

York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Single-Use Items Voluntary Reduction Program Design and Engagement Plan

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Single-Use Items

- Sustainable Waste Management is exploring measures to encourage residents/businesses to voluntarily reduce their use of single-use items (e.g. straws, cutlery, retail checkout bags, takeout containers, hot and cold beverage cups)
- We would like to identify accessibility barriers to ensure inclusivity in future programming, education, and communications with residents
 - ‘Ask First’ Program for businesses
 - Voluntary reduction strategy aimed at residents

Engagement

Phase 1: March – August 2021

1. Review of studies and engagement in other cities (Spring 2021)
2. Single-use survey (July 2021)
3. Waste quiz (August 2021)

Phase 2: September – November 2021

1. Additional engagement to better understand issues, barriers and incentives
2. Developing programs and communications with residents and businesses

Accessibility and single-use items

- Approximately 2% of survey respondents indicated they require items for accessibility supports and may be impacted by limitations on availability
- Would like to identify barriers in future single-use item education messaging and communications
- Bans may be expected from the federal government on certain items

Questions to consider

1. What barriers or gaps to do we need to address with these programs?
 - Implementing 'Ask First' program with businesses
 - Encouraging voluntary reduction of single-use items with residents
2. What more can we do or what can we do differently?
 - Mitigating concerns
 - Ensuring inclusivity and accessibility (e.g. in focus groups or engagement planning for programs)
3. What single-use items are most important for accessibility?
4. What additional information would you like to know?

Next steps

- Phase 2 of engagement to consider barriers and incentives regarding reusables
- Conduct engagement with business community
- Develop communications and education strategy for residents
- Launch initiatives in early 2022

THANK YOU

