A large pile of trash, including plastic bottles, food waste, and other debris, stretches across the landscape under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene.

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.

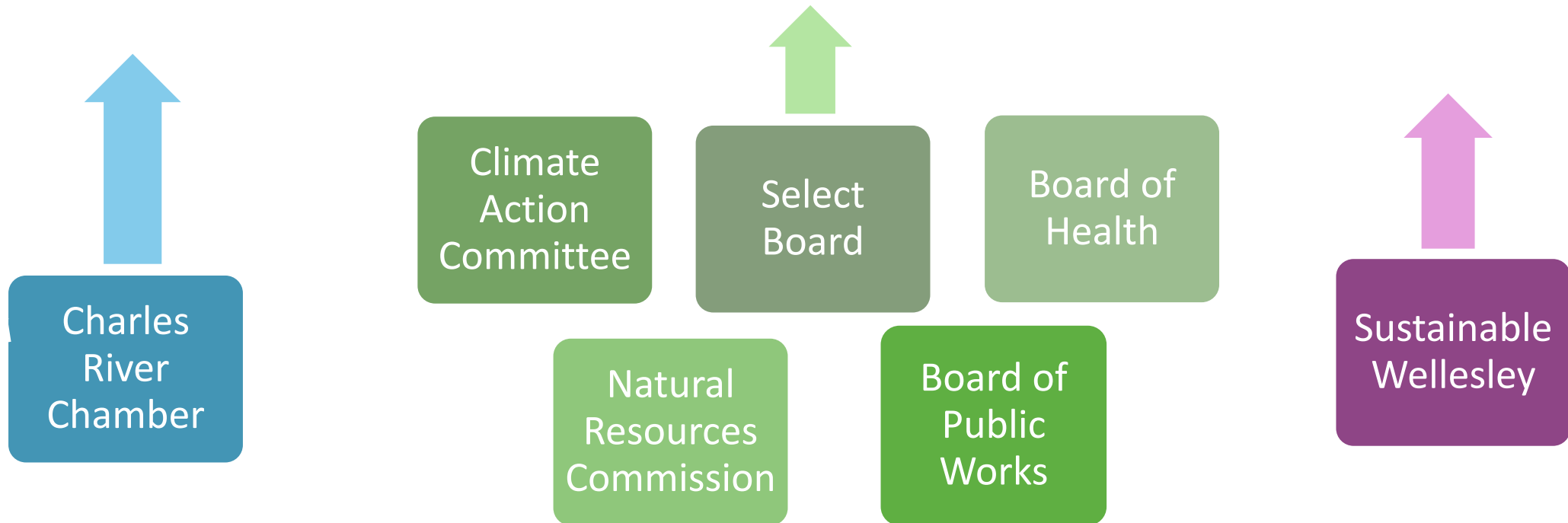
Provides: consistency

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 +

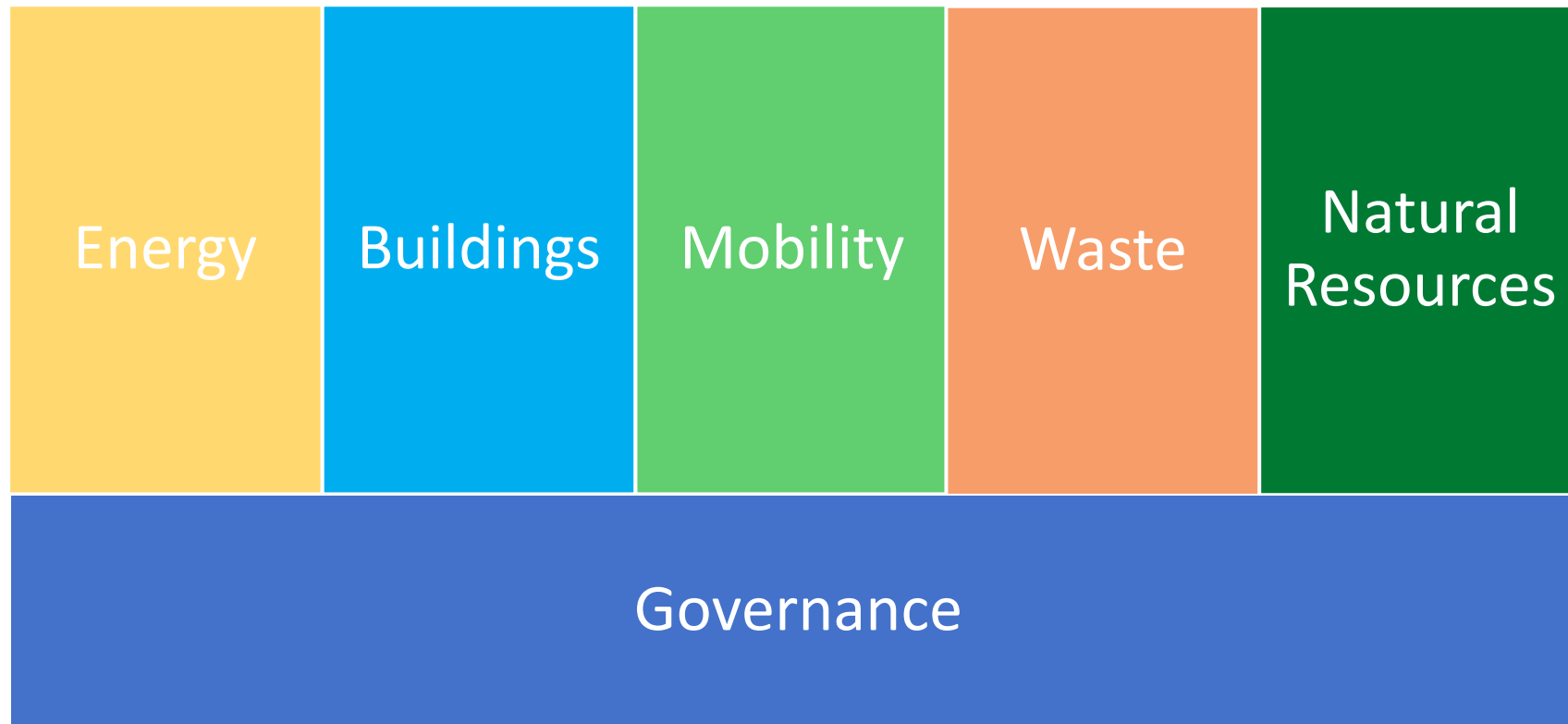
Public Education Campaign - Health, CAC, and Sustainable Wellesley



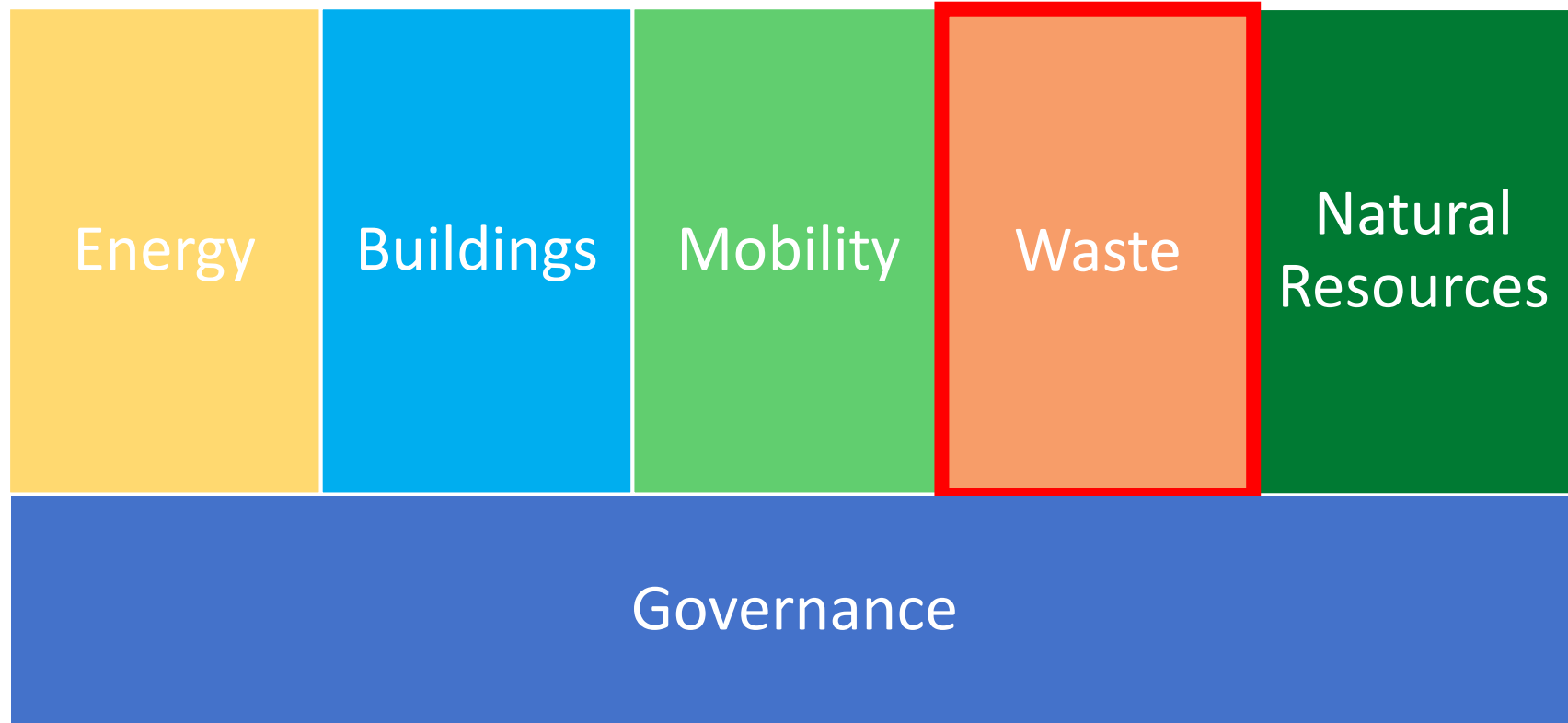
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Wellesley Health Department

Climate Action Plan Pathways



Climate Action Plan Pathways



Climate Action Plan

Waste Pathway

Goal 1:

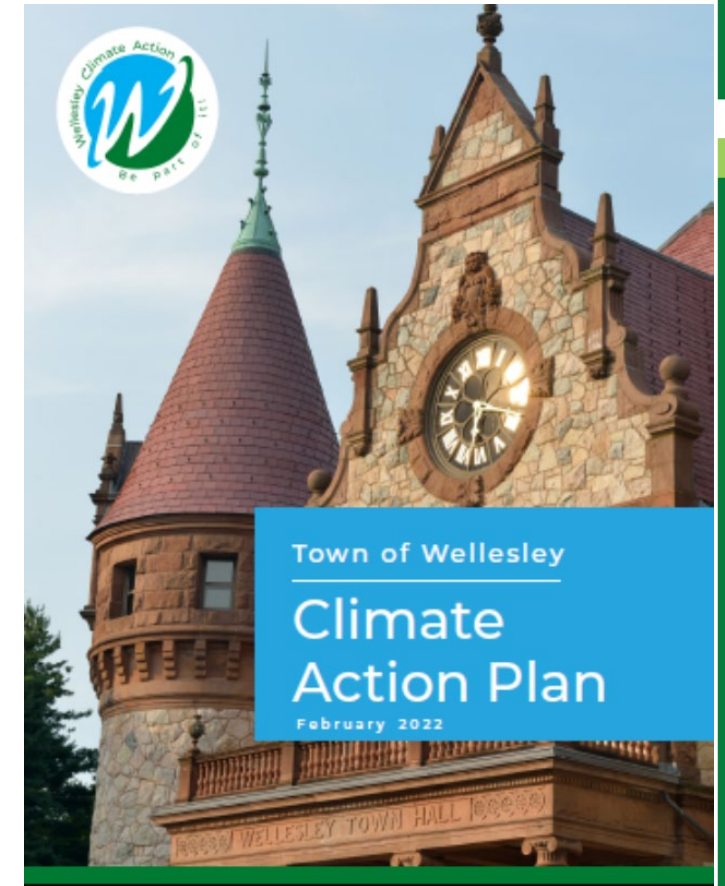
Implement programs to move the community to zero waste

Strategy W3:

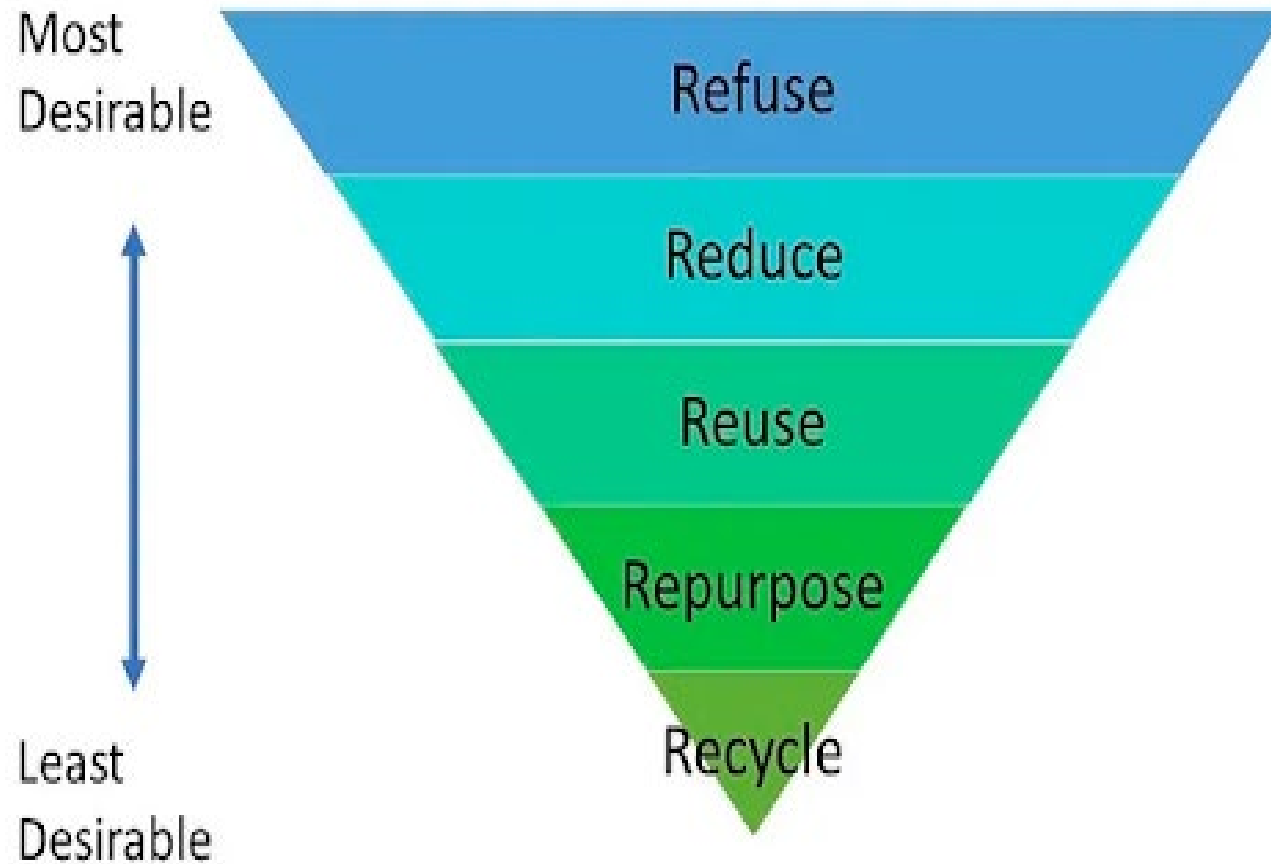
Develop a culture that minimizes single-use products and packaging

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?"



#SkipTheStuff



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**

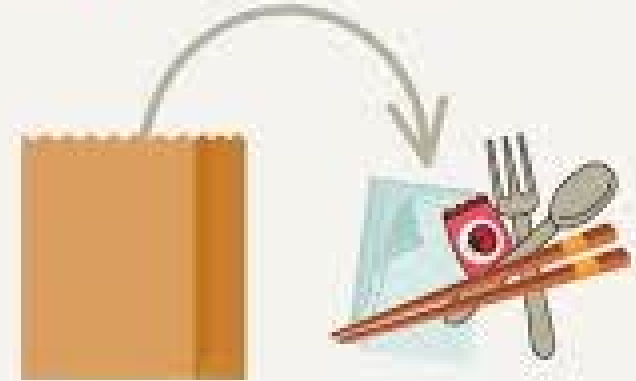
Proceeding with legislation:

- **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



Hoboken, it's time to...



**SKIP
THE STUFF!**

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

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.

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.

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.

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 CO₂e 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

#1: CHINA



#2: USA



#3: INDIA



#4: RUSSIA



in annual greenhouse
gas emissions

#5: PLASTIC

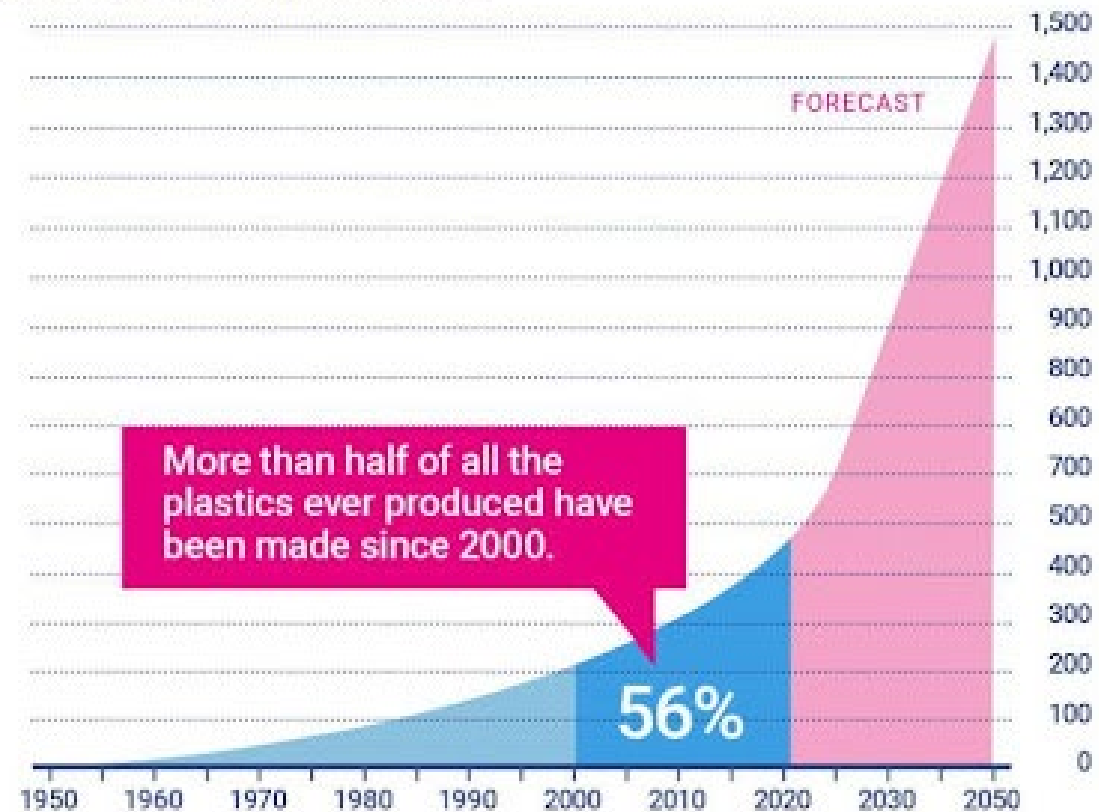


Source: Nat. Clim. Chang. 9, 374-378 (2019)



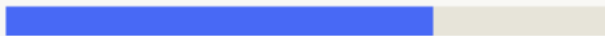
PRODUCTION OF PLASTIC

Global annual plastic production in million tonnes.



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

70%



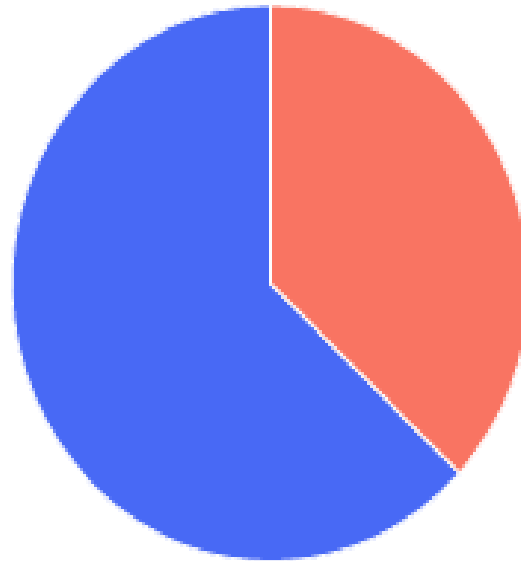
of consumers ordered food delivery in the past month.



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

