect, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that food service providers should only provide straws on demand and only paper straws should be provided--if practicable--when demanded,¹ and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Edmonds City Council directs the Administration to develop implementation, enforcement and program costs associated with the proposed ban, such that those costs can be addressed in the 2019 Edmonds City Budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that single use plastic straws, plastic stirrers and plastic cutlery will not be provided in City of Edmonds facilities beyond December 2018, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that single use plastic straws, plastic stirrers and plastic cutlery will not be allowed to be provided by vendors in 2019 or beyond at public events requiring a contract with the City—contract terms will clearly specify only compostable products will be allowed in lieu of these items, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administration will develop a stakeholding plan by the end of August 2018 to educate the local Edmonds food industry of the specifics of the single use plastics ban to take effect by early 2020, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Edmonds City Council will continue to work with City staff and the Mayor's Climate Protection Committee to implement zero waste goals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Edmonds City Council will introduce an ordinance by early 2020 codifying the citywide ban of single use plastic straws, single use plastic stirrers and single use plastic cutlery by the Edmonds food service industry for use with prepared food and beverages for consumption on or off the providers' premises.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

¹ Provision of durable straws and cutlery--such as wood or metal--that are reusable is also to be encouraged.

Adopted this XXXX day of XXXXX, 2018.

MAYOR, DAVID O. EARLING

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

CITY CLERK, SCOTT PASSEY

DRAFT

Attachment: Draft 517 plastics ban resolution (A resolution stating Edmonds' intent to ban single use plastic products)