



OurCounty

Los Angeles County
Single Use Plastic Food Service Ware
Ordinance

LA County Chief Sustainability Office
September 2023

Background



- OurCounty Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2019
 - Action 107 calls for an “equitable strategy to phase out single use plastics”
- Board of Supervisors adopted motion in October 2019 directing
 - Contract with UCLA Luskin School to prepare report on state of recycling markets;
 - Stakeholder engagement; and
 - Preparation of an ordinance to prohibit single-use plastics and other materials that cannot be or are not recycled.



Ordinance Development Process

- Stakeholder meetings held prior to ordinance development in December 2019
- UCLA released report in January 2020
- Ordinance development put on hold from April 2020 to fall of 2021
- Started restaurant surveys in January 2022
- Sent summary of draft ordinance to stakeholders for review and comment in January 2022
- Held two listening sessions in February 2022
- Various meetings and presentations with stakeholders throughout process
- Ordinance adopted by Board in April 2022



Ordinance Requirements

- Disposable food service ware provided with ready-to-eat foods, food trays, and egg cartons must be either “recyclable” or “compostable.”
- Retail sale or rental of expanded polystyrene (foam) products prohibited.
- Full-service restaurants must use reusable food service ware for dine-in customers
 - A “full-service restaurant” is defined as defined as food facilities where food may be consumed on the premises, customers are escorted or assigned to an eating area, food and beverage orders are delivered directly to customers (except for food in a buffet or salad bar), and servers bring items to customers if requested.



Implementation Timeline



- Food facilities that operate in a permanent structure and serve food to customers on-site, as well as retail establishments: **one year** after ordinance adoption (took effect in May 2023)
- Food trucks: **eighteen months** after ordinance adoption
- Temporary food facilities (e.g. community events, caterers, and farmers markets): **two years** after ordinance adoption

Ordinance Implementation



- Board adopted an implementation motion along with the ordinance directing:
 - Outreach and education campaign
 - Develop resource list for businesses of compliant products
 - Explore programs to support businesses through financial assistance
- Internal County working group to discuss implementation
- DPH assisting with outreach through mailing lists and health inspectors
- Public Works received grant from Ocean Protection Council for enhanced restaurant outreach
- Public Works launched ordinance website: <http://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/eps/>



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