



# 2025 ATM Article 35

## “Skip the Stuff”

April 14, 2025

# 2025 ATM Article 35

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town bylaws 34 Board of Health to establish customer opt-in requirement for single-use service ware and single-serving packaged condiments.

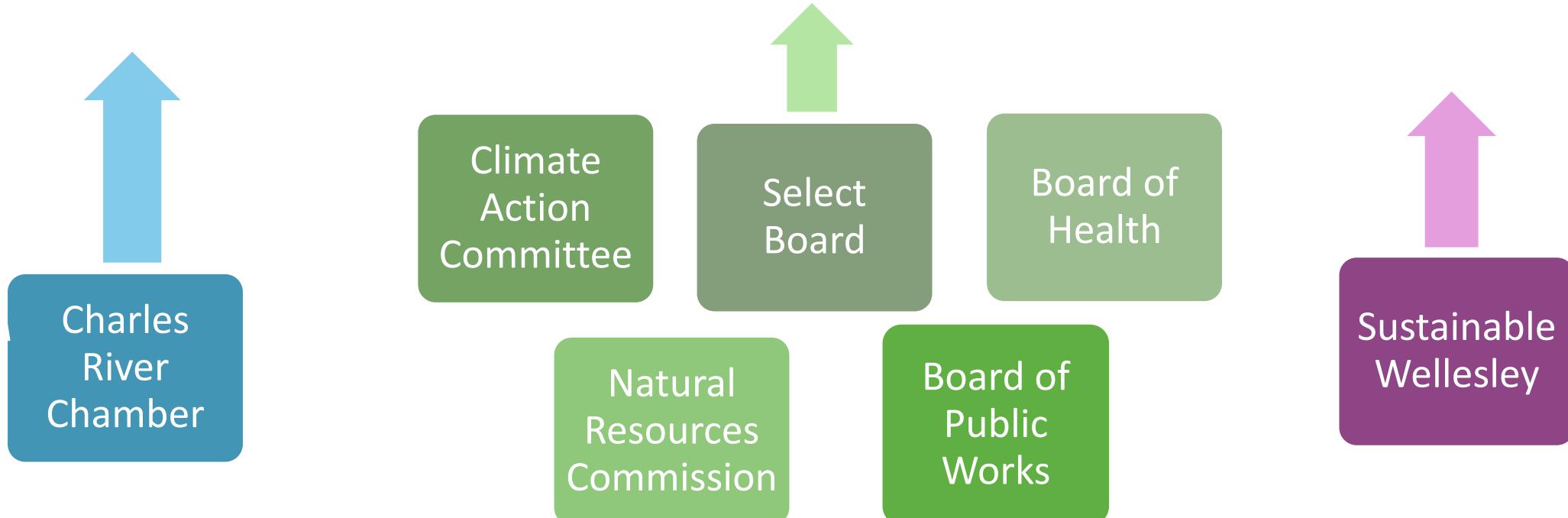
**Provides:** consistency

**Reduces:**

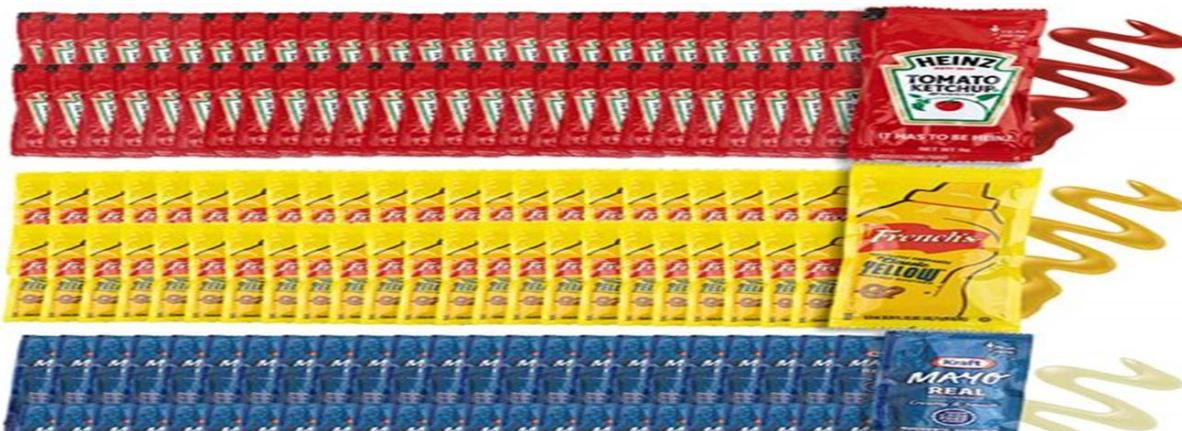
- Cost
- Time
- Waste
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Other adverse environmental impacts

# Skip the Stuff

## Support



# Single-Use Articles Available on Request



- On request for orders via:
  - Dine-in
  - Telephone
  - Online

OR

- At self-service stations
- On dining tables

# Unbundled Single-Use Articles



# Single-Use Articles

- Utensils,
- Condiments
- Tongs
- Napkins
- Straws
- Stirrers
- Splash sticks
- Cocktail sticks
- Toothpicks
- Cup sleeves
- Cup trays
- Food trays



58,000,000 Americans order take-out each week

- 561,000,000,000 single-use articles per year
- 36,000,000,000 single-use utensils per year
- 142,000,000,000 straws per year



# Compliance

**Effective date: January 1, 2026**

The Board of Health and its Health Agent will administer and enforce

The Health Agent may issue citations.

1. First through third violation: Written warning
2. Fourth violation: \$50
3. Fifth and each subsequent violation: \$100



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Wellesley Health Department**

# Health Department Resources & Public Education

“Implementation and enforcement of Article 35, if adopted, would require only **minimal use of Health Department resources**. The Board of Health will use routine food service **inspections** and the annual food service establishment **licensing** process, as an opportunity to educate and guide food service establishments.”

– Lenny Izzo, Director of Community and Public Health

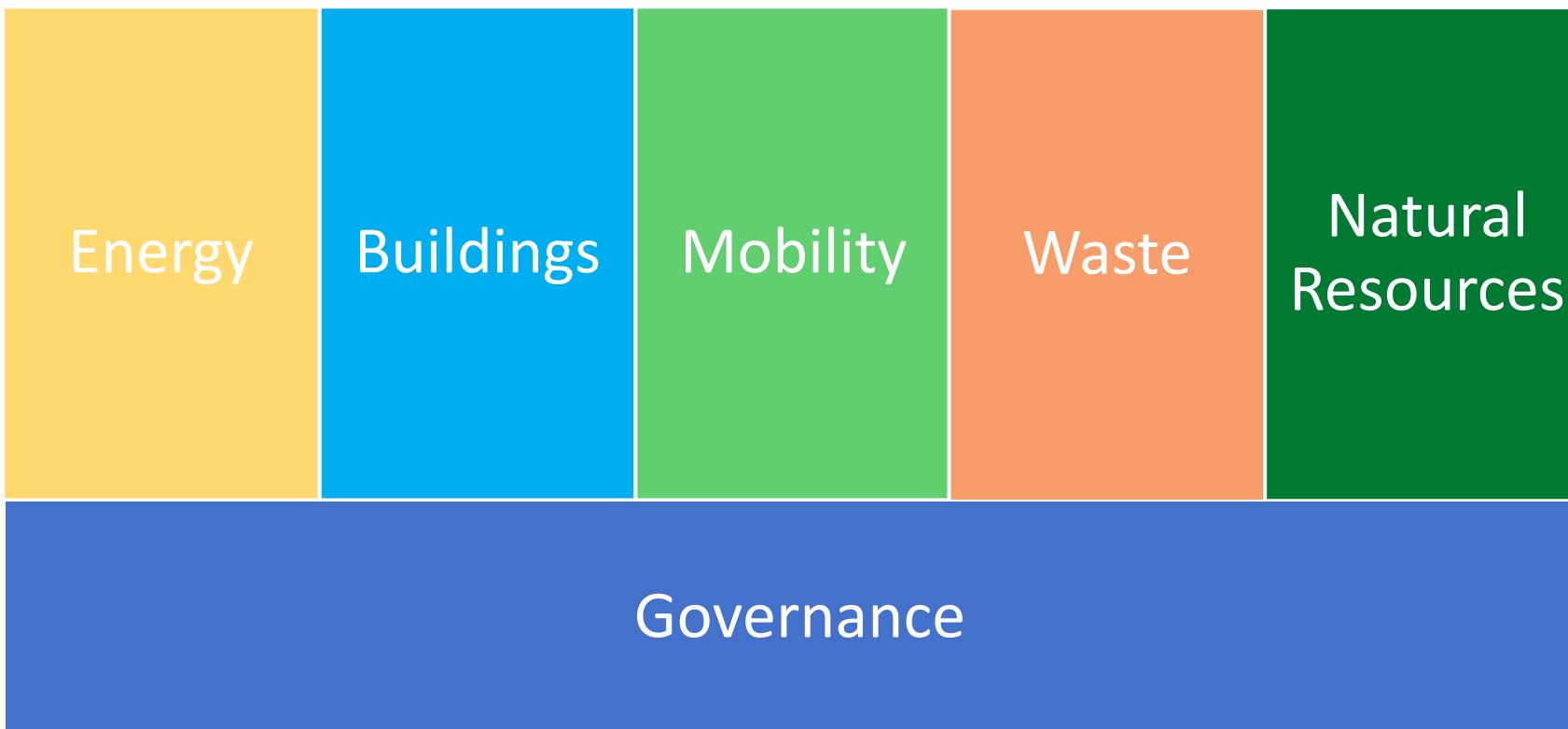
**PLUS +**

Public Education Campaign - Health, CAC, and Sustainable Wellesley

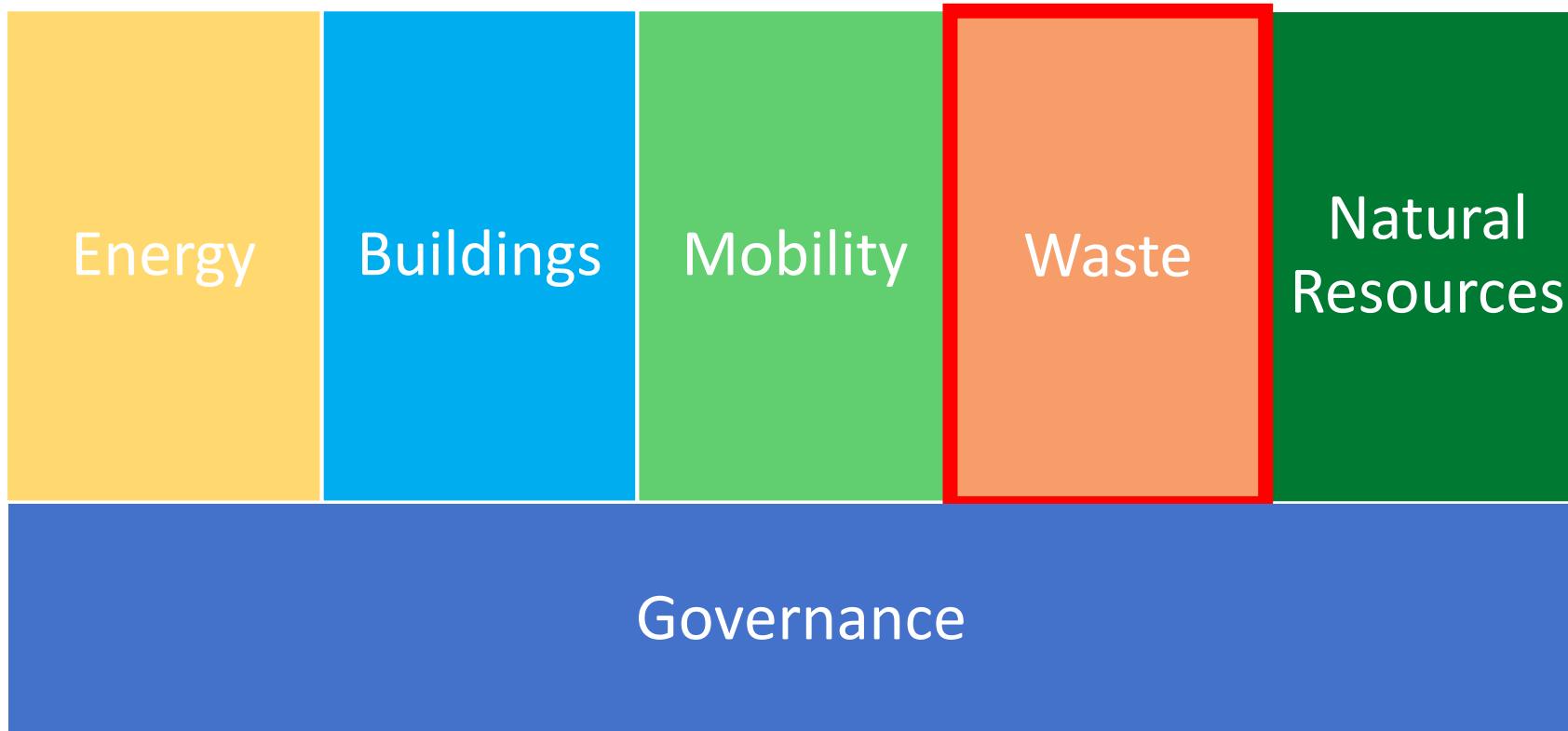


**Wellesley Health Department**

# Climate Action Plan Pathways



# Climate Action Plan Pathways



# Climate Action Plan

## Waste Pathway

### Goal 1:

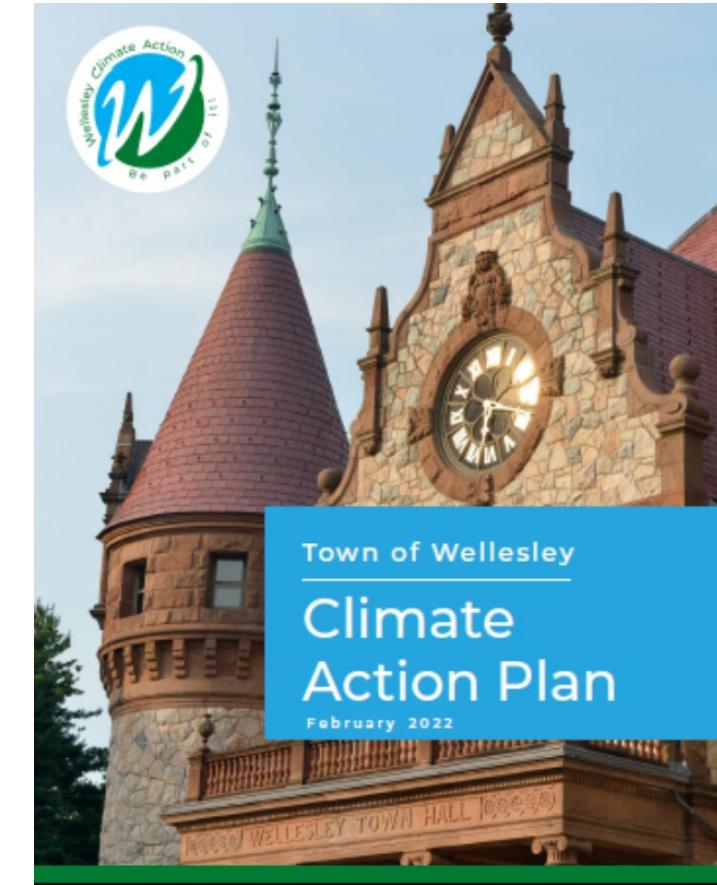
Implement programs to move the community to zero waste

### Strategy W3:

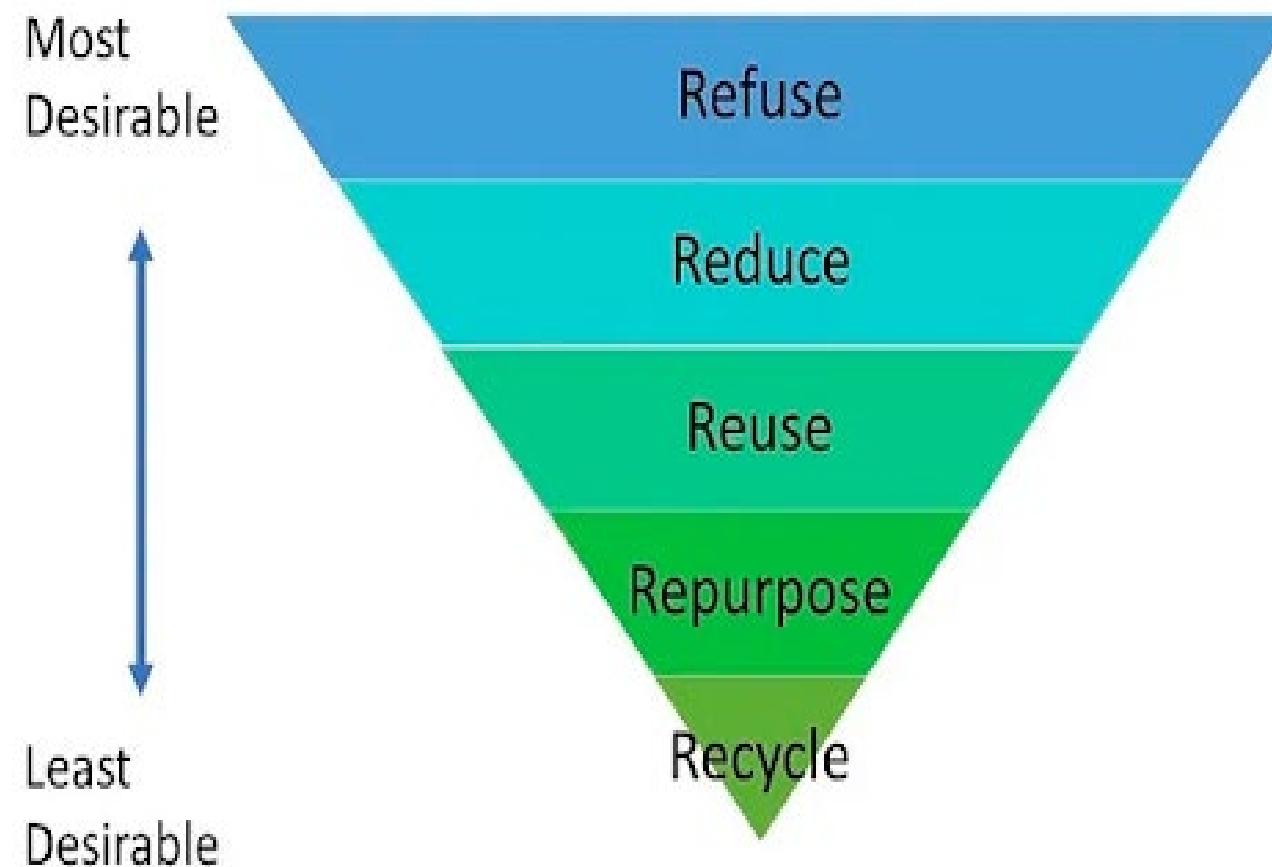
Develop a culture that minimizes single-use products and packaging

### Action W3a:

Explore and implement programs and/or regulations to minimize use of disposable, single-use products throughout the town



# 5Rs of Sustainability



# Thank you!

## Questions

# EXTRA SLIDES



# EMPLOYEE INFORMATION SHEET

## REMEMBER

Only provide single-use service ware and single-use condiments upon request.



## ASK

What single-use service ware and single-use condiments they need and how much.



## THANK YOU

For meeting the requirements of the Skip the Stuff Program!



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What items are considered single-use condiments?

Single-use condiment means a single-serving packet, such as:

- Sauces (ketchup, relish, mayo, mustard, soy sauce, salad dressing, hot sauce)
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, parmesan cheese, red pepper flakes)
- Spreads (cream cheese, jelly, butter)

### What items are considered single-use service ware?

Single-use service ware are all items that are designed to be used once and then discarded. This includes:

- chopsticks
- condiment cups and packets
- napkins
- utensils
- straws
- splash guards

### Are self-serve stations permitted?

Yes. You may provide an area for customers to help themselves to single-use items. Please encourage them to take only what they need.

### Can I offer customers single-use items?

Yes, but please be specific and do not offer all items at once. For example, "Do you need a fork or ketchup packet with your meal?"



GreenNewton



#SkipTheStuff

WELLESLEY  
MASSACHUSETTS



City of Newton  
Health and Human Services



# Gaining in Popularity

Similar legislation:

- **Newton, Majority of towns on the Cape, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard**
- **New York City, Washington D.C., Chicago, Denver, and Honolulu**
- **California and Washington State**

Proceeding with legislation:

- **New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut**

Working on legislation:

- **Massachusetts**

NYC, it's time to...  
**skip the Stuff!**



NYC restaurants can **no longer provide single-use items** for takeout & delivery – except on request

 **Upstream**

Hoboken, it's time to...



The City of Hoboken's new "Skip the Stuff" ordinance requires restaurants and food service establishments to discontinue providing single-use food service items – both plastic and non-plastic – unless specifically requested by the customer.

For more information, scan QR code or go to [www.hobokennj.gov/zerowaste](http://www.hobokennj.gov/zerowaste)

# Charles River Chamber Support

This is a simple yet impactful initiative. By providing utensils, condiments, and other single-use items only upon request, we can significantly reduce waste while helping businesses lower costs. It's a practical, common-sense measure that benefits both businesses and the community. Many of our members have noted that such a policy is easy to implement, reduces unnecessary expenses, and aligns with broader sustainability goals.

Additionally, this ordinance would provide businesses with a clear reason they can point to when customers inquire about the absence of utensils in their takeout orders. Having a town-backed policy allows businesses to reinforce sustainable practices while ensuring consistency in customer interactions.

Max Woolf  
Public Policy and Government Relations Manager  
Charles River Chamber

## Plastic Bans

### Around the World

#### North America

10 States and more than 200 cities, counties and municipalities of the USA have passed bans on single-use plastic bags.

Mexico City has banned numerous single-use items, including bags, food containers, cutlery, straws, cups, lids, tampon applicators, balloons, and balloon sticks.

#### South America

27 of 33 Countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC) have passed laws to restrict and reduce single-use plastics.

Since phasing out plastic bags, straws, takeaway containers and bottles in 2018, Ecuador is turning the Galapagos Islands in to a plastic-free archipelago.

#### Europe

The European Union banned a range of SUP products in 2021 for all 27 member countries, and the directive has similar mandates in non-EU countries such as the UK, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania.

Germany and the Netherlands both have deposit return schemes for plastic bottles, to promote recycling and reduce littering.

#### Asia

India banned 19 SUP products in 2022, with similar bans rolling out across Indonesia and Thailand.

China has begun phasing out SUP products and is implementing bans by industry, with restaurants to reduce SUP use by 30% by 2025, and hotels to stop offering plastic amenities.

#### Oceania

Along with the usual SUP products of straws, stirrers and cutlery, the Australian state of Queensland has banned outdoor balloon releases, and polystyrene loose packaging, including 'packing peanuts'.

In 2023, Aotearoa New Zealand became the first country to ban single-use plastic bags for fresh produce in supermarkets, expanding its existing bag ban that came into effect in 2019.

#### Africa

Out of 54 countries, 34 have passed laws banning plastics.

Kenya has some of the strictest SUP bans in the world, with heavy fines for non-compliance.

What's plastic got to do with climate change? A lot!

**The U.S. plastics industry is responsible for at least 232 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e gas emissions per year.**

**If plastic were a country, it would be the world's fifth largest greenhouse gas emitter.**

# RANKED: WORLD'S BIGGEST CLIMATE POLLUTERS

in annual greenhouse  
gas emissions

Source: Nat. Clim. Chang. 9, 374-378 (2019)

#1: CHINA



#2: USA



#3: INDIA



#4: RUSSIA



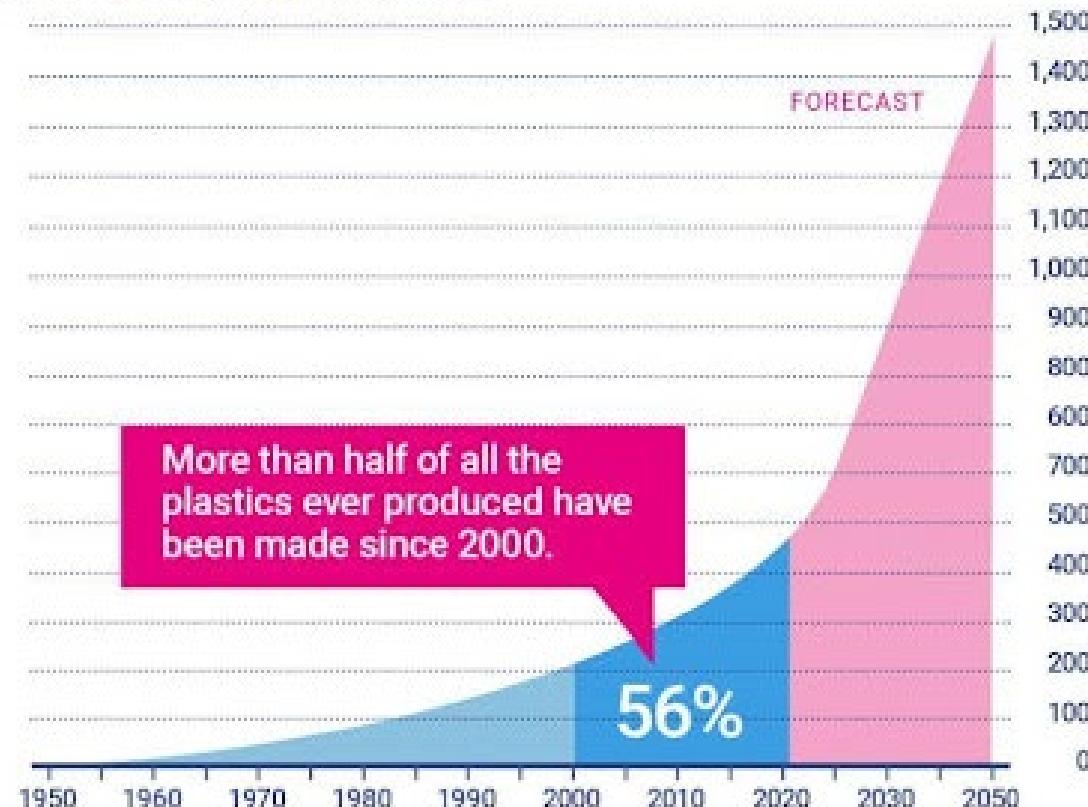
#5: PLASTIC





## PRODUCTION OF PLASTIC

Global annual plastic production in million tonnes.



More than half of all the plastics ever produced have been made since 2000.

56%

SOURCE: PLASTIC ATLAS, ASIA EDITION, 2021 | © PLASTIC SOUP FOUNDATION

**70%**

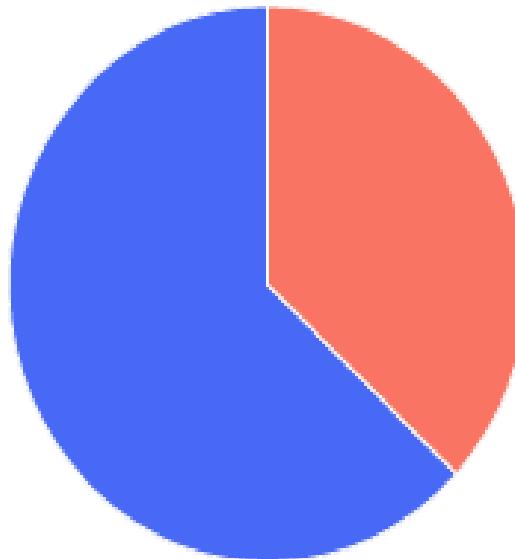
of consumers ordered food delivery in the past month.



## How do you eat delivery or takeout food at home?

**63%**

Takeout container  
and utensils



**37%**

My own dishes  
and utensils

## 2) Providing of Single-Use Articles

Food service establishments shall not include a single-use article with prepared food when the customer does not request the article

