

Recommendation for an Ordinance on the Ban of Single Use Plastics at Eating Establishments Village of Oak Park

As passed by the Energy and Environment Commission on January 7, 2020

The Environment and Energy Commission recognizes that the village of Oak Park and its residents have been supportive of several green initiatives. The villagers have taken part in the village composting program and villagers have accepted the single-use plastic bag fee program. While these programs have made a demonstrable impact, villagers have said through surveys in 2018 and 2019 that they are interested in reducing single use plastics.

The recommendation from the commission has evolved to match the urgency of the global issue facing our village and the world. The recommendation goes beyond straws to other single use plastics that are contributing to an unsustainable waste stream running directly through the village of Oak Park.

The Energy and Environment Commission of Oak Park recommends to the Board of Trustees, Village of Oak Park the following in regard to the distribution of single use plastics:

- All **“Eating Establishments”** would be prohibited from offering to single use plastics except to provide them upon a customer’s request. Distribution and use of single use plastics through “eating establishments” will be prohibited at any other time.
- Codify a definition of **single use plastics** to include **polystyrene foam** (XPS) and plastic number 6, which the Village does not recycle. This definition would also include stirrers, straws, food containers, cups, bags, utensils, sauce containers, and lids and any other such item the Village assesses as single use.
- Codify a definition for “eating establishments” as any commercial business required to have a license to prepare, distribute, and serve food.

The commission encourages the board to develop a series incentives and clear penalties for participation in ordinance:

- The Village would recognize restaurants with a Green Eating Certification (similar to LEED certification process for building construction) that would reward compliance and promote zero-waste or near-zero-waste eating establishments.
 - The commission suggests a large (readily seen from the street) stickers would be rewarded to these establishments for customer view and a centralized listing of these participating eating establishments on the commission website
 - The commission suggests that there are other low-cost ways to publicize eating establishments on the Village Website, through social media, and in Ads on Wednesday Journal.
- The village can conduct the certification as part of the normal licensing process and inspection process.
 - The commission suggests that current inspectors can accomplish the certification by assessing inventory of single use plastics
- The village would further incentivize eating establishments by making a \$200 rebate available to eligible participants to cover initial implementation costs recognizing that compostable replacements for single use plastics may be more expensive.
 - The commission recommends that funds for the rebate would come from the Village Sustainability Fund.
- The village would further offer Incentives to eating establishments that set up zero waste systems and arrange compost hauling up to \$500 for the first year.
 - The commission recommends that funds for the rebate would come from the Village Sustainability Fund.
- The village would define noncompliance with the ordinance as not reducing the amount of single use plastic inventory.
 - The commission recommends a small penalty within the first three months of implementation upon regular inspection. Regular noncompliance would result in a large penalty (e.g.,

150% of licensing fee) and funds would be directed to sustainability fund.

The commission recognizes that training is important to creating compliance with the new ordinance and recommends the Village staff to address

- The Village staff will need to create a Standard Operating Procedure to train eating establishment employees and inspectors on this ordinance.

Measurement of the impact of the ordinance will follow the inspection performance for eating establishments

- The Village inspectors will be able to record the impact of the ordinance by evaluating the number of eating establishments with less inventory from year to year
- Based on the decline of inventory, the village staff could estimate the change in single use plastic use through the village eating establishments.

Annual recognition of Plastic Free July

- The Village should recognize July as a Plastic-Free month to recognize and publicize village Plastic Free efforts to educate Villagers and the surrounding communities about the need to reduce plastic in the waste cycle.
 - The commission suggests that this program could be jointly supported by the commission and community groups like interfaith green network