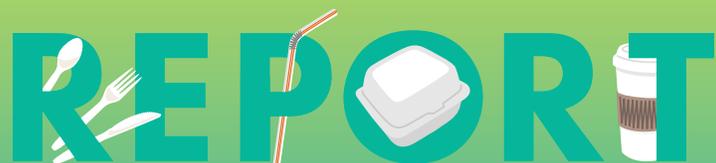


SINGLE-USE REDUCTION



Summary Fact Sheet

What's the deal with single-use foodware

in Truckee? Single-use items like plastic utensils, coffee cups and straws are part of our everyday lives. After being used once, these items end up in our landfills, environment, streams, lakes, and oceans forever, as plastic does not biodegrade!

Community members, student groups, and Town Council have asked for policies to reduce these disposable items in Truckee.

This fact sheet summarizes Keep Truckee Green's Single-Use Reduction Report that details research, outreach conducted, public feedback and strategies to tackle the single-use problem in our community.



Can't we just recycle plastic foodware items?

Recycling and composting are not reliable outlets for single-use items. Due to recent regulations in China, the ability to recycle materials has significantly been reduced. In Truckee we can only recycle clean plastics #1 and 2, paper, metal, and glass.

What about those "compostable" utensils and cups?

Compostable products made out of corn, sugarcane or other plant-based materials have emerged onto markets leading consumers to believe that they are sustainable alternatives. In reality, these "compostable" bio-plastics or fibers, are not accepted at most composting facilities. Local composters will not accept these "compostable" disposable products.

There is no one best material type that will help reduce the environmental impacts of disposables. We need to remember the REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE hierarchy.

If you must use an item, reusables are always the most environmentally-friendly option.

Keep Truckee Green staff gathered public feedback from the following:

August 5, 2019

Business stakeholder workshop with 14 business representatives

October 24, 2019

Business survey conducted with 23 respondents

October 29, 2019

Community workshop with over 65 attendees including 5 businesses represented and 20 students



When the entire lifecycle of a product is considered, only 18% of the environmental impacts come from disposal. The greatest impact we can have is by reducing the number of items we use unnecessarily.

After consideration of the complexities of the recycling options, studying best practices from other communities, and factoring in the public feedback, staff drafted the following policy recommendations, which will be discussed at Town Council on February 11, 2020:

- 1 Provide single-use straws, utensils, and accessory items upon request only.**
- 2 Provide only reusable foodware items for in-house dining.** Exceptions would need to be made for restaurants without dishwashers.
- 3 Require restaurants to charge a fee on cups, utensils or accessory items.** Studies show that the most effective fee price to drive behavior change is 25 cents.