

Lobby for Single-Use Ban in Your Community - Letter to Decision Maker

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Date]

[Name of government Official]
[Official's Title]
[Section of Government]
[Official's Address]

Dear [Title] [Name of Official],

Plastic waste is a big problem across the world and it is primarily caused by single-use plastic. The packaging that covers so many of the things we consume is much more likely to wind up in a landfill than be recycled. This is a problem that we can tackle locally with stronger regulations and better solutions. Your actions can make a big difference.

Experts agree that a transition to reusable packaging is the best way forward. It provides numerous economic, environmental, and social benefits. Reuse systems also ensure that we do not simply replace one disposable material with another, and thereby shift the problem from, say, polluted oceans to clear-cut forests. .

As an individual, I feel that is almost impossible not to create waste, even when shopping for something as simple as food. As a voting citizen, I want to see you exercise your power, and pursue the following policy goals.

1. Bans and reduction targets on single-use plastic items:
 - Immediate bans on problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items such as disposable plates, cutlery, beverage stirrers, cotton swabs, straws, balloon sticks, light-weight plastic bags, cigarette filters and balloons. Update and add to the list of banned items every year;
 - A 50% reduction of single-use plastic packaging and inessential items by 2025 and 80% by 2030.
2. Targets on reusables:
 - Replace 70% of single-use plastic beverage bottles (for example beer and soft drinks) and takeaway drink cups with refillables, ideally within one year, but no later than 2025.
 - Institute a requirement that cleaning products and food containers be reusable.
 - Support these targets with taxes on single-use plastics that significantly raise

the price to end consumers and/or institute obligatory deposit return systems for the products covered by the reusables target.

3. Require all grocery stores larger than independent corner shops to offer 80% of their fresh food unpackaged and invest in public spaces that offer water and unpackaged goods (e.g. public drinking fountains and fresh food markets).

As a local leader, your choices are crucial to addressing this environmental crisis. Pursuing the above goals will, of course, help the environment. But they will also strengthen our community's economy, relieving pressure on the waste management infrastructure and creating new jobs maintaining localized reuse and refill systems.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am looking forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]