



Foam-Free LB

Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Ordinance in Long Beach

March 28, 2017

Introduction

- 12/20/16 Council Item 14, second substitute motion:
 - (1) Environmental Committee conduct public outreach with community stakeholders prior to drafting an ordinance;
 - (2) City staff draft an ordinance related to **banning expanded polystyrene and other polystyrene disposable food service containers**;
 - (3) City Staff develop a public education campaign related to the ban:
 - timeline for implementation;
 - list of vendors who sell non-polystyrene products;
 - website with information regarding the ban and information about polystyrene;
 - hotline for questions and concerns;
 - (4) Economic Development Commission develop financial incentives for local businesses who implement the ban of these products before implementation date



What is Expanded Polystyrene?

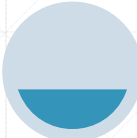


- **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam:** a petroleum-based plastic polymer made from styrene. EPS foam is usually white and made of pre-expanded polystyrene beads. Used for packaging and insulation purposes. EPS is lightweight, consisting of ~95% air.
- **Styrofoam:** a trademarked brand of EPS that is owned by Dow Chemical. The term is often used generically (e.g., Kleenex, Band-Aid).



- **Rigid Polystyrene:** A non-expanded form of polystyrene plastic that is thin and rigid, used in a similar manner as other rigid food-grade plastics. May be clear or colored.

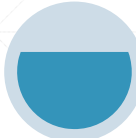
Single-Use Items To Consider in Ordinance



EPS food service containers



Reduces EPS litter: lightweight, easily carried by wind and water to pollute beaches & habitats



All PS food service containers

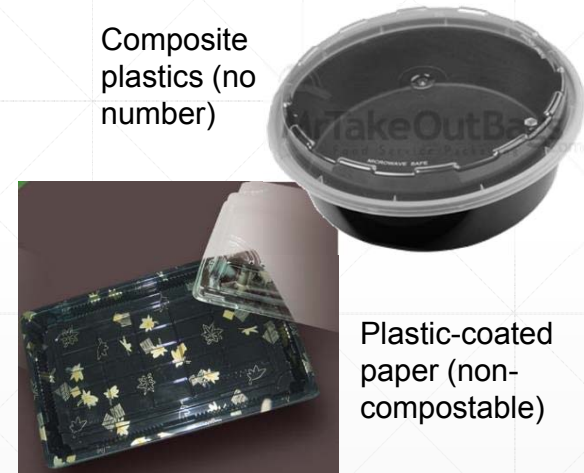


Reduces contact with styrene, a “reasonably anticipated human carcinogen” (NIH)



Non-recyclable food service containers

Composite plastics (no number)



Plastic-coated paper (non-compostable)

Reduces waste that is non-recyclable, non-compostable and/or has limited recycling marketability

Least Extensive

More Extensive

Environmentally Acceptable Alternatives



Reusable
(in-house)



Reusable (for
public)



Recyclable
(plastic & metal)



Compostable
(bioplastics)



Compostable



Compostable



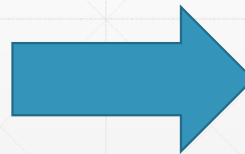
Compostable



Compostable

Business Impacts

- Environmentally acceptable containers may have slightly higher cost initially, but other cities report price decreases as demand for these products increases
 - Ordinances with “undue hardship” exemption clauses – Cities report receiving no or very few requests from affected businesses
 - Cooperative purchasing among businesses increases buying power, lowers cost
- Opportunity to evaluate waste generation – switch to reusable food service items, add recycling for customers (should be in place per State Law AB 341 & 1826)
 - Potential to reduce trash collection costs



Phased-In Approach



Phase 1: 7/1/17

City Government

- City departments
- City-owned and leased facilities
- Renters or lessees of City properties
- City contractors & vendors while doing business with the City
- City-sponsored events
- City-permitted events



Phase 2: 1/1/18

Prepared Food Sales

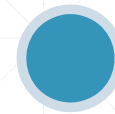
- “Food establishment” that sells food of beverage for immediate consumption or to-go.
- Restaurants, food stands, grocery stores (prepared food section only), delis, food trucks, coffee shops, etc.



Phase 3: 7/1/18

Prepared Food Sales expansion

- Other food providers: caterers, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, food shelves, etc.



Phase 4: 1/1/19

Retail sale

- Retail stores (big box stores, convenience stores, etc.) that sell single-use food service containers (clamshells, beverage containers, plates, bowls, etc).

Least Extensive

More Extensive

Education and Assistance

- Web and print materials explaining new ordinance and compliance info
 - Include FAQs, guide listing acceptable items, vendor list
 - Promote opportunities for economic incentives
 - Multi-lingual
- Outreach
 - In-person outreach to impacted businesses
 - Foam-Free LB “Open House” meetings
 - Opportunity for businesses to learn more, ask questions, see examples of environmentally acceptable products
- Hotline for questions and concerns



Compliance

- **Education and Assistance**
 - Primary tools for implementation – work with businesses
 - Promote reusable options to the public
- **Enforcement provisions integrated into current City operations**
 - ESB hotline/web form for public to report violations
 - Education and compliance integrated into food facility inspection program
 - Non-compliance penalty framework

Summary of Recommendations

- For ordinance to include single-use food service containers made of EPS, rigid PS (#6) and non-recyclable/compostable materials.
- A “phased in” approach, starting with City facilities (7/1/17) and phasing in food establishments (1/1/18) and retailers (1/1/19).
- Robust education & assistance programs and enforcement provisions to ensure successful and effective implementation.

This ordinance will reduce litter on our streets and beaches, prevent pollution in our ocean and natural habitats, protect public health, and promote the use of reusable items over single-use items to reduce waste.



Thank you

Opportunity for public comment

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