

# Oak Park Single-Use Plastics & Polystyrene Ordinance

## Policy Design Workshops Brief

### The Challenge

The workshops will create an answer to the question, “How might we transition Oak Park restaurants and customers to environmentally-friendly and accessible foodware and bags? One outcome of the workshops will be the collaborative development of a Single-Use Plastics and Polystyrene Foam ordinance, and a revision of the Retail Bag Ordinance. These ordinances will be presented to the Village Board. Other supporting policy and program solutions might be uncovered.

### Background.

An estimated 22 Million pounds of plastic waste enter the Great Lakes every year, where it breaks into “microplastic” fragments. Microplastics can pass through water filtration systems, enter drinking water, and be ingested by wildlife. Plastic bags also create litter and harm wildlife. Plastic production and disposal has environmental justice impacts on human and ecosystem communities where fossil fuel extraction, plastic landfilling, and incineration takes place.

To date, the project team has reviewed similar local resources, received feedback and input from the Village Board and community members and groups (Interfaith Green Network, League of Women Voters, Environment and Energy Commission, disability advocates). The project team also has access to SEDAC Green Business program staff.

### Goals.

Some of the ambitions for this project include reducing use of single-use plastic, eliminating the use of polystyrene foam, meeting the needs of restaurants and customers, and creating a healthier future.

### Project Plan.

We anticipate meeting three times before Thanksgiving. Participants will also be asked to

conduct research, such as interviews, in-between the first and second workshops. Workshops will last 90 minutes. Meetings will be held virtually or in person, at times according to the group’s preference and availability.

- Workshop 1. Explore the challenge and create a plan to learn more about the current issues impacting local restaurants and customers.
- The group conducts independent or paired research (e.g., interviews, policy reviews).
- Workshop 2. Share findings, develop insights, and co-create concepts for the ordinances.
- Workshop 3. Co-draft ordinance language.
- Post-Workshop. Project Lead re-engages stakeholders to gather any final feedback and concerns that should be integrated into the final language.

### Project Team.

- Sponsor: Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
- Lead: Erica Helms, Sustainability Fellow
- Core: Marcella Bondie Keenan, Sustainability Coordinator; Business Advisory Council; Environment and Energy Commission; Disability Access Commission
- Extended: Development Customer Services – Business Licensing; Public Works – Environmental Services; Public Health – Farmers Market; Communications; DEI Office
- Leadership: Village Manager; Board of Trustees

### Project Contact

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