

Single-Use Item Reduction Background and Overview

July 9, 2019

Agenda

- Workshop Purpose
- What are Single-Use Items?
- Impacts of Single-Use Items
- BC Regulatory Frameworks
- Federal, Provincial, and Regional Updates
- Local Authority – What can we do?
- Policy and Regulatory Options
- Municipal Updates
- Factors to Consider
- Recommendations



Workshop Purpose

To discuss in detail a motion passed on May 6, 2019:

- *THAT Council support taking action at a municipal level to regulate single-use items;*
- *AND THAT staff report back to Council within 90 days with the costs to create and enforce policy, timeframe and process (engagement with community, business and stakeholder groups) to regulate single-use items;*
- *AND THAT staff update Council on current action at the regional, provincial and federal level to reduce and regulate single-use items.*

What are Single-Use Items?

Single-use items: products that are intended to be used briefly before they are recycled or discarded.



Impacts of Single-Use Items

- Can cost local governments millions annually to collect from public spaces
- Commonly found in marine litter
- Not commonly recycled or reused
- Takes a significant amount of resources to produce



Impacts of Single-Use Items

Figure 8 presents the weight percentage of SUIs in garbage bins and the associated different recycling bins sampled.

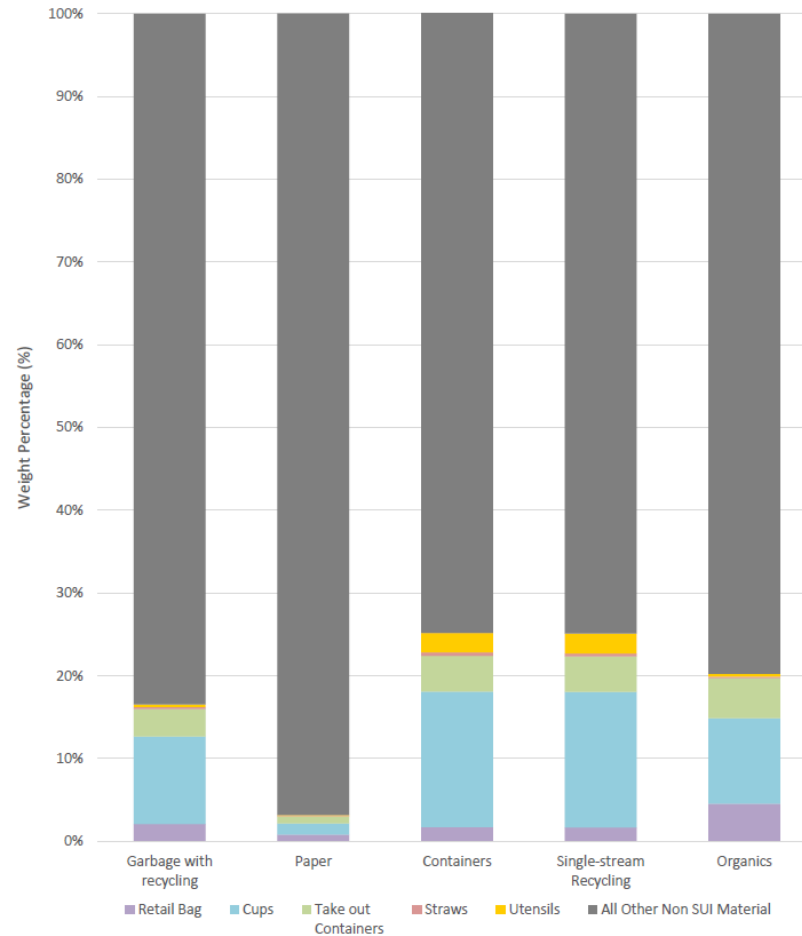
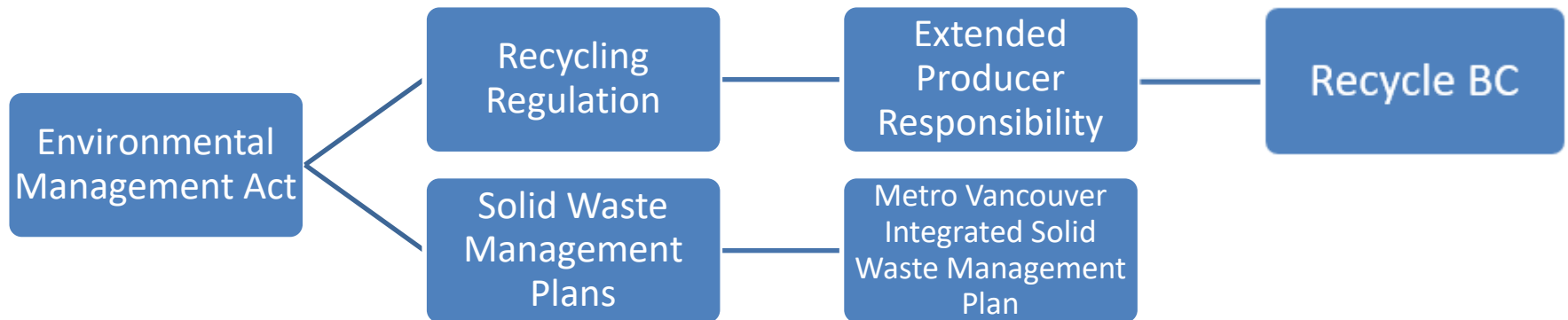


Figure 8 - Weight Distribution of SUIs in Streetscape Bins

BC Regulatory Frameworks

Regulatory frameworks for waste in B.C. as they relate to single-use items



Updates – Federal & Provincial

Federal

- Single-use plastics ban 2021
- Ocean Plastics Charter and Canada-wide strategy on Zero Plastic Waste (2018)

Provincial

- UBCM – endorsed that the Province engage the packaging industry to develop a provincial SUI Reduction Strategy



Updates – Regional (MV)

- Board resolved to develop regional actions (Oct 2017)
- Initiated SUI reduction toolkit for municipalities (Feb 2019)
- Wrote to Province in support of a provincial SUI reduction strategy (Mar 2019)
- Released a SUI focused waste composition study for 2018



Local Authority

- Section 8(6) of the *Community Charter* states: A municipality can regulate in relation to business
- Bylaws related to environmental protection falls under provincial jurisdiction



Policy and Regulatory Options

Potential regulatory options:

- By request-only
- Mandatory fees
- Reuse/reduction plans
- Bans (restriction on sales/distribution)



Updates – B.C. Municipalities

| Jurisdiction | Plans for material ban or regulation | Implemented material ban | Targeted materials |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Victoria | | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective in 2019 • Plastic checkout bags (with exceptions) – with Bylaw upheld by BC Supreme Court in mid-2018 |
| Tofino and Uculet | | X | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straw ban – January 2020 (fines) • Plastic bags ban – January 2020 (fines) |
| Vancouver | <p>X</p> <p>Bylaw(s) in development</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foam ban – January 2020 • Straw ban – April 2020 • Future commitments – Plastic bags, utensils, takeout containers |

Updates – B.C. Municipalities

| Jurisdiction | Plans for material ban or regulation | Implemented material ban | What SUI materials targeted? |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Richmond | <p>X</p> <p>Bylaw(s) in development</p> | Planning for 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foam ban – January 2020 • Straw ban – January 2020 • Plastic checkout bags – January 2020 |
| Squamish | <p>X</p> <p>Bylaw(s) in development</p> | Planning for 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned for 2020 – plastic bags, plastic straws |
| Surrey | <p>X</p> <p>Reduction strategy in development</p> | | |
| Port Moody | Council direction to survey local businesses | | |

Factors to Consider

- Can increase the use of alternatives with a higher environmental impact (paper, reusable items, unrecyclable materials, etc.)
- Compostable plastic alternatives may also be problematic (processing & production)
- No EPR programs for many reusable alternatives
- Can increase plastics markets for certain materials (e.g., trash bags)
- Accessibility issues for those with disabilities

Factors to Consider

- Challenges for Ministry of Health
- Some businesses lack reusable cup and dishwashing infrastructure
- Limited alternatives – e.g., leaky items such as soup, frozen blended beverages, bubble tea)
- Effect on charitable food providers, hospitals, care facilities, etc.
- Infrastructure requirements to support regulation

Going Forward...

Considerations for staff recommendation:

- Impact to local infrastructure and services
- Lessons learned from municipal counterparts
- Practicality of implementation
- Recommendations from legal opinion

Recommendations

- THAT staff draft a bylaw targeting reduction of single use cups, bags, and polystyrene takeout containers for consideration by Council in fall;
- AND THAT staff report back with a communication and consultation plan based on the draft bylaw



Questions?



