



# Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 16, 2019

## Agenda Item 1

### **Presentation**

The Last Plastic Straw Takoma Park (TLPST)

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hear the presentation.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The Last Plastic Straw Takoma Park is a community based effort to reduce or eliminate distribution and use of plastic straws within the City. Many communities have banned distribution of single-use plastic straws and stirrers, including Washington, D.C. Businesses and organizations that sell food or serve beverages in the District must no longer use single-use plastic straws or stirrers when serving their customers. Compostable straws are permitted.

### **Council Priority**

Environmentally Sustainable Community

### **Environmental Considerations**

According to the group's website, "Plastics have been with us since 1950. In a short 70 years, 9 billion metric tons have been produced (and production continues to increase), of which more than 6 billion metric tons remain with us as solid waste. Plastics accumulate on our lands, on our shorelines, in the oceans, in our fish and wildlife, and in us. They can fragment into smaller and smaller pieces, but they will remain plastics essentially forever."

### **Fiscal Considerations**

For information only.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

Litter has a disparate impact on some neighborhoods, particularly those that border New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard and those near commercial areas. The City has already banned the use of polystyrene food service ware by businesses that serve food and beverages and prohibits providing plastic bags at retail checkout. In considering whether to take action, the Council may want to weigh the additional burden on small businesses, many of which are owned by people of color, against the health and quality of life impacts of plastic in the environment.

### **Attachments and Links**

- [The Last Plastic Straw Takoma Park Website](#)
- Flyer from the DC Department of Energy and Environment



# STRAWS AND STIRRERS NEW REQUIREMENTS

Enforcement  
Begins  
**January 1,  
2019**

Effective October 29, 2018, the Mayor's List of Recyclables and Compostables requires the use of compostable and/or reusable straws and stirrers when serving and selling food or beverages in the District.

**COMPLIANT PRODUCTS FOR USE IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:  
- PAPER - BAMBOO - HAY - STAINLESS STEEL - GLASS - PLA (BPI-CERTIFIED)**

To reduce waste and cut costs, the District advocates for businesses to only offer compliant straws by request. DOEE recognizes some customers with disabilities require plastic straws as a reasonable accommodation to consume food or beverages.

**Regulated entities must keep a limited stock of plastic straws available to meet these needs and remain compliant with local and federal disability rights laws.**

## HOW TO GET & STAY IN COMPLIANCE



### Why is this happening?

**Banning plastic straws and stirrers will help reduce plastic waste and litter that pollutes District communities and waterways.** Plastic straws and stirrers are easily blown and washed into local waterways, where they can remain for hundreds of years before breaking down.

## GET AHEAD OF THE GAME & TAKE THE PLEDGE

As major distributors of plastic straws, the food service industry can contribute to the District's effort to reduce plastic waste. Join the growing community of businesses and organizations taking action with the OUR LAST STRAW Coalition. **Unite in the effort to reduce plastic waste in the District and pledge to #StopSucking at ourlaststraw.org.**

For more information on compliant products and District food service ware requirements, visit:  
[doee.dc.gov/foodserviceware](http://doee.dc.gov/foodserviceware)



Si necesita ayuda en Español, por favor llame al (202) 671-0080 para proporcionarle un intérprete **de manera gratuita**.  
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