

# Culver City

## Sustainability Sub-Committee

April 6, 2016



## City of Santa Monica

### Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban

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Office of Sustainability and the Environment



# City of Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan



## 9 Goal Areas

1. Resource Conservation
2. Transportation
3. Environmental & Public Health
4. Economic Development
5. Open Space & Land Use
6. Human Dignity
7. Housing
8. Arts & Culture
9. Community Education  
& Civic Participation



# **Purpose of Single-Use Bans: Cleaning Our Coastline & Cutting Waste Eliminate Non-Recyclable Single-Use Bags & Food Containers**

**Protect the Santa Monica Bay and  
Marine Environment from plastic  
pollution**

**Protect human health and improve  
quality of life**

**Residents and other taxpayers pay  
clean-up costs and landfill fees**



# Timeline: Single-use Carryout Bag Ban & Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban



**Jan 2007**  
Adopted

*13 months*  
*Outreach*

**Feb 2008**  
Enforcement Begins

Single-Use **Food Container** Ban



**Feb 2011**  
Adopted

*7 months*  
*Outreach*

**Sept. 2011**  
Enforcement Begins

Single-Use **Carry Out Bag** Ban





# Plastic Bags & Foam Polystyrene: non-recyclable, light weight & harmful to marine environment



Prior to plastic bag bans:  
19 billion bags used per year in California



# Are Plastic Bags Recycled? only 5% & plastic bags clog recycling machinery



**Plastic bags caught daily  
in Sunnyvale SMaRT trommel**



**Same trommel after  
nightly cleaning**

Pictures courtesy of Mark Bowers,  
Solid Waste Programs Division Manager, City of Sunnyvale



# What defines a: “Non-Recyclable Plastic Food Service Container”?

**Polystyrene** food containers (both foam and clear) are derived from petroleum and are non-recyclable and non-compostable; meaning they stay in the environment for hundreds to thousands of years.

**Foam polystyrene** is lightweight nature allows it to float in water & blow in wind. It does not break down, only breaks apart into ever smaller pieces, but is still plastic

**Take Out** Has Never Tasted So Good



 plastic take out food containers, whether foam or clear, are banned in all Santa Monica food establishments. Have you seen any lately?

Let us know at [sustainable.sm.org/container](https://sustainable.sm.org/container)  
or call 310.458.4925



# Banned Polystyrene

## #6 plastic food containers (foam & clear)



Utensils, straws, and cup lids are exempt



# Compliant Plastic Food Containers



## Banned Food Containers:

Non-Recyclable Plastic Food Service Containers

Polystyrene

Foam Polystyrene

**Exempt: Cutlery, Straws and Lids**



# Food Vendors Impacted

## Santa Monica Food Providers

Restaurants, Caterers, Grocers, Food Trucks

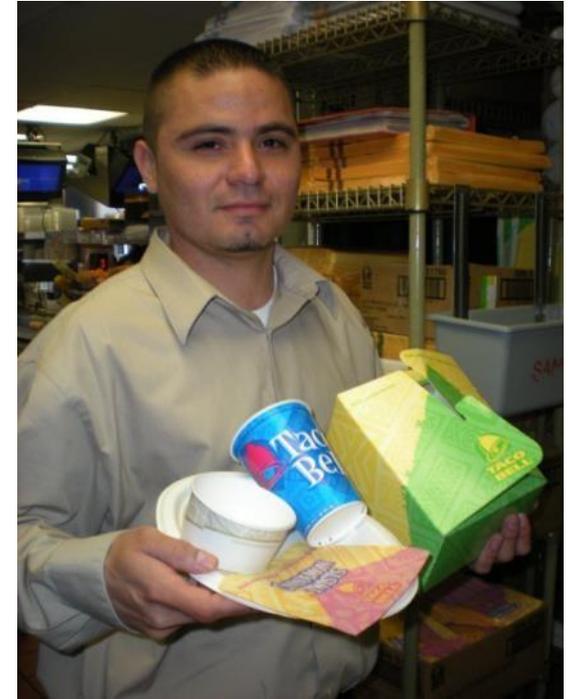


## City Funded Food Purchases

City-sponsored events, City-managed concessions, City-permitted events



# Provide support & resources to Food Vendors: Economically Viable Choices



# Compliant: Compostable Food Containers paper & plant fiber



Compostable in back yard composting and City of Santa Monica food collection



# Compliant: Compostable Food Containers paper & plant fiber



Compostable in back yard composting and City of Santa Monica food collection



# Compliant:

## Recyclable Food Containers

### #1-5 plastic, #7 plastic & aluminum



# Compostable? #7 Bio-Plastics



Not compostable in back yard composting and City of Santa Monica food collection programs. Bio-plastic food containers and bags are landfilled.



# Provide support & resources to Food Vendors: Where to purchase Sustainable Food Containers

## Distributors List Compostable/Recyclable Food Service Products Santa Monica Office of Sustainability & the Environment



City of Santa Monica  
Office of Sustainability & the Environment  
200 Santa Monica Pier  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Phone: 310.458.4925  
Email: [sustainability@sm.gov.net](mailto:sustainability@sm.gov.net)  
Website: [www.sustainable.sm.org/container](http://www.sustainable.sm.org/container)



**Food Containers Distributors List:** [sustainablem.org/container](http://sustainablem.org/container)

In 2007: 16 distributors/manufactures

In 2009: 76 distributors/manufactures

**In 2016: over 100 distributors/manufactures**



# Results

Over **650** Santa Monica Restaurants and Food Vendors

Over **100** food trucks and event planners stopped using polystyrene

The Santa Monica-Malibu school district, private schools and the Santa Monica College voluntarily stopped using polystyrene

**Less than 5%** of the food vendors have received a warning or citations

## Say No To Packaging!

At Coastal Clean-up Day, 10,000 volunteers came to the beaches and picked-up 75,000 pounds of trash, most of which was identified as Styrofoam™ and plastic food packaging.

*(Heal the Bay)*



For more information on sustainable food visit:

[sustainablesm.org](http://sustainablesm.org)



# New and Future Products



**Paper Spoon**



**Bottle Box**



**Algae Plastic**



**Bamboo**



**Switchgrass Fiber**



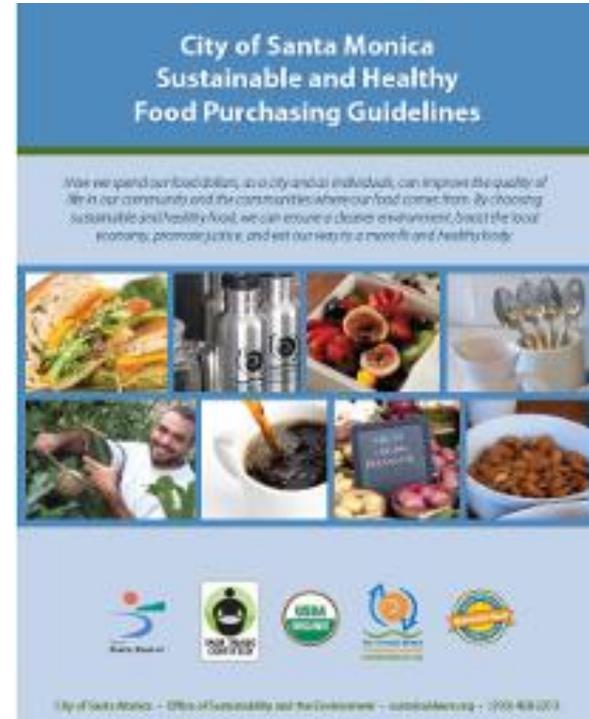
**Edible Food Containers**

**Others:** banana leaves, Tapioca, bull rush cattails



# Driving to Zero Waste

- Work with restaurants & stores to reduce waste
- Develop a bring your own container campaign
- Promote bulk shopping



# Sustainable Food Guidelines



# Green Vets LA: Locally Produced Sustainable Reusable Bags

Over 50,000 reusable bags purchased by the City of Santa Monica were produced by Green Vets LA.

“The manufacturing process is done in Los Angeles which helps our local economy.

Short shipping distances reduces the need for fossil fuels and production is done in environmentally regulated facilities.

The program uses discarded fabrics from military sources and the local garment based industries, which eliminates the need to process fully recycled materials.”  
- [greenvetsla.com](http://greenvetsla.com)



# Outreach: Reusable Bag Giveaways

Since 2009 the City purchased **over 50,000** locally made reusable bags from **Green Vets LA** and distributes them at over **100** community events and festivals, homeless shelters, senior centers, schools, retail establishments, places of worship and low income communities.

**Rosie's Girls Santa Monica** provided bag decoration workshops. Rosie's Girls is based on a national program designed to build self-esteem, leadership and physical confidence in middle school girls through an exploration of trades and non-traditional activities.



# Provide support & resources to Food Vendors: Collaboration & Outreach

**140** presentations

local retail staff /headquarters, community groups, business districts & California Grocers Association, manufacturers/distributors of single-use and reusable bags, schools & universities, webinars & conferences, international, national & local municipalities

**28** media & radio interviews

**18** interns

from SM High School, SM College, Crossroads, Loyola Marymount, UCLA, UC Berkeley, RAND, USC, USF & Smith College



# Purpose of Bans: Cleaning Our Coastline & Cutting Waste

The intent of the  
**Single-use Carryout Bag Ban & the  
Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban**  
is to significantly **reduce the environmental impacts**  
related to these throw-away products.





## City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability & the Environment

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**Single-use Carryout Bag Ban**

[sustainablem.org/bag](http://sustainablem.org/bag)

**Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban**

[sustainablem.org/container](http://sustainablem.org/container)

**Sustainable Food Campaign**

[sustainablem.org/food](http://sustainablem.org/food)

**City of Santa Monica  
Sustainable and Healthy  
Food Purchasing Guidelines**

How we spend our food dollars, as a city and as individuals, can improve the quality of life in our community and the communities where our food comes from. By choosing sustainable and healthy food, we can ensure a cleaner environment, boost the local economy, promote justice, and eat our way to a more fit and healthy body.

The poster includes a grid of eight images: a plate of vegetables, a water bottle, a bowl of fruit, a cup of coffee, a person holding a bowl, a bowl of soup, a bowl of fruit, and a bowl of nuts.

Logos at the bottom include: Santa Monica, 100% COMPOST, USDA, and others.

City of Santa Monica - Office of Sustainability and the Environment - sustainablem.org - 310.458.4925

