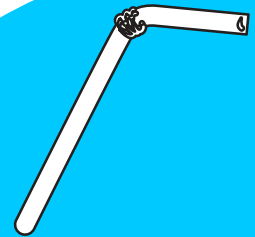


Reducing Plastic Waste



ECO-FRIENDLY SPECIAL EVENT GUIDE



Paper, Plastic, or Planet?

The City of Stuart is committed to reducing plastic litter and pollution in our environment

Why?

300 MILLION

TONS OF PLASTIC PRODUCED EVERY YEAR WORLDWIDE

50 PERCENT

OF ALL PLASTIC PRODUCED IS SINGLE-USE

500 MILLION

PLASTIC STRAWS IN THE U.S. DISPOSED OF EVERY DAY

- Over time, plastic breaks down into tiny particles called micro-plastics, which persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
- By 2050, there will be more plastic mass in the ocean than fish.
- An estimated 20% of all plastic pollution eventually ends up in waterways and the ocean.
- More than 1 trillion single-use plastic bags are discarded every year worldwide.
- Polystyrene and other polymer materials including what is commonly known as Styrofoam, can remain in the environment for over 1 million years.
- In 2015, only 9% of plastic material generated in the U.S. was recycled - less than half of the world average.



“Nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute our waterways and harm our birds and marine animals for hundreds of years.”

Jennifer Rubiello, Director, Environment Florida.

Stuart's Single-Use Plastic Policy

ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Ordinance 2413-2019

The City ordinance **EFFECTIVE** beginning January 1, 2021 states that no Styrofoam or single-use plastic associated with food and beverage service shall be given to customers when utilizing city property for permitted events or when conducting business at a City-owned facility.

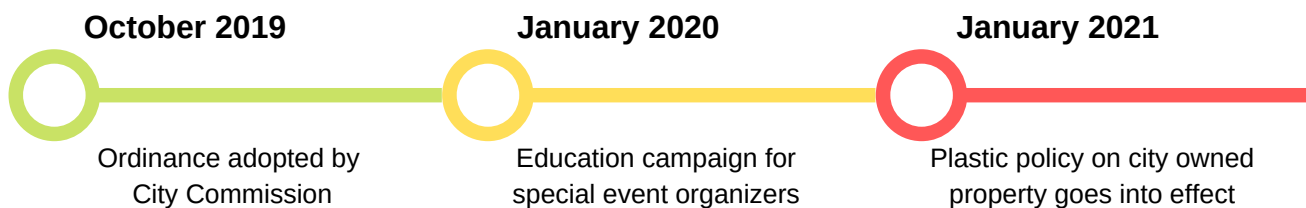
2020 WILL BE A YEAR OF TRANSITION FROM PLASTICS TO EARTH-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES:

- SINGLE-USE PLASTICS INCLUDING PLASTIC STRAWS ARE THOSE POLYSTYRENE AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (STYROFOAM) PRODUCTS DESIGNED WITH THE INTENT OF BEING USED ONE TIME AND THEN DISCARDED.
- THE CITY ENCOURAGES THE USE OF BIODEGRADABLE OR COMPOSTABLE FOOD ITEM PRODUCTS INCLUDING PLATES, BOWLS, CUPS, SILVERWARE, BAGS AND NAPKINS.
- BEVERAGES MAY BE SERVED IN RECYCLABLE CUPS, CANS, OR BOTTLES.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROHIBITION:

- PRE-PACKAGED FOODS THAT FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS DISTRIBUTE TO THEIR CUSTOMERS AND THAT HAVE BEEN FILLED AND SEALED PRIOR TO RECEIPT BY THE FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER. (EXAMPLES - BAGS OF CHIPS, JUICE BOX, CONDIMENT PACKETS).
- SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS USED FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOOD THAT HAVE BEEN FILLED AND SEALED PRIOR TO RECEIPT BY THE CITY CONTRACTOR OR PERMITTEE, OR FOR PACKAGING.

Single-Use Plastic Policy Rollout Timeline



Plastic Straw Policy

Ordinance 2416-2019

The city-wide plastic straw ban ordinance prohibits the distribution of plastic straws in the provision of food services in any retail establishment. The ban additionally applies to any special events occurring within the city.

UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2020:

- PLASTIC STRAWS MAY ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED UPON A SPECIFIC CUSTOMER REQUEST.
- BUSINESS OPERATING WITH A DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW ARE ALLOWED TO PROVIDE A STRAW TO A CUSTOMER WITHOUT RECEIVING A REQUEST TO DO SO.

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021:

- ONLY NON-PLASTIC STRAWS MAY BE PROVIDED UPON A SPECIFIC CUSTOMER REQUEST.
- BUSINESS OPERATING WITH A DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW MAY PROVIDE A NON-PLASTIC STRAW TO THE CUSTOMER WITHOUT RECEIVING A REQUEST.

EXEMPTIONS:

- ITEMS THAT INCLUDE PLASTIC STRAWS THAT ARE PRE-PACKAGED BY SUPPLIERS AND DISTRIBUTORS THAT ARE NOT REPACKAGED OR OTHERWISE ALTERED PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION TO A CUSTOMER.
- MEDICAL AND DENTAL FACILITIES, ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES, AND NURSING HOMES ARE ALSO EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Plastic Straws Ban Enforcement Timeline



Next Steps for Event Organizers

- 1** Review new ordinance requirements and current inventory with food and beverage vendors.
- 2** Speak with suppliers about the need to find alternative products and leverage local assets to purchase in bulk for potential cost savings.
- 3** Assign volunteers to help manage waste collection while educating event guests through social media / advertisements prior to the event.
- 4** Plan to post special signage with each recycling container and waste bin utilized during the event to maximize recycling efforts.

RECYCLE

Plastic Bottles



Glass Bottles



Aluminum Cans



Plastic Wine Cups



EVERYTHING ELSE

Garbage



Planning for Your Event

As you plan your event also consider these environmentally friendly practices when serving food and beverage items:

- Use reusable utensils, plates, cups, and other service-wares when feasible.
- Opt for alternative single-use items that are BPI-certified compostable, biodegradable, and/or paper products made with recycled content.
- Avoid individually packaged items (from butter or cream cheese, to sugar packets, mustard, ketchup, snacks such as chips or candy or bottled/can drinks).
- Avoid overly packaged meals and instead, serve items in bulk.
- Advertise and provide early notice to your guests of what to expect from your efforts in maintaining an environmentally-friendly event experience.
- Communicate with vendors regarding your plans to streamline waste management during the event including the location and distribution of waste and recycle bins.
- Keep waste and recycle bins together with applicable signage for ease of access to both.
- Work with sponsors to promote eco-friendly awareness prior to and during the event.



Alternative Product Suppliers

All Florida Paper

(<https://catalog.allfloridapaper.com/>)
305-835-6060

Auburn Supply Group Florida

(<https://www.auburnsupplygroup.com/>)
727-810-7545

Compostables.org

(<https://compostables.org>)
866-326-2466

Eco Products

(<https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/>)
303-449-1876

General Hotel & Restaurant Supply Corp.

(<http://www.generalhotel.com>)
800-330-5900

Good Start Packaging

(<https://www.goodstartpackaging.com/>)
603-782-9187

Greenstaurant

(<http://greenstaurant.com>)
770-648-7305

Green Paper Products

(<https://greenpaperproducts.com/>)
877-341-5464

Hoffmaster

(<https://www.hoffmaster.com/>)
800-327-9774

Paper Straw Wholesalers

(<https://www.paperstrawwholesalers.com>)
866-751-7766

RestaurantWare

(<https://www.restaurantware.com>)
800-851-9273

Sysco Southeast Florida

(<https://www.sysco.com/Contact/Contact/Our-Locations/Southeast-Florida>)
561-842-1999

US Paper Straws

(<https://www.paperstraw.us/>)
844-778-7297

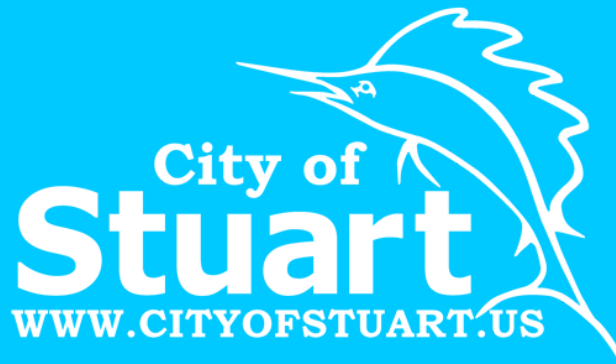
US Supply House

(<https://ussupplyhouse.com/>)
305-676-6777

Webstaurant

(<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/>)
717-288-7303

And many others!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITTING
772-286-2844
WWW.CITYOFSTUART.US

