



Single-Use Plastic Bottle and Paper Carton Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions Special Events

Who is responsible for ensuring that vendors at special events comply with the ordinance?

Special event operators are responsible for ensuring that participating vendors comply with the ordinance. Both the event operator and vendor may be subject to a citation if they do not comply with the ordinance.

I'm a special event operator or vendor - how can I provide water to event attendees if we can no longer sell single-use plastic water bottles?

The Town of Truckee has a program where special events can reserve mobile water filling stations and 5-gallon water dispensers for free. To learn more, please go to Special Events tab at KeepTruckeeGreen.org/Bottles. Water in other containers besides plastic, such as aluminum and glass, are still allowed, though encouraging use of reusable water bottles is preferred.

Can special event operators and vendors still provide plastic water bottles to employees, volunteers, or event attendees if they are free of charge?

No, the commercial distribution of water in single-use plastic bottles or paper cartons is also prohibited starting April 22, 2025. This includes distribution to event employees, volunteers, and attendees. Water may still be provided in other types of containers or made available at no cost by using one of the Town's free water filling stations.

Can a vendor still sell sparkling or flavored water, even if it is in a single-use plastic bottle?

Yes, a vendor can still sell sparkling or flavored water, even if it is in a single-use plastic bottle. The ordinance only applies to unflavored, non-carbonated water in single-use plastic bottles and paper cartons under a gallon.

Can event attendees bring their own single-use plastic water bottles to events?

Individuals are not prohibited from *using* single-use plastic water bottles in Truckee, so it is up to the event operator to determine if this would be allowed. However, it is discouraged to use single-use plastic bottles because they often become litter that can cause harm to both people and the environment. Reusable water bottles are always the best option to keep Truckee green!

How do I report a vendor that is violating this ordinance?

If you are a special event operator, you are responsible for ensuring that the vendors and staff at your event are in compliance with the ordinance. Other entities may report violations of the ordinance by emailing Sustainability@TownOfTruckee.gov or calling 530-582-2928

I've seen people with single-use plastic water bottles at special events in Truckee. Why is this still allowed?

The use of single-use plastic water bottles is not prohibited, only the sale and commercial distribution. Some people may continue to buy plastic water bottles outside of Truckee after the ban takes effect. Also, the Town of Truckee does not have jurisdiction over some events. For



example, Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District (TDRPD) and Truckee Donner Unified School District (TTUSD) are special districts and are not under the jurisdiction of the Town of Truckee. This means that they do not have to comply with the ordinance if their event is held at their own facilities. However, the Town of Truckee is working closely with TDRPD and TTUSD to decrease their single-use plastic water bottle usage.

It's also possible that some vendors may be unaware of the regulations or otherwise continue to sell water bottles in violation of the Town's ordinance. If you think an event is in violation of the ordinance, please email Sustainability@TownOfTruckee.gov or call 530-582-2928.

Why was this ordinance adopted?

The Single-Use Plastic Bottle and Paper Carton Ordinance was adopted to address community concerns about litter and waste in Truckee. Plastic bottles are among the top 5 types of litter found in the Tahoe Basin and neighboring South Lake Tahoe, and a Town audit of litter samples from Truckee Day 2023 found that over half of littered single-use plastic bottles were water bottles. Further support and recommendations on what to include in the ordinance were gathered through community surveys, workshops, and a stakeholder advisory committee. If you would like to learn more about the community engagement process that took place to develop the ordinance, please visit KeepTruckeeGreen.org/Bottles or read the [staff report and text of the ordinance](#).