

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 11/7/2022 3:33:43 PM
Subject: [Single-Use Cup Reporting and Shopping Bag Fee Increase](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The purpose of this memo is to inform Council of upcoming actions to support compliance with the City's single-use item regulations, which are important actions in Zero Waste 2040.
- The single-use cup and shopping bag regulations in sections 15.8 and 15.9 in [License By-Law No. 4450](#), enacted by Council on Jan. 21, 2020, require:
 - Food vendors to report the number of single-use cups distributed at each licence location when they renew their business licence, starting with the 2023 licence renewals, unless they have a reusable cup-share (or cup-borrowing) program.
 - Businesses to increase minimum fees for paper and reusable shopping bags from \$0.15 and \$1, respectively, to \$0.25 and \$2 on Jan. 1, 2023. The 2023 fees align with other B.C. municipalities (Surrey, Delta, Port Moody, Victoria, Saanich, Nanaimo, Salmon Arm, Esquimalt, Sooke, Sidney, Rossland, Tofino, and Ucluelet), Metro Vancouver's board-approved [Regionally Harmonized Approach to Municipal Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaws](#), and [current](#) and [future](#) provincial regulations.
- Staff have communicated these by-law requirements since launching education and outreach in Sep. 2021. Most recently, staff sent letters dated Oct. 31 to remind food vendors to prepare their cup data before they renew their business licences, and remind businesses to update their systems for the 2023 shopping bag fees. Additional communications and outreach activities will support businesses with compliance and prepare residents for the 2023 bag fees.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

November 4, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Andrea Law, General Manager, Development, Building and Licensing
Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services
Albert Shames, Director, Solid Waste Management and Green Operations
Sarah Hicks, Chief Licence Inspector

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Single-Use Cup Reporting and Shopping Bag Fee Increase

RTS #: N/A

The purpose of this memo is to inform Council of upcoming actions to support compliance with the City's single-use item regulations, which are important actions in Zero Waste 2040.

Summary

The single-use cup and shopping bag regulations in sections 15.8 and 15.9 in [License By-Law No. 4450](#), enacted by Council on Jan. 21, 2020, require:

- Food vendors to report the number of single-use cups distributed at each licence location when they renew their business licence, starting with the 2023 licence renewals, unless they have a reusable cup-share (or cup-borrowing) program.
- Businesses to increase minimum fees for paper and reusable shopping bags from \$0.15 and \$1, respectively, to \$0.25 and \$2 on Jan. 1, 2023. This fee schedule aligns with other B.C. municipalities, Metro Vancouver's guidance, and provincial regulations.

Staff have communicated these by-law requirements since launching education and outreach in Sep. 2021. Most recently, staff sent letters on Oct. 31 to remind food vendors to prepare their

cup data before they renew their business licences, and remind businesses to update their systems for the 2023 shopping bag fees. Additional communications and outreach activities will support businesses with compliance and prepare residents for the 2023 bag fees.

Cup reporting

Food vendors will be asked to answer two simple questions when they renew their licences:

- If they have a reusable cup-share program.
- The number of single-use cups distributed since Jan. 1, 2022 (when the by-law came into effect) at each licence location that does not have a reusable cup-share program for customers.

These questions will only take a few minutes if businesses have their cup data ready when they renew their business licence.

The reporting requirement allows staff to monitor effectiveness of the by-law over time, and the exemption for reusable cup-share programs encourages reuse. The data will be used to inform staff's report back to Council in 2023 on potential options for requiring businesses to provide reusable cups for drinks ordered to-stay, and to participate in a reusable cup-share program for to-go drinks, as directed by Council.

Shopping bag fee increase

Vancouver's 2023 fees (\$0.25 for paper and \$2 for reusable shopping bags) are consistent with other B.C. municipalities (Surrey, Delta, Port Moody, Victoria, Saanich, Nanaimo, Salmon Arm, Esquimalt, Sooke, Sidney, Rossland, Tofino, and Ucluelet), Metro Vancouver's board-approved [Regionally Harmonized Approach to Municipal Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaws](#), and [current](#) and [future](#) provincial regulations.

To minimize potential impacts to residents with low incomes and people experiencing homelessness:

- The by-law exempts charities and non-profits from charging fees on paper and reusable bags used to provide food for free or at low cost.
- The City collects donated reusable shopping bags at the Zero Waste Centre and redistributes them for free through community centres and non-profits to residents in need.

Jurisdictions that have banned plastic bags but not charged for alternative bags have seen an unintentional increase in non-plastic bags, which also have significant climate change and toxicity impacts. In these instances, plastic bag bans have resulted in consumers switching to other disposable or low-quality bags and have failed to prevent waste overall.¹

¹ Government of British Columbia (April 2022). Clean BC Intentions Paper: Preventing Single-Use and Plastic Waste in British Columbia.
https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/752/2022/04/CleanBC_Single-Use-Plastics_Intentions-Paper.pdf

Communications and outreach

The City has communicated these cup reporting and bag fee requirements to businesses since Sep. 2021 through our website, an educational toolkit, letters, webinar presentations, and outreach teams.

Communications and outreach to support compliance this fall and winter will include the reminder letters, a new cup reporting web page (vancouver.ca/cup-reporting), a new poster for businesses to communicate the increased bag fees to customers (available in six languages), outreach to associations and other “amplifier” organizations, and language support by the hua foundation to businesses that speak Chinese and Vietnamese. We will encourage residents to bring their own bag to avoid the fees and reduce waste beginning in November through social media, VanCollect, and newsletters.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

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