

# Prohibition of the Sale and Distribution of Plastic Straws

*City of Oakland Park  
Public Works Department*



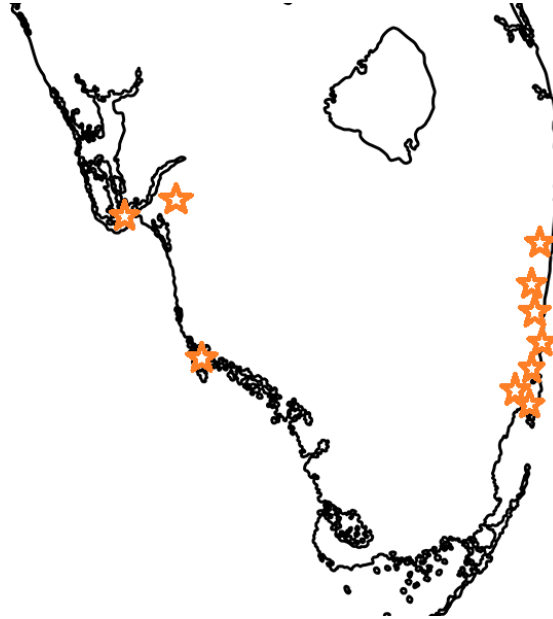
# What are Single Use Plastics

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items include:

Plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles, cutlery, and most food packaging.



## Current Legislation



City of Miami Beach, City of Dania Beach, City of Deerfield Beach, City of Sanibel, City of Hallandale Beach, City of Hollywood, City of Marco Island, Town of Surfside, the Town of Fort Myers, City of Coral Gables and recently the City of Fort Lauderdale have acted to ban single use plastics in some fashion.



# Our Neighbor Fort Lauderdale

In January 2019, the Fort Lauderdale Commission approved an amendment to City Code of Ordinances to prohibit the sale or distribution of plastic straws in or by any commercial establishment or at any City facility or City property or by any Special Event Permittee.

ORDINANCE NO. C-19-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 16, ENTITLED "MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND OFFENSES," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, BY CREATING ARTICLE VII, TO BE ENTITLED "PROHIBITION OF SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC STRAWS," TO PROHIBIT THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTIC STRAWS, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED, PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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# What is a Single Use Plastic Straw

Single-use plastic beverage straw means a tube, intended for only one-time use that is made predominantly of plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, but does not include straws that are made from non-plastic materials, such as paper, sugar cane, bamboo, or other similar materials.





# The Environmental Impact of Plastic Straws

- In 2017, Americans used about 390 million plastic straws each day.
- Even if placed in a recycling bin, the small size of the straw results in it not making it through the single stream separation equipment.
- Additionally the prevalence and disposable nature of single-use plastic straws causes these items to become an environmental blight for communities worldwide.



Source : [Freedonia Group](#)



# The Environmental Impact of Plastic Straws

- Biodegrading is when an item can be naturally broken down and digested by micro-organisms, and then naturally recycled into new organic molecules and life.
- Degrading is just the process of breaking down into smaller pieces.
- Plastic straws take up to 200 years to degrade, but will never be fully off the Earth, as plastics are not biodegradable.



# Fort Lauderdale – Our Biggest Neighbor

- Following adoption of the Ordinance, Fort Lauderdale will engage in public education efforts for a period of six months.
- Following the successful completion of the public education efforts no commercial establishment shall distribute plastic straws except upon a customer's specific request for a period of six months.
- The Ordinance would take full effect one (1) year after adoption, at which point the City Code Compliance Officer(s) shall enforce violations accordingly.



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE



# History and Recommendations

- The Commission approved the Climate Action Plan (CAP) during the January 23, 2019 City Commission meeting. This item is part the CAP Goal 6: Public Policy Advocacy, Strategy PP – 1: Climate-conscious government action.
- The City is committed to environmental protection and stewardship, and finds that it is in the best interest, safety and welfare of the citizens and businesses to reduce litter and pollutants on the lands and in the surrounding waterways of the City.
- To avoid confusion related to differing requirements across municipal boundaries staff recommends Commission consider implementing similar limitations to Fort Lauderdale.



