



City of Culver City Waste Reduction Regulations Update

Sustainability Committee – September 14, 2023

Sean Singletary, Environmental Programs & Operations Manager
City of Culver City

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INSPECTORS



- Kimari Kubota – EPO employee for 20+ years, worked as dispatcher, Kimari.Kubota@culvercity.org
- Jezenia Aguirre – Parks employee for 10+ years, Jezenia.Aguirre@culvercity.org

How The Ban Started (Polystyrene)

- ▶ Community-Driven Effort
 - ▶ Ballona Creek Renaissance, Heal the Bay, Surfrider
 - ▶ Despite being stamped with the #6 recycling label, polystyrene and expanded polystyrene are very difficult and costly to recycle, it also does not biodegrade
 - ▶ Sustainability Committee in 2016
- ▶ Staff surveyed food service providers to determine for/against the ban
- ▶ Staff directed to find alternatives and product costs



What the Ban Included

Expanded (Foam) Polystyrene

Hot Cups
Plates
Bowls
Clamshells

Hard/Solid Plastic Polystyrene

Utensils
Straws
Water cups
Hot Cup lids
Clamshells
Sauce containers



What did the ban exclude?

- ▶ The use or sale of meat trays, egg cartons, and packing material
- ▶ All unprepared food using polystyrene foodware may be sold by City retailers and food service providers (raw meat/fish trays, egg cartons, Cup of Noodles-Ramen)



How The Ban Expanded

- ▶ Due to Plastic's continuing prevalence
 - ▶ Ballona Creek Renaissance proposed additional restrictions in 2019
- ▶ Sustainability Subcommittee in 2020
- ▶ China's Policy Change in 2018 drove the cost of recycling much higher and added an economic factor to the ban
- ▶ Phased in Ban was passed in May 2021, however due to a policy gap between the repeal of prior polystyrene regulations Chapter 11.18 and new expanded plastic regulations in Chapter 5.07, it was amended in June 2021 to ensure the timeline of the regulations did not allow a gap wherein polystyrene was allowed.



On May 10, 2021, City Council voted 4-1 to introduce the Ordinance resulting in the final components:

PHASE 1 - 9/1/21 City Facilities Only	PHASE 2 - 1/1/22	PHASE 3 - 1/1/23
<p>No</p>    	<p>No</p>       <p>Yes</p>      	<p>Reusables for Dine-In Only</p> <p>No</p>  <p>Yes</p>  <p>No retail sale of polystyrene food service ware</p>    

Plastic Regulations, Effective January 1, 2022:



- Any regulated entity shall only use, sell or distribute utensils, stirring sticks or straws made from materials which are acceptable by the City's organics collection program and only upon a customer's request for any of those items. Anyone, however, may provide a plastic straw as an accommodation to a person with a disability who requests a plastic straw in order to enjoy equal access to the food or beverages being provided by the regulated entity subject to this provision.



Packing Material Regulations, Effective January 1, 2022:

- No regulated entity shall sell, distribute or use polystyrene packing material, including, but not limited to, foam, peanuts, packing peanuts, foam popcorn, packing noodles or shipping boxes; provided, however, that the disposal of any polystyrene packing materials which were part of any shipment originating outside of the City shall not constitute a prohibited use under this provision.
- Packing materials which are reusable, acceptable to the City's recycling program or acceptable to the City's organics collection program are allowed.
- Any regulated entity using polystyrene packing material for shipping medical devices is exempt from the requirement of Section 5.07.035.A.



Take-Out and Delivery Regulations, Effective January 1, 2022.

Disposable food service ware used by any regulated entity for take-out or delivery must be acceptable to the City's organics collection program and be free of fluorinated chemicals, as certified by the Biodegradable Product Institute or other independent, third-party certifying organization or agency recognized by the City. However, paper liners, paper napkins or foil wrappers acceptable to the City's recyclables and/or organics collections program may be used when the food item being served requires paper or foil to contain and/or form the food item being served.



Food Service Ware Regulations for On-Premises Dining, Effective January 1, 2023.

- Food or beverages served for consumption on the premises of any regulated entity shall only be served on or in food service ware that is reusable. However, paper liners, paper napkins or foil wrappers acceptable to the City's recyclables and/or organics collections program may be used when the food item being served requires paper liners, paper napkins or foil wrappers to contain and/or form the food item being served. To be deemed "reusable" under this provision, food service ware must be manufactured of durable materials specifically designed and manufactured to be safely and repeatedly washed, sanitized and reused over an extended period of time.



Polystyrene Prohibitions, Effective January 1, 2023.

- No person or regulated entity shall sell any polystyrene food service ware.

Enforcement

Waste Reduction Regulations Violations Form

The following banned items were observed:

- ☐ Polystyrene food service ware (cups, plates, bowls)
- ☐ Plastic utensils, straws, stirrers, lid plugs
- ☐ Polystyrene foam coolers being sold
- ☐ Polystyrene foam food service ware being sold
- ☐ Polystyrene meat, vegetable, poultry trays (effective 1/1/22)
- ☐ Polystyrene egg cartons (effective 1/1/22)
- ☐ Upon request policy not being provided
- ☐ Single use/disposable food service ware distributed for dine in customers (effective 1/1/23)

Name of Business

Address

Date of observing banned items being offered

Enforcement



CITY OF CULVER CITY
Public Works Department
Environmental Programs & Operations Division
9770 Culver Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232
Email: daniel.pankau@culvercity.org

Billing/Service Inquiries:
(310) 253-6400

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022, A PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF POLYSTYRENE MEAT, POULTRY, VEGETABLE, EGG CARTONS AND PACKING MATERIALS, AND FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS USE OF NON-COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

On July 12, 2021, the City of Culver City Council adopted ordinance NO. 2021-010 WASTE REDUCTION REGULATIONS, to further mitigate the environmental impacts of certain single-use plastics. Effective January 1, 2022, the Ordinance will prohibit the use of non-compostable food service ware for take-out and delivery. Examples of food service ware include but is not limited to the following: cups, trays, bowls, clamshells, utensils, straws, and lids. This ban also applies to polystyrene meat, poultry, fish, vegetable trays and egg cartons and polystyrene packing materials.

A copy of the ordinance and information on alternative product vendors are available on the City's website: www.culvercity.org/polystyreneban

If you have any questions regarding the implementation or enforcement of the Waste Reduction Regulations ordinance, please contact the Public Works Environmental Programs and Operations Division at (310) 253-6453.

Per the adopted ordinance, all businesses must indicate their compliance with this ordinance when renewing their business license for the year.

****PLEASE SIGN BELOW, DETACH AND RETURN TO THE CITY AS PART OF YOUR ANNUAL CITY BUSINESS TAX RENEWAL****



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EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023, PROHIBITION ON SINGLE USE FOOD SERVICE WARE

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Education

- Social Media
- Press Releases
- Newsletters
- Outreach Events

Ban on Single Use Food Service Ware



Effective January 1, 2023



Culver City ENVIROFEST



Giveaways - Compost, Fruit Trees, Kitchen Pails and More!

May 6, 2023

Syd Kronenthal Park - 9 am - 1 pm

Culver City Park - 8 am - 4 pm



Current Status

- Consultant has inspected 75% of 287 restaurant and dine-in establishments for Waste Reduction Regulations status and to distribute educational materials
- Recently opened businesses were more familiar with the WRR
- Businesses requested materials in more 'layman's terms' to better educate their staff
- Franchises that operate in other cities expressed concerns that they do not purchase materials due to operational agreements
- Compliant straws were the biggest concern

Current Status



- 91% of businesses were compliant with the polystyrene ban
- 20% of businesses were compliant with the plastic ban
- 84% were compliant with re-usable foodware component

Next Steps

- Amplify educational and outreach programs to heighten awareness and encourage compliance
- Develop and distribute resources and guidelines that can assist businesses to come into compliance
- Engage with non-cooperative businesses through constructive dialogues
- Establish a robust follow-up mechanism to monitor progress of non-compliant businesses to foster an environment of accountability and progress.