

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2019-01

DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE DISPOSABLES POLICY

WHEREAS, the City Council voted unanimously to declare Portsmouth an Eco-Municipality in 2007 and signed a resolution which fully acknowledges Portsmouth's commitment and desire to become more sustainable; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that limiting the distribution of single-use disposables through source reduction is necessary to protect human health, to preserve the natural environment, and to conserve precious and dwindling natural resources through the proper and integrated management of solid waste;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council adopts this Distribution of Single-Use Disposables Policy to encourage the following practices at City facilities, City-sponsored events, events on City property, and businesses on City property:

Carryout Bags: Customers will be charged a ten cent fee that will remain with the seller for every single-use recycled paper shopping bag they are issued that is greater than six inches across. Single-use plastic shopping bags are only allowed to be issued to transport prepared food and customers will be charged a ten cent fee that will remain with the seller for every single-use plastic shopping bag they are issued.

Disposable Cups: Customers will be charged a ten cent fee that will remain with the seller for every single-use cup they are issued when a thermos, mug, or reusable bottle could have been used instead. Any single-use cups that are issued will be compostable and the seller is responsible for providing a composting bin that will be emptied at a composting facility.

Disposable Containers: Any single-use containers that are issued will be compostable and the seller is responsible for providing a composting bin that will be emptied at a composting facility.

Disposable Straws: Straws are only to be distributed at the request of the customer. Any single-use straws that are issued will be compostable and the seller is responsible for providing a composting bin that will be emptied at a composting facility.

No customer participating in Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be charged the fee for receiving any of the items listed above. Further, no soup kitchen or thrift store operating on City property will have to abide by the carryout bag, disposable cup, disposable container, or compostable straw requirements. Finally, nothing in this Policy prohibits customers from using their own bags, cups, containers, or straws if they are otherwise allowed to do so under the City's ordinances.

This Distribution of Single-Use Disposables Policy is intended to determine the best practices for implementing Chapter 3, Article IX: Distribution of Single-Use Disposables on City Property.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on: October 7, 2019

Ratified by Portsmouth City Council on: January 8, 2020

Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 24, 2022.