



Single Use Plastic in Santa Fe County



SUPP Working Group Impact Report Presentation
September 12, 2023



Resolution 2022-031

- ▶ Approved on May 10, 2022
- ▶ Directing the County Manager to establish a working group to analyze and make recommendations concerning an educational program and possible ordinance discouraging the use of single-use plastic and polystyrene products in the County
- ▶ Single Use Plastic and Polystyrene Working Group of five members formed August, 2022
- ▶ First meeting held in September, 2022
- ▶ Working group met monthly and twice a month, with a number of special meetings



Working Group Tasks & Research

FISCAL

- ▶ Fiscal impact to County government operations and to local businesses of an educational program and any proposed ban

POLICY

- ▶ Effective applicable laws in other states and New Mexico cities (Joe's binder - include Colorado's, EPR in Colorado - address at statewide level, California). DRAFT to Comm Hughes and Hansen
- ▶ County's existing ordinances

EDUCATION

- ▶ Potential for development of educational campaign in both English and Spanish to the community, County businesses and residents who would be affected by a single-use plastic and polystyrene product ban ordinance (Move to notes) \$60k based on discussion with City of Sfe and Abq - \$.09 fee could help cover cost of that some to enforcement some to sustainability



Working Group Tasks & Research

INCENTIVES

- ▶ Analysis of potential incentive program to incentivize businesses to sell reusable and paper bags, develop and use ecofriendly packaging. (Move to notes) eco-friendly and plant-based alternatives, recommendation is simplest products -- alum., paper, glass -- for cost reasons, constantly changing offerings, and likelihood this stuff will end up in trash anyway, except for recyclables above.

ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ Considerations: Current systems and which department should enforce any enacted ban and recommend enforcement mechanisms including fines and penalties - (Move to notes) (Enforcements in the Cty that already work with business in code enforcement - living wage ordinance, STR, lein and clean abatement, need more staff in codes - .25 FTE needed in CODES, combined with other business related codes enforcement)

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- ▶ Identification of eoc-friendly and plant based alternatives to SSP and polystyrene - Kim's work at system level, individual level reusable (BYOB),

(Move to notes) Analysis 1. Educational program as first and only activity (Gary researched - doesn't work, San Jose, CA tried and didn't work)



Outreach

- ▶ Survey emailed to 48 potentially affected retail operations within Santa Fe County to gauge their perspective.
- ▶ Received 5 responses to the survey, all noting it would affect their businesses positively or not affect their business at all.
- ▶ Created a QR code survey for residents as part of the County's earth day activities
- ▶ QR code survey distributed in the monthly Sustainability Newsletter that goes out to 4,400 residents.
- ▶ Received 6 responses, all in favor of banning single use plastics in the County.


SANTA FE COUNTY

**HOW CAN SANTA FE COUNTY
BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC?**

SCAN ME



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
SCAN THE CODE TO TAKE A
QUICK 2 MINUTE SURVEY**

Want to learn more?
Attend one of the Single-Use Plastics &
Polystyrene Working Group Meetings

www.santafecounty.nm.gov/committees/suppwg

Single Use Plastic Impacts

- ▶ Half of all the plastics ever created were produced in the past 15 years
- ▶ Green House Gas emissions linked to plastic will reach 1.3 billion tons by 2030
= 300 coal-fired power plants
- ▶ Each year in Santa Fe County (not including the City of Santa Fe) an estimated amount of the following is used:
 - 20 million single use plastic bags
 - 12,750 expanded polystyrene foam take out food containers
 - 36,500 plastic drinking straws
- Single-Use Plastic bags cost Santa Fe County (not including City of Santa Fe) approximately \$400,000 per year in recycling contamination/residual
- Food debris covered take out food containers cost Santa Fe County approximately \$67,000 per year in contamination/residual



Are Single Use Plastic Bans Effective?

- ▶ Two years after Connecticut's 2019 ban on single-use plastic bags passed, 80% of residents bought their own reusable bags
- ▶ Town Recycling reports no problem with contamination of plastic bags in City of Santa Fe compared to their operations in Albuquerque
- ▶ Keep Santa Fe Beautiful Litter Assessment
- ▶ Enforcement measures manageable for City of Santa Fe



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: We don't have an ocean -Why ban plastic bags?

Q: Why not reuse instead--I reuse the bags often, sometimes over and over.

Q: Why not recycle all plastic? (move to notes) China Ban, false solution can't recycle plastic crisis, <10% recycled, too many formulas, plastics are the plan B for oil and gas industry, remember waste management hierarchy reduce TRUMPS, reuse and recycle - source reduction, pollution prevention, CHANGING BEHAVIOR According to USEPA municipal waste facts and figures and the NMED:Solid Waste Bureau's annual reporting requirements, approximately 244,000 tons of plastic are generated in NM each year (USEPA), of which 8,000 tons are recycled (NMED:SWB), which equals a 3.3% recycling rate for plastics in NM.

(Move to notes) Resolution 2007-13, Lead by Example in Sustainability Resolution with the County

Q: What about Extended Producer Responsibility or Product Stewardship like Colorado just passed? Statewide level, governor's office reached about this and talked with Heidi Sanborn of NCAS who passed the first ever packaging EPR in Colorado currently in rulemaking and she is the keynote speaker at our Sept conference



Proposed Recommendations

Standalone Ordinance Highlights

- 1) Ban on single-use plastic bags at the point of sale from retail establishments, including restaurants. Recycled-content paper bags available for a \$.10 fee at the point of sale**
- 2) The \$.10 fee is divided \$.09 to county and \$.01 stays with retailer so it is the same as City of Santa Fe (Anyone receiving food assistance is exempt from paying this fee at Point of Sale)**
- 3) Utensils such as take out packets of condiments, plastic forks, straws, etc only available upon request (Retail establishments are exempt from this requirement when providing drinks to persons with disabilities who need straws.)**
- 4) Ban on expanded polystyrene (EPS) food containers for take out or in-person dining.**
- 5) Ban on intentional helium balloon releases**
- 6) Enforcement/Education - First warning letter, fines, managed by County's code office, Sustainability department will do related education and outreach**



Next Steps (Sustainability)

- ▶ Legal review of draft ordinance and staff recommendations
- ▶ BCC vote
- ▶ If approved for ordinance; title and publish effective date January 1, 2024
- ▶ Immediately upon approval, roll out educational programming (ideally two months prior to effective date)
- ▶ Department coordination and collaboration for enforcement
- ▶ One year follow up report



Thank You for Working to Reduce Plastic in our Community!

Single Use Plastic and Polystyrene Working Group
Sustainability Division, Community Development Department

