

# Council Memo



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To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Tuesday, June 25, 2024
Subject	<b>Single-Use Items Phase 2 Motion Amendment</b>

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Further to the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 4, 2024, staff presented the Single-Use Items Phase 2 report and the main motion:

1. That the phase 2 recommendations for the Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy, as included in report 2024-245, dated June 4, 2024, be approved.
2. That the Single-Use Items By-law (2024) – 20938, as amended, be approved.

During the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 4, 2024, the main motion was amended to:

1. That the phase 2 recommendations for the Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy, as included in report 2024-245, dated June 4, 2024, be approved.
2. That the Single-Use Items By-law (2024)-20938, as amended and including the use of re-usable containers with the same effective date as the **Single-Use Items Phase 2 timeline of March 1, 2025**, be approved.

As part of a comprehensive change management process, staff recommend additional time to conduct community engagement and research, which will help better inform the recommendation with respect to the inclusion of re-useable containers. Staff will return to Council with a recommendation regarding mandating the acceptance of re-usable containers at food-service businesses, prior to the phase 2 recommendations coming into effect on March 1, 2025, and will amend the bylaw at that time, if approved by Council.

As such, staff recommend that the original staff motions remain intact and to add the following amendment:

3. That staff be directed to conduct additional engagement and research with respect to the inclusion of re-useable containers as part of the Single-Use Items By-law (2024)-20938, and report back to Council prior to the effective date of the Single-Use Items Phase 2 timeline of March 1, 2025.

In fall 2024, staff will conduct outreach and education to food-service businesses on the approved phase 2 recommendations. During this outreach and education, staff will also conduct engagement with food-service businesses on the requirement for them to accept a customer's clean reusable container.

Requiring businesses to accept a customer's reusable container would maintain Guelph as a leader in municipal action on single-use items. However, in Canada,

this requirement has been implemented only in the Town of Banff. Anecdotal feedback from Banff staff includes that the requirement to accept reusable cups and containers has been well received by businesses and residents continue to be encouraged to remember to bring their reusable container.

The acceptance of a reusable container by a food-service business is not common practice by industry but based on engagement feedback, there are local businesses that have already implemented this practice. The City of Toronto includes an online directory for residents to find businesses that are taking action to reduce single-use and takeaway items within their operations, a potential option for the City.

Through previous engagement, some businesses stated this could be easily implemented, while others expressed health and safety concerns. Staff have also heard from two industry organizations requesting additional engagement and clarification. Additional time to conduct engagement will allow staff to explore the existing support and concerns expressed by food-service businesses and industry organizations.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has confirmed that there is no legislation that prohibits requiring businesses to accept reusable cups and containers. However, the practice of food-service businesses accepting reusable containers introduces a new operational burden that would require a new degree of diligence and effort on the part of the operator. WDGPH supports staff's request for additional time to conduct further engagement with businesses and industry and recommends a joint communication prior to the bylaw coming into effect.

**This memo was approved by:**

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