

# Straw reduction awareness and campaign

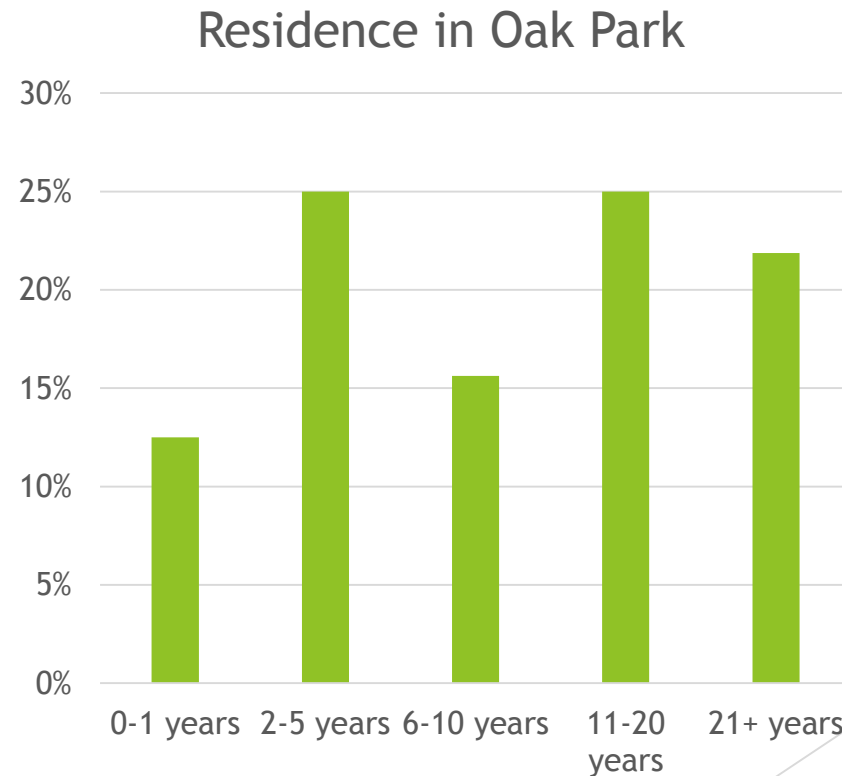
Prepared by Stephen Morales, Elizabeth Judson, Marynda Agnew  
With input from League of Women Voters and Interfaith Green Network  
for the Sep EEC meeting

# Agenda

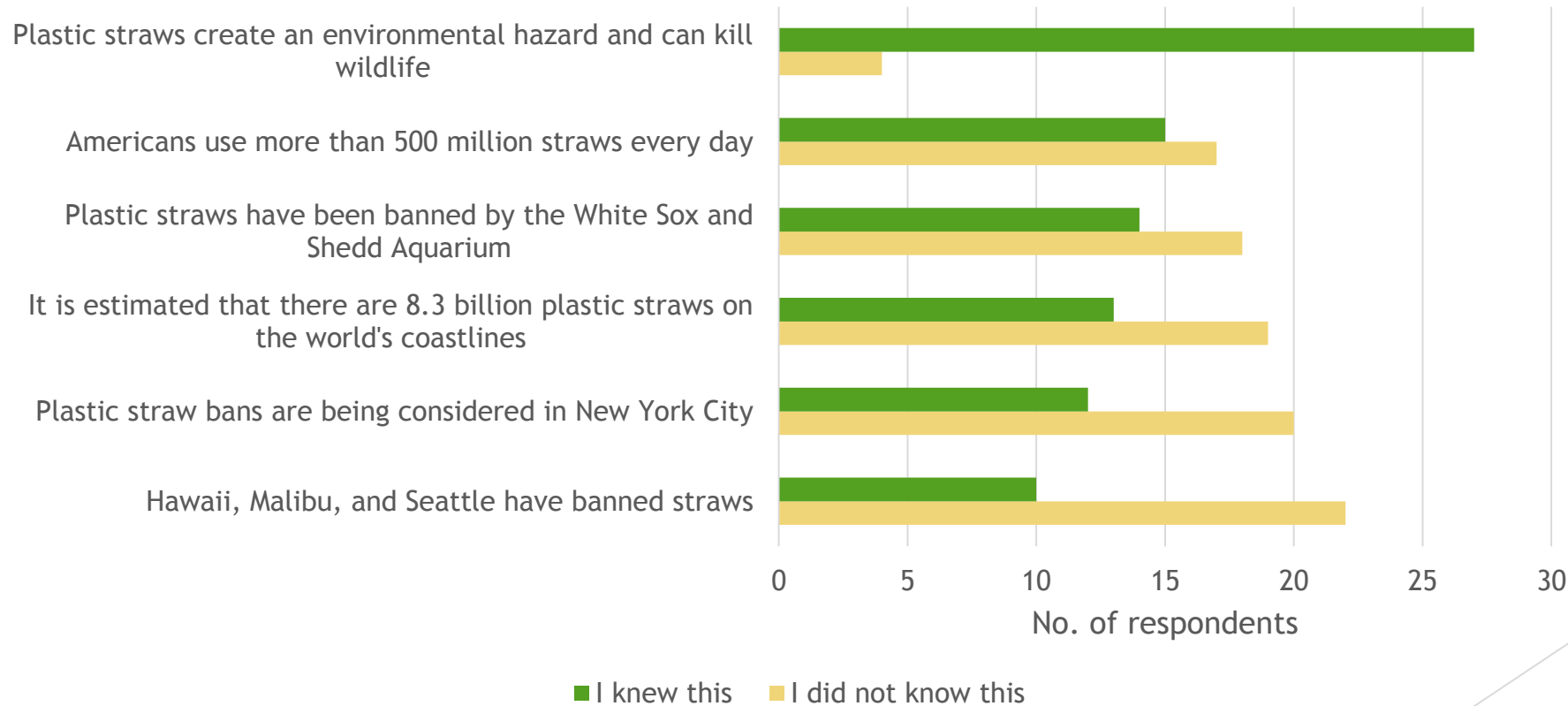
- ▶ **Current awareness and engagement**
- ▶ What other cities have done
- ▶ Options for Oak Park
- ▶ Recommendation and implementation

# Respondents were already very environmentally minded

- ▶ 90% use their own shopping bags
- ▶ 90% say that they recycle
  - ▶ 96% say they recycle most of the time or all the time
- ▶ 40% are composting
- ▶ 85% are very willing or extremely willing to change their behavior for the environment
- ▶ Most respondents considered themselves “extremely concerned” about environmental issues

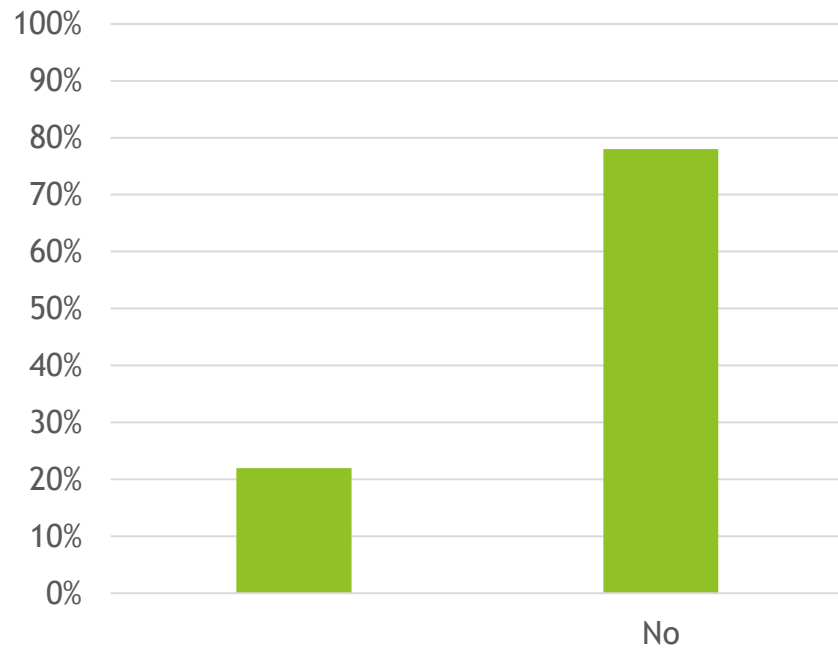


# What residents know and don't know about plastic straws

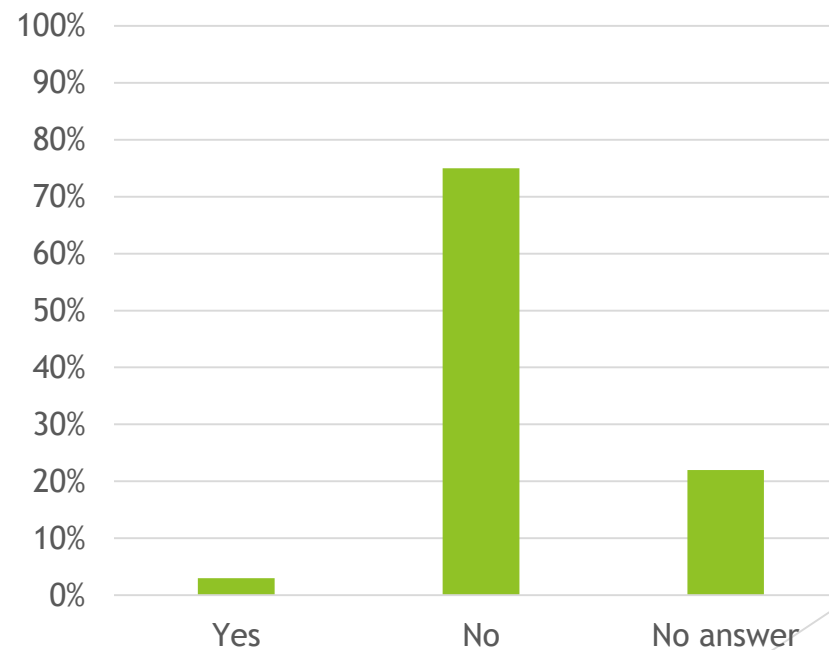


# What residents expect from restaurants

Percent of respondents that expect a straw at a restaurant



Straw availability affects willingness to be a patron



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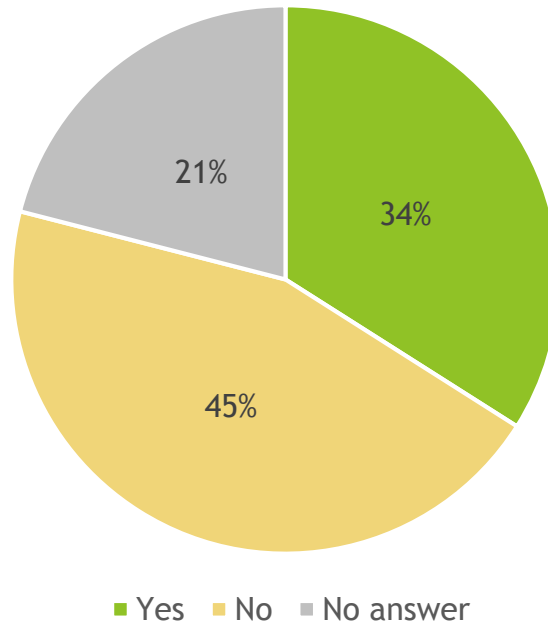
Source: LWV Earthfest survey (n=76) Questions: Do you usually expect a straw to be provided when you are served a glass of water or other beverage at a restaurant? Would availability of straws in a restaurant be a factor in your decision to be a patron of such restaurant?

9/28/2018

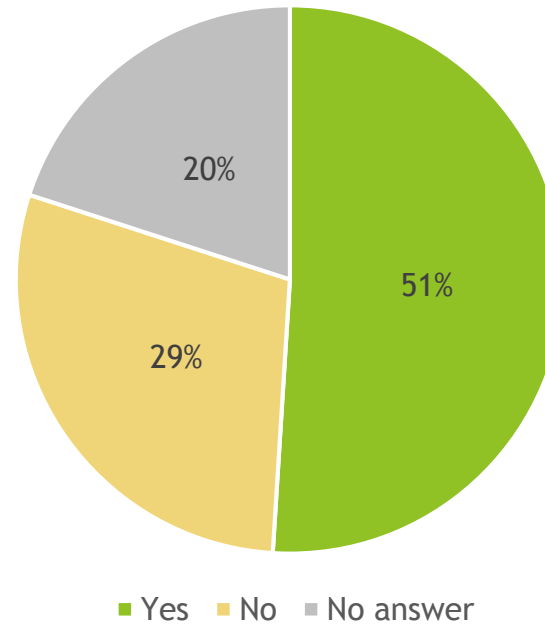
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# Willingness to pay for alternatives

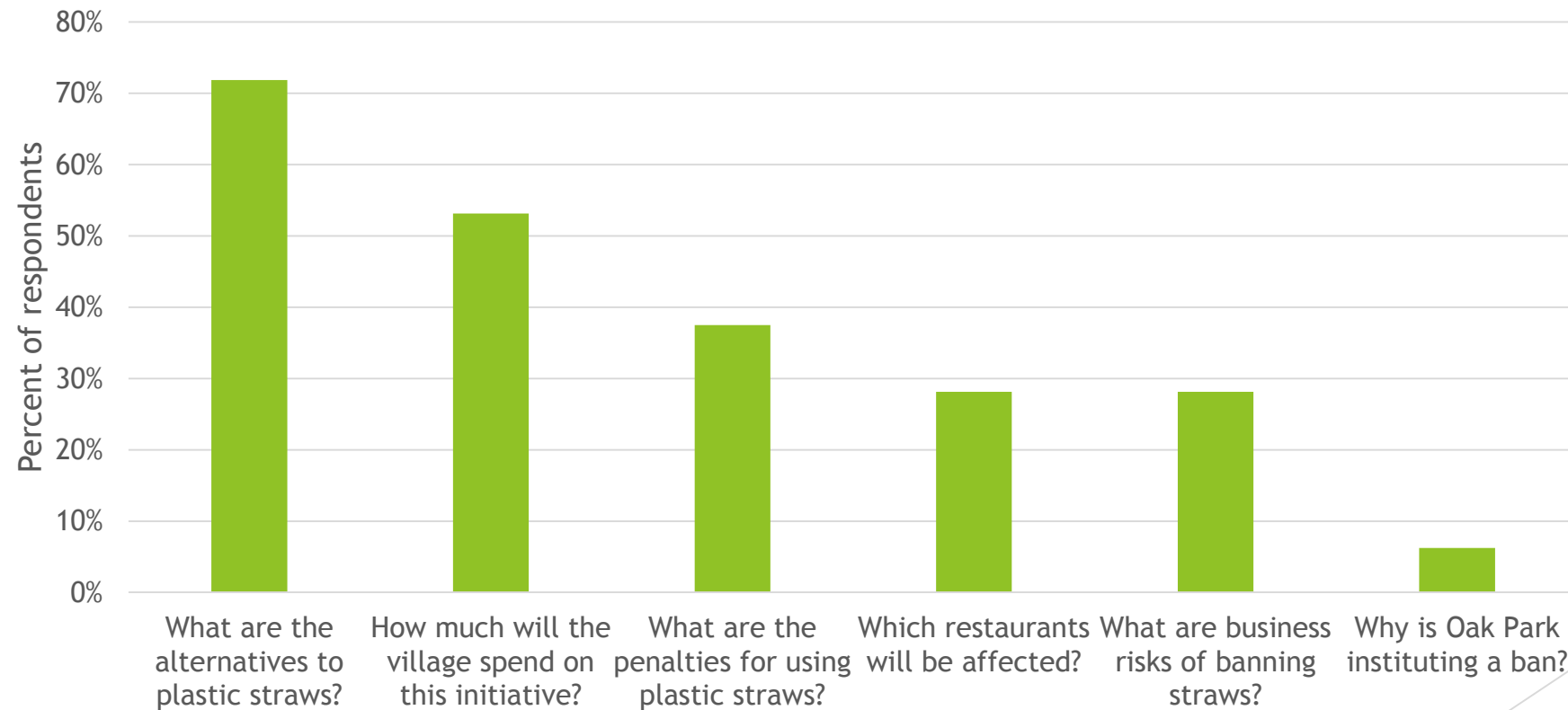
Willingness to pay for plastic straws



Willingness to pay for alternatives?



# What residents would want to know about a plastic straw ban



# Feedback from Oak Park restaurants

- ▶ League of Women Voters and Interfaith Green Network have been asking restaurants to reduce straw use (correct wording) as part of the Shedd the Straw campaign
- ▶ Response has been positive from most restaurants
  - ▶ Buzz Café only offers straws upon request
  - ▶ Potbelly and Q Barbecue posted Shedd the straw poster next to its straw dispenser
  - ▶ Poor Phil's provides compostable straws when one is needed.
- ▶ Some chain restaurants need to work with their corporate headquarters to find out what they can and cannot do
- ▶ No restaurants have attempted to pass costs on to patrons



# Several community organizations are getting involved

- ▶ League of Women Voters
- ▶ Interfaith Green Network
- ▶ D97 School District
- ▶ Chicagostrawless (Oak Park Resident) is working with local governments and businesses with fidelity and maintaining an inclusive approach
- ▶ Downtown Oak Park (need a contact here)
- ▶ Oak Park Chamber of Commerce

# Summary of awareness

- ▶ Based on survey results, Oak Park residents surveyed are aware of the impact of the environmental impact of plastic straws
  - ▶ However, they are less informed about the magnitude of environmental impact that straws have and how other municipalities have reduced straw use
- ▶ Few Oak Park residents expect a straw at restaurants and even fewer would let straw availability impact their patronage for restaurants
- ▶ Surprisingly, more than half of residents surveyed appear willing to share the cost of alternatives with restaurants up to \$0.20 per alternative
- ▶ Residents surveyed are interested in understanding all the alternatives and what the village is willing to spend on alternatives

# Agenda

- ▶ Current awareness and engagement
- ▶ **What other cities have done**
- ▶ Options for Oak Park
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# What other cities have done:

## Seattle

- ▶ Method: Ban on all single use plastics - straws were added to a ban on non-recyclable or non-compostable disposable food packaging
- ▶ Time to implement: 1 year (July 1, 2018 amended, June 30, 2019 enforced)
- ▶ Exemptions: Disposable flexible plastic drinking straws when needed by customers due to medical or physical conditions and for whom flexible compostable paper straws are unsuitable
- ▶ Enforcement: SPU staff continue to perform inspections of all food service businesses to verify compliance with Seattle Municipal Code Section 21.36.084 and 21.36.086
- ▶ Business impact: ADD A QUOTE HERE

# What other cities have done: Seattle



► ADD A QUOTE HERE

# What other cities have done:

## Malibu

- ▶ Method: Ban on commercial distribution of plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery. Non plastic alternatives are only provided upon request
- ▶ Time to implement: 3 months (Feb 26, 2018 amended, June 1, 2019 enforced)
- ▶ Exemptions: No exemptions were listed in their ordinances but they have achieved 90% compliance across 70 restaurants according to their Environmental Sustainability Analyst, interviewed by Jen Packheiser from Interfaith Green Network
- ▶ Enforcement: Enforcement has been by both customers and city health/water inspectors and there have been warnings issued but nothing further. No fines established but the city is considering it.

# Agenda

- ▶ Current awareness and engagement
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# Options

	Pro	Con	Currently implemented
Regulation of plastic straw use in Oak Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly defines the actions required of vendors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires inspections to enforce</li> <li>Requires businesses to increase spending to comply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malibu, Seattle</li> <li>Buzz Cafe</li> <li>Shedd Aquarium, Guaranteed Rate Field</li> </ul>
Regulation of single-use plastic in Oak Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expands the regulation to a substantial use of single-use plastics</li> <li>Clearly defines actions required of vendors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires inspections to enforce</li> <li>Requires several new options and increased spending to comply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brooks school</li> </ul>
Fee on straw use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows success of plastic bag fee program</li> <li>Establishes revenue to subsidize implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs minor modification to POS system</li> <li>Difficult to monitor except by audit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Fee on single use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows success of plastic bag fee program</li> <li>Establishes revenue to subsidize implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modification to POS system and retraining</li> <li>Trackable by audit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>



# Option 1:

## Regulation of plastic straw use

- ▶ Similar to Seattle and Malibu, Guaranteed Rate Field, Shedd Aquarium
- ▶ Message to villagers/patrons/vendors in Oak Park: “Oak Park is a progressive community that wants to do its part to reduce plastic waste.”
- ▶ Action required:
  - ▶ Do not offer plastic straws unless requested (Straws Upon Request Only)
  - ▶ Exceptions for families with children (if requested), disabled, or elderly
- ▶ Enforcement:
  - ▶ Restaurant inspections and customer reporting (followed up with investigation)
- ▶ Penalty:
  - ▶ Fine on the business equivalent to the fine per offense in Seattle \$250/offense

# Option 2:

## Regulation of all single-use plastic

- ▶ Similar to Seattle
- ▶ Message to villagers/patrons/vendors in Oak Park: “Oak Park wants to be a leader in the Chicagoland area in reducing plastic waste.”
- ▶ Action required:
  - ▶ Change from single-use plastic to alternative containers, including take out containers, plastic cups, plastic utensils, and plastic straws
- ▶ Enforcement:
  - ▶ Restaurant inspections and customer reporting (followed up with investigation)
- ▶ Penalty:
  - ▶ Fine on the business equivalent to the fine per offense in Seattle \$250/offense

# Option 3:

## Fee on straw use

- ▶ Precedent: Oak Park bag fee
- ▶ Message to villagers/patrons/vendors in Oak Park: “Oak Park wants to reduce straw use to the level that we reduced plastic bag use. We can do it!”
- ▶ Action required:
  - ▶ Charge patrons \$0.10 to \$0.15 per plastic straw use
  - ▶ Add the non-taxable charge to their bill
- ▶ Enforcement:
  - ▶ Monthly or quarterly audit, in a manner similar to plastic bag fee program
- ▶ Penalty:
  - ▶ None required

# Option 4:

## Fee on all single use plastic

- ▶ Similar to Seattle
- ▶ Message to villagers/patrons/vendors in Oak Park: “Based on the success of plastic bag reduction initiative, Oak Park is going to reduce use of all single use plastic that can have a significant impact on the environment.”
- ▶ Action required:
  - ▶ Charge patrons \$0.10 to \$0.15 per single use plastic container, cup, utensil set, or straw
  - ▶ Add the non-taxable charge to their bill
  - ▶ Proceeds from fee can be used to switch to non-plastic single use containers
  - ▶ Patrons can bring their own containers, cups, straws, utensils to avoid fees
- ▶ Enforcement:
  - ▶ Monthly or quarterly audit, in a manner similar to plastic bag fee program
- ▶ Penalty:
  - ▶ None required

# Agenda

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# Proposed legislation

- ▶ Addendum to Village Code CHAPTER 20 (“PUBLIC HEALTH”), NEW ARTICLE 15
- ▶ Written in format of “Retail Single Use Plastic Bag” Ordinance, ARTICLE 14
  - ▶ New proposal will titled Regulation of single-use plastic straws
  - ▶ Establish the effective date as June 30, 2019
  - ▶ Outline Prohibited conduct: use or distribution plastic straws for single-use, such as restaurant meals, take-out meals, take-out drinks
  - ▶ Outline penalty equal to \$250/ offense
  - ▶ Outline enforcement provisions and penalties for evading enforcement (i.e., concealing straws)

# Implementation

- ▶ Add public awareness of straw ban to the workplan (Brochures and library presentations)
  - ▶ Educate the village on alternatives
  - ▶ Encourage stores to stock alternative straws
  - ▶ Educate businesses about alternative straws
- ▶ Create a series of events to spread the education
  - ▶ Earth day event at the village green events
  - ▶ DIOV launch day event showcasing alternative straws
- ▶ Wednesday journal recognition and storefront stickers for vendors adopting the straw initiative in advance of June 30

# Implementation: content

- ▶ Awareness programs will focus on key information for consumers and restaurants
  - ▶ What are the alternatives
  - ▶ How much the village is going to spend on the initiative
  - ▶ Outline the penalties clearly
- ▶ Plan to utilize materials similar to what Seattle / Malibu produced for their ban
  - ▶ Engage restaurants location with info and samples of paper straws
  - ▶ Provide websites available on where to buy alternatives



## NEW Straw & Utensil Requirements

**Summary of Seattle's Food Serviceware Requirements: (SMC 21.36.086)**




BANNED	ALLOWED	BANNED	ALLOWED
			
Disposable Plastic Straws	Compostable* Paper Straws and Compostable* Plastic Straws	Disposable Plastic Utensils	Compostable* Utensils

- Effective July 1, 2010, food service businesses are prohibited from selling or providing food for consumption on or off the premises with disposable food serviceware. Food packaging used for dine-in service must be compostable and take-out packaging can be compostable or recyclable.
- Approved compostable indicates packaging and serviceware that has been tested and approved at a local commercial compost facility.

**Plastic utensils and plastic straws are banned in Seattle, effective July 1, 2018.**

Serviceware allowed for use includes durables or approved compostable utensils and straws.

Los utensillos de plástico y los popotes de plástico están prohibidos en Seattle a partir del 1ero de julio de 2018.

Los únicos utensillos y popotes desechables que están permitidos para uso comercial son aquellos que tienen la etiqueta "compostable", los cuales están hechos de materiales que se pueden convertir en compost. Los utensillos y popotes reusables están permitidos.

2018年7月1日開始，西雅圖禁止使用塑料餐具和飲料吸管。

允許使用的餐具包括認可的可堆肥餐具和吸管。

Dùng cụ ăn (thìa, đĩa, thìa) và ống hút dùng một lần bằng nhựa sẽ bị cấm ở Seattle kể từ ngày 1 tháng 7 năm 2018.

Các dụng cụ ăn dùng một lần được phép sử dụng bao gồm thìa, đĩa, thìa và ống hút được công nhận là có thể phân hủy được gọi là compostable.

플라스틱 식기와 플라스틱 빨대는 2018년 7월 서비스를 위해 사용이 허용된 식기는 오직 분해 가능한 것으로 승인된 식기와 빨대만 포함됩니다.

FOR DETAILS ABOUT APPROVED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS, GO TO:

[seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness](http://seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness)

GreenBusiness@Seattle.Gov | 206-343-8505 | [seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness](http://seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness)


## PLASTIC-FREE STRAWS, STIRRERS, & CUTLERY

Malibu is moving away from single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and cutlery to protect our oceans. Here's how to comply with Malibu's ordinance.

MMC 9.24.045 Sale and Commercial Distribution of Plastic Beverage Straws, Stirrers, and Cutlery Prohibited. Effective June 1, 2018

- No restaurant, including fast food restaurants, beverage provider, or vendor shall use, provide, distribute, or sell plastic beverage straws, plastic stirrers, or plastic cutlery, including bioplastics.
- Nothing in this section precludes restaurants, including fast food restaurants, beverage providers, or vendors from using or making non-plastic alternatives, such as those made from paper, sugar cane, or bamboo, available to customers.
- Non-plastic alternative straws, stirrers, or cutlery shall only be provided upon request by the customer.
- No person shall distribute plastic or bioplastic beverage straws, plastic stirrers, or plastic cutlery at any city facility or any city-sponsored event.

Learn more about Malibu's efforts to reduce plastic pollution at [MalibuCity.org/PlasticFree](http://MalibuCity.org/PlasticFree)

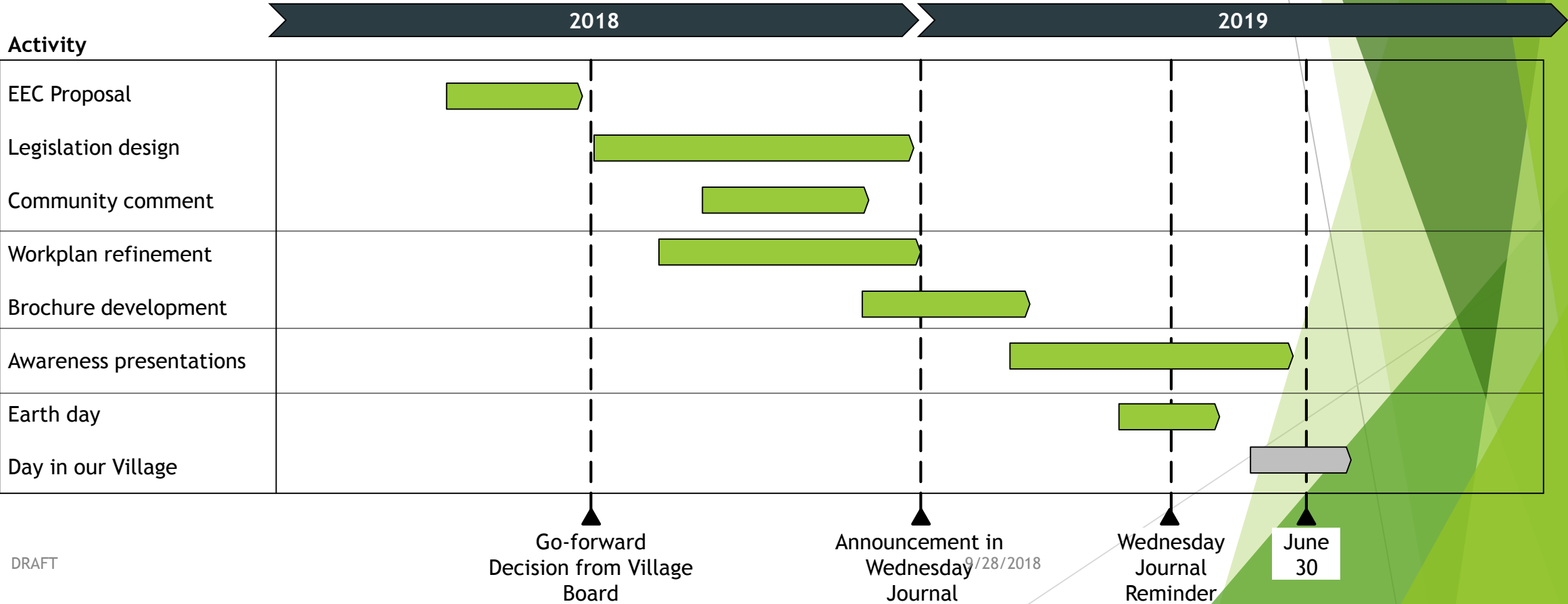


**MALIBU FOR A STRAWLESS OCEAN**



# Implementation timeline

ILLUSTRATIVE



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