

City Council meeting on June 25th at 7pm at City Hall



This ban would prohibit the use and distribution of disposable plastic straws, stir sticks, and hotstoppers in food service establishments and require the use and distribution of compostable or reusable products or materials in their place.

Why?

They are a major component of plastic pollution:

- Straws and stirrers make up about 7 percent of the plastic items found in our environment.
- hundreds of millions of plastic straws are used and disposed of every day in the United States alone.
- Since straws and stirrers are made to be single-use, they are often carelessly thrown away and wind up in landfills or in waterways.

Straws and stirrers harm marine life:

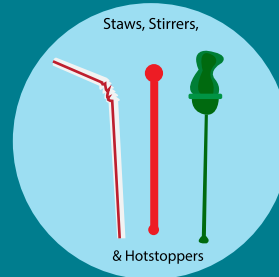
- Plastic straws and stirrers can become lodged in the nostrils of sea turtles and block their airways.
- Whole straws, stirrers, or pieces of them can also be swallowed and ingested by a variety of different marine animals and sea birds, and then accumulate in their digestive tracts and lead to possible starvation and death.

Plastic straws and stirrers are often not recyclable:

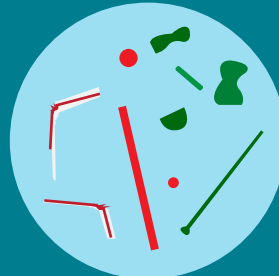
- Straws and stirrers are most often made of either polypropylene or polyethylene plastic, both of which are recyclable plastics.
- However, many people simply throw straws and stirrers out instead of recycling them.
- Also, even when put into the recycling, these plastic products are small and lightweight so they are hard for recycling machines to sort out, meaning many may end up in landfills regardless.

The problem with microplastics:

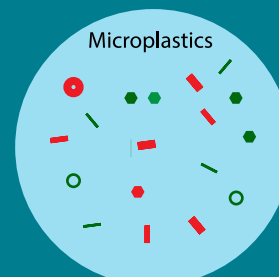
Plastic straws and stirrers are not biodegradable, however they do slowly break up into smaller pieces due to light exposure and physical stressors breaking apart the plastic.



Straws and stirrers degrade over tens to hundreds of years



they break into small pieces called "microplastics" which float through the ocean waters and can never be removed.



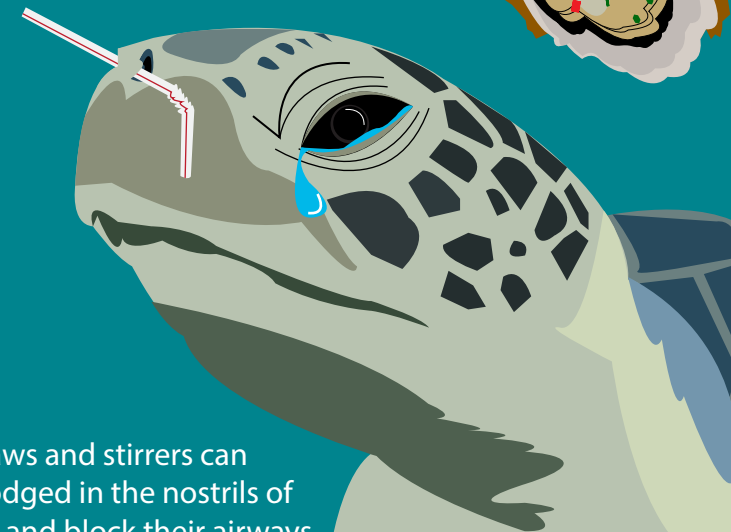
These tiny particles of plastic can be ingested by animals ranging from plankton to whales to oysters.

The Alternative

- There are a variety of compostable straws as well as reusable straw options that are suitable for consumers.
- Compostable straws can range from paper to bamboo to other plant based material and are sold in both the straight and flex style. This makes it so a variety of people in need of straws can be accommodated.
- Wooden stirrers are a great alternative to plastic ones, as many can be composted along with food waste

They make up **7%** of the plastic pollution found in our environments

The seafood we eat can contain these tiny plastic particles. When consumed, these plastic particles could potentially leach out toxins and chemicals into our digestive systems that could cause health problems.



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