



**CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE**

City Commission Policy 170: Single-use Plastics

Effective June 2, 2021



Single-use plastics are no longer permitted for food and beverage service on City property or at City events.

Why are we making this change?

Single-use plastic is a growing sustainability issue. Plastic creates litter that ends up in our waters and landfills. The City is a sustainability leader and wants to model best practices for the community.



What should my business do? What about my event?

Single-use plastic food service products are not to be distributed on City property or at City events. There are many alternative options that are allowed:

- Reusable items made from ceramic, steel, etc. that can be washed and reused
- Disposable items made from biodegradable material such as paper, sugarcane, etc.

Special Circumstances

There are some exceptions to the single-use plastic policy:

- Plastic straws may be requested by an individual.
- Single-use plastics may be used during a declared state of emergency.
- Single-use plastic utensils or containers used in pre-packed food or beverages that have been filled and sealed before receipt by the vendor or permittee are allowed.
- Single-use plastics used to safely wrap and store raw meat, poultry, or fish are allowed when the product is not to be consumed on City property.

What is a single-use plastic?

Any food or beverage service-related product made from plastic that is designed to be used only once in the same form and then disposed of or destroyed.



Examples of single-use plastics



**Polystyrene
Containers**



**Plastic
Straws**



**Plastic
Utensils**



**Plastic
Cups**

Alternatives to single-use plastics

- Replace plastic wrap with aluminum foil
- Use reusable products
- Purchase bioplastic cups, bowls, plates, and utensils
- Paper straws and wood stirrers
- Plant-based to-go containers instead of polystyrene



**Metal
Straws**



**Paper
Cups**



**Paper
Clamshell**