



Single-Use Plastic Ordinance: Foodware & Polystyrene

May 2023

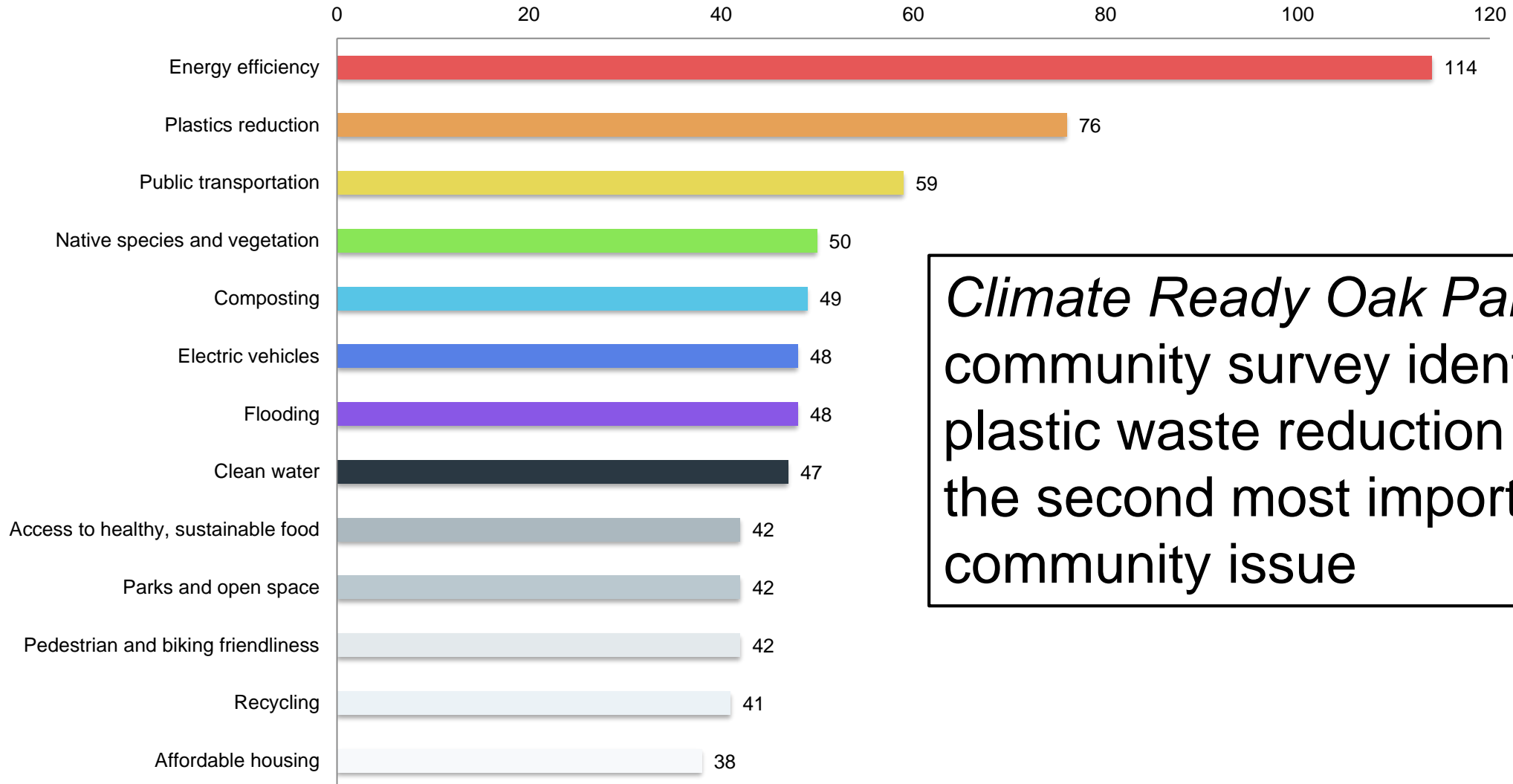
Impact of Single-Use Plastics

- 22 Million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes annually
- Dumped plastics become “microplastics” that be consumed by humans and wildlife
- Single-use plastic products may:
 - contain endocrine disrupters that alter hormone functioning
 - create litter
 - degrade wildlife habitats
- Plastic production & disposal facilities are disproportionately sited in low-income communities and communities of color, creating environmental burden



Climate Ready Oak Park

What are your priorities for combating climate change in Oak Park? (up to 3)



Climate Ready Oak Park's community survey identified plastic waste reduction as the second most important community issue



Climate Ready Impact Area: Waste



**Waste
Reduction**

Vision: Oak Park is zero-waste community with a **circular economy**. All community members (institutions, business, and residents) can afford & access high-quality waste-diversion services in or near their home, place of work, and recreational destinations. Disposable, non-biodegradable products are limited in Oak Park based on needs rather than convenience.

Co-Benefits: Community Health & Environmental Quality



Climate Ready Action: Waste

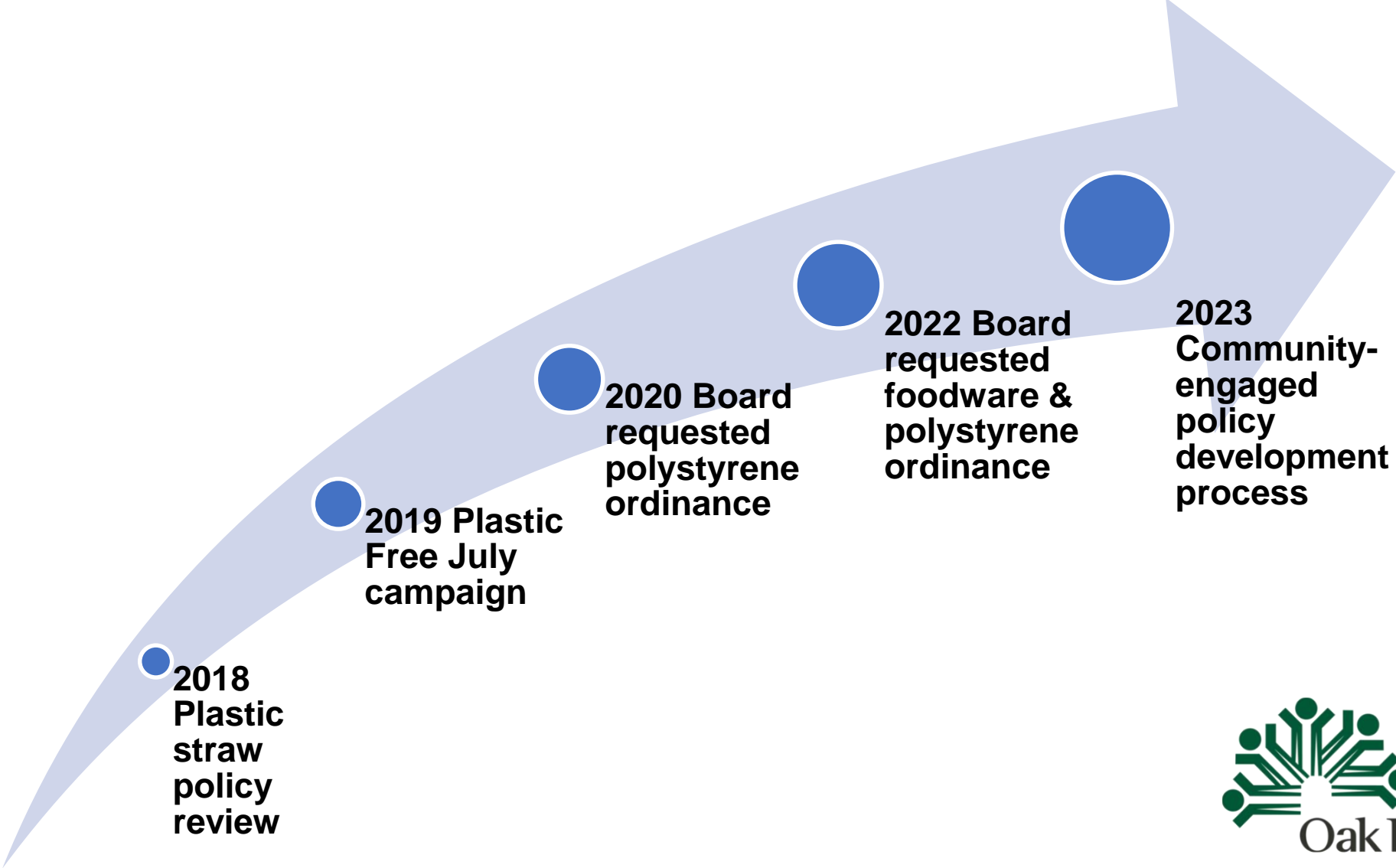


**Waste
Reduction**

Goal 4: Reduce Plastics & Packaging Waste

PP01. Adopt an ordinance to **remove all non-medical, single-use plastics and polystyrene** foam products from circulation by 2030 in all restaurants and retail establishments, with the exception of single-use plastic straws, and based upon availability and affordability of alternatives.

Oak Park Plastics Ordinance Timeline



2022-23 Plastics Policy Development Process

- March 2022: Energy & Environment Commission (EEC) vote
- Oct 12, 2022: Business Association Council (BAC) discussion
- Oct 17, 2022: Board presentation
- Nov 2022 – Jan 2023: Community policy development design-thinking workshops: BAC, EEC, Disability Access Commission (DAC), League of Women Voters OPRF (LWV), Disability community member
- Feb – April 2023: Additional meetings with EEC & BAC
- Feb – April 2023: Engagement website (www.engageoakpark.com) and Public input notification to restaurants




Policy Analysis Summary

- Several Oak Park restaurants have already taken action to reduce single-use plastics in operations
- Foodservice products aren't always composted or recycled
- Plastic straws are a necessary accessibility tool & part of good hospitality
- Slim financial differences heavily influence food establishment business decisions, especially for more affordable restaurants
- Plastics reduction policies are being enacted locally & nationally
- Dedicated knowledgeable support is needed to help businesses transition to environmentally & economically sustainable practices




Plastic Straws are Accessibility Tools



How plastic straw alternatives harm people with disabilities

| Straw Type | Allergy risk | Choking hazard | Injury risk | Not flexible | Not safe with hot liquid | Dissolves while you use it | Hard to sanitize | More expensive |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Metal | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ |
| Paper | ✗ | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | |
| Glass | | | ✗ | ✗ | | | ✗ | ✗ |
| Silicone | ✗ | | | ✗ | | | ✗ | ✗ |
| Acrylic | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ |
| Pasta/Rice | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | |
| Bamboo | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ | | | | ✗ |
| Biodegradable | ✗ | ✗ | | | ✗ | ✗ | | |
| Single-Use Plastic | | | | | | | | |



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Plastics Reduction Policies Enacted Locally & Nationally

- Chicago – Single-use foodware by request; Single-use bag fee
- River Forest – Single-use foodware by request
- Evanston – Single-use plastic bag ban

- Los Angeles – Single-use foodware by request; Polystyrene ban
- California – Single-use plastic bag ban; Bag fee; Polystyrene ban
- New Jersey – Single-use plastic bag ban; Polystyrene ban

Survey Analysis Summary

- Separate questions for community, restaurants, stores
- 295 Community member responses
 - 71% said limiting single-use plastic would have a **positive** impact on their customer experience; 20% said **no impact**
 - On average, community members **would spend at least 50 cents more** per purchase to help offset the cost of switching to non-plastic products
- 17 Restaurant owner responses
 - 47% use polystyrene packaging; 78% said it would not be difficult to stop using by 2025
 - 94% use single-use plastic foodware; 72% said it would not be difficult to shift to on-request only model



Oak Park Ordinance: Foodware

Requirements

- Food establishments provide single-use plastic foodware only upon request or at self-service station
- Display signage

Schedule

- Effective June 1, 2023

Enforcement

- Existing municipal code enforcement procedures

Exceptions

- Drinking straws
- Safety items (e.g. lids); vending machines; prepackaged
- Schools, health facilities, charitable establishments
- Supplies and services during a declared emergency

The Village of Oak Park requires that for delivery or take-out orders, single-use foodware be provided only upon request from the customer or at a self-service station for single-use foodware



Please request if you would like single-use foodware such as napkins, disposable utensils, condiment packets, etc.



Oak Park Ordinance: Polystyrene

Requirements

- Food establishments prohibited from using polystyrene food service containers

Schedule

- Effective January 1, 2024
- Restaurants with annual gross income under \$500,000 must comply by 2025

Enforcement

- Existing municipal code enforcement procedures

Exceptions

- Prepackaged foods
- Schools, health facilities, non-profits
- Supplies and services during a declared emergency



Supporting the Transition to Sustainable Business Practices

No-cost help line to support Oak Park businesses with cost-saving and affordable sustainable business practices

Professional green business assessment and customized green business plan

Links to utility-sponsored energy rebates and program assistance

Under development: Procurement guide for non-plastic restaurant products



www.sustainoakpark.com/greenbusinessprogram

Call: 800-214-7954



Discussion

