

Ordinances & Policies Regarding Single Use Plastics

US Cities

Name	Ordinance/Policy Provisions	Fines	Effective Date:	Website:
Seattle, WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banned all plastic straws/eating utensils in restaurants ● Urge the city's 5000 restaurants to get rid of straws completely or switch to paper ● Business must comply or work with the city of a compliance schedule ● Flexible plastic straws can still be provided to customers who require them for medical reasons. ● Restaurants can also continue providing plastic straws so long as they are recyclable. 	\$250	July 1, 2018	www.seattle.gov
Monmouth County, NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banned all plastic bags and straws from Monmouth Beach 	\$2,400	May 2018	www.ecode360.com
San Francisco, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supervisor Katy Tang introduced legislation that would prevent merchants from providing customers with single-use plastic straws, stir sticks, toothpick, splash stick, and other non-biodegradable objects ● Currently phasing out plastic straws and switching to paper straws 		Under consideration	curbed.com www.huffingtonpost.com
Malibu, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banned plastic straws, stirrers, and utensils from restaurants and food vendors 		June 1, 2018	www.latimes.com - Ordinance
Fort Myers Beach, FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banned plastic straws 	\$100-\$500	November 6, 2017	- Ordinance

National/International

Name	Law	Fines	When it takes effect	Website
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eliminate the use of non-recyclable plastics by 2030 ● Ban single-use plastic products, such as straws, cutlery, cotton buds, stirrers, balloon sticks and drinks containers, where alternatives are available and affordable. ● Discourage the use of plastic food/drink containers ● Manufacturers will be made to contribute to the cost of plastic waste management/cleanup, and making awareness ● Incentives for finding cleaner alternatives ● Collect 90% of single-use plastic drink bottles by 2025 		Proposal is being considered by European Parliament and Council	newatlas.com
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eliminate all single-use plastics by 2022 ● Ban on the manufacture, supply, storage and use of plastics that are already in place ● Exemptions for retail packaging, trash can liners and takeaway packaging 	Up to 25,000 rupees (\$367) 3 months in jail for repeated offenders	June 5, 2018	www.huffingtonpost.com
Penang Island, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bans use of plastic straws & other single use plastics at restaurants, cafes, and hotels. 		January, 2019	www.malaymail.com
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bans plastic plates, cups and utensils ● Exception for biodegradable items 		2020	www.washingtonpost.com

Voluntary Business Policies

Name	Ordinance	Fines	When it takes effect	Website
Sea World,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> removed plastic straws and plastic shipping bags from all their park 		In effect	seaworld.com
Royal Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by 2019 will be free of plastic straws Replace with paper straws 		2019	www.rclcorporate.com
Ikea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by 2020 will no longer hand out plastic bags/straws Will design products to be repurposed, repaired, reused resold, and recyclable Will introduce low-cost home solar products 		2020	www.theguardian.com
Bon Appétit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will ban plastic straws and stirrers from their 1,000 cafes and restaurants 		September 2019	www.greenpeace.org
Starbucks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate single-use plastic straws from all of its cafes globally by 2020. Will offer recyclable strawless lids and alternative-material straws, like paper or compostable plastic. Starbucks has partnered with Closed Loop Partners to develop recyclable and compostable cup solutions in an effort for corporate responsibility in protecting the environment. 		2020	news.starbucks.com
McDonald's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will replace plastic straws with paper ones in all UK and Ireland restaurants Uses 1.8 million straws daily in UK Will begin to implement change in US, France, and Norway soon 		September 2018	www.bbc.com

Failed attempt to ban plastic straws

Hawaii www.staradvertiser.com

- A bill to ban distribution and sale of plastic straws was introduced in January 2018 by state Sen. Mike Gabbard
 - the legislation passed through the Agriculture and Environment Committee
 - It failed to clear the Judiciary and Ways and Means committees
 - Objections came from the Hawaii Food Industry Association, the Hawaii Restaurant Association, the Retail Merchants Association and the American Chemistry Council, all of which presented testimony in hearings about the bill.

Banning plastic straws prevents challenges to individuals with disabilities

Title	Summary	Website
Banning straws won't save the oceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disabled people use straws because they are affordable, have tensile strength, and flexibility ● Plastic straw alternatives can <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be dangerous if made of metal, wood, or glass ○ Be uncomfortable or ineffective ○ Set off food allergies ○ Be costly ● Propose to offer plastic straws and plastics only to those who ask for them 	psmag.com
Why people with disabilities want ban on plastic straws to be more flexible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper or biodegradable straws can make people choke if they don't have jaw control (will bite through the straw and little bits will fall off) ● Silicone is not flexible ● Metal straws conduct heat/cold and are hard - can cause safety risks ● Many disabled people can't easily clean reusable straws ● "Disabled people have to find ways to navigate through the world because they know it was not made for us," says Lei Wiley-Mydske ● The key is to break the habit of people using plastic straws because most of the population has gotten used to using them 	www.npr.org
Disposable plastic straws suck. Try these disability-friendly alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Million of people with disabilities need straws because they are unable to drink due to muscle weakness, paralysis, swallowing problems, or involuntary movements ● The author has cerebral palsy which makes it difficult to lift and hold objects plus it impairs her coordination 	themighty.com A comment directed to a website which had a bendy biodegradable plastic straw

- Admits that some people cling to excuses and fears of reusable straws, refusing to switch
- Alternatives should be widely available, affordable, and suitable for those with disabilities
- Ratings of various straws
 - Reusable plastic straw 3 of 5 stars
 - Easy to use and clean (most dishwasher safe), some come at an angle, good quality can last years, non-BPA,
 - Silicone 5 of 5 stars
 - Easy to use and very flexible, ideal for people with sensory issues, soft and safe to bite, no toxic chemicals, safe for hot drinks, dishwasher safe
 - Metal 4 of 5 stars
 - Have a solid feel, difficult for limited hand coordination to put silicone tip on straw, can come with a bend, not flexible but the silicone tip makes for comfort, safety hazards for jaw or getting poked, most durable, dishwasher/boiling safe, metal conducts heat so only good for cold drinks
 - Paper 1 of 5 stars
 - Mostly straight, not flexible, not the most enjoyable to drink from, some have a paper taste, biodegradable, only last a few hours, disintegrate too fast and leave chunks as a choking hazard
 - Pasta 3 of 5 stars
 - Easy to use as long as you don't have a gluten/wheat allergy, straight shape, not great for people with disabilities because it can break under pressure and not bendy, slight pasta taste, sturdy and long lasting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Biodegradable plastic 3 of 5 stars<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Feels the same as regular plastic straw, doesn't bend, if you have corn allergies use caution, no flavor, sturdy like plastic straw, not microwave safe, not mean to be reused but can be, good replacement for non-reusables● Easy to clean if you have restricted mobility with the help of a straw cleaner● If a straw ban is implemented, the exception should be for people with disabilities: <u>make flexible plastic straws available only upon request - no questions asked</u>● <i>the comments on the article</i> give good insight and resources for alternatives that work for people with disabilities along with other concerns	
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This graphic created by Twitter user @sarahbrennep has circulated widely on the internet. It visually represents the problems with straw alternatives identified by people with disabilities.

MANY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED PLASTIC STRAWS TO DRINK, EAT, TAKE MEDICATIONS, ETC. HERE'S HOW CURRENT ALTERNATIVE, REUSABLE OPTIONS ARE A HARM TO US.

	CHOKING HAZARD	INJURY RISK	NOT POSITIONABLE	COSTLY FOR CONSUMER	NOT HIGH-TEMP SAFE
Metal		✓	✓	✓	
Bamboo		✓	✓	✓	
Glass		✓	✓	✓	✓
Silicone			✓	✓	
Acrylic		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paper	✓		✓		✓
Pasta	✓	✓	✓		✓
Single-use					

by @sarahbrennep

*Pressure to create bio-degradable straw options that are safe for the environment AND for all disabled people should fall upon manufacturer, NOT marginalized disabled consumers.

*Once we accept the necessity of plastic straws, we can work together on other environmental initiatives that are effective, inclusive and accessible.