

From: Cottrell, Megan
To: Camporeale, Karen
Subject: Re: California Plastics Recycling practices and a new ordinance for Stamford / the entire state of Connecticut?
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:44:17 PM

I think he means Westport.

See here:

<https://www.westportct.gov/government/departments-a-z/conservation-department/single-use-plastics>

We asked legal to draft something on this for December. Best,

-Megan

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From: Camporeale, Karen <KCamporeale@StamfordCT.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:36:33 PM
To: Cottrell, Megan <MCottrell@StamfordCT.gov>
Subject: Re: California Plastics Recycling practices and a new ordinance for Stamford / the entire state of Connecticut?

Oops resending from my government email

Dear Clerk Cotrel,

Representative de la Cruz asked me to reach out to you on the below items I submitted to his committee. He stated that Norwalk had an ordinance on the items I submitted and I asked if I could see it.

To recap some of the things that I'd like to put through

a ban on all single use plastic replacing it with only items that are compostable.

merchants can no longer put the compostable utensils in your carry out of even ask you if you want it. The onus is on the consumer to ask for it.

banning plastic that is no longer likely to be recycled.

I'm super anxious to get this done see below for more detail

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Camporeale, Karen" <KCamporeale@stamfordct.gov>
Date: October 8, 2024 at 11:35:05 PM EDT
To: "de la Cruz, Virgil" <VdelaCruz@stamfordct.gov>
Cc: "Tomas, Carmine"

Hi Chairs,

Will this be put on steering this month? Not sure how this works. If we can't add it to the old one I'd like to create a new one. I could also put this on public health if you feel it would be better there?

Sorry I'm not sure how all this works and I'm sorry to be pushy Thanks

Best Karen

From: Camporeale, Karen <KCamporeale@StamfordCT.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 8:08 PM
To: de la Cruz, Virgil <VdelaCruz@StamfordCT.gov>
Cc: Tomas, Carmine <CTomas@StamfordCT.gov>
Subject: Re: California Plastics Recycling practices and a new ordinance for Stamford / the entire state of Connecticut?

Any update?

Best,

Karen

On Aug 18, 2024, at 9:20 PM, de la Cruz, Virgil <VdelaCruz@stamfordct.gov> wrote:

Karen,

We enacted a couple of years ago ordinances banning plastic bags, single use straws, and styrofoam

(POLYSTYRENE) containers: (CHAPTER 209. - SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS[1], Sec. 143-12. - Plastic bags, and CHAPTER 183. - POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS, USE AND SALE OF[. I firmly believe we should expand them to include the items you listed, and perhaps others.

There has been no enforcement, an issue we need to firmly address. Operations is the proper committee. Let's talk on how to proceed.

Regards,

Virgil

From: Camporeale, Karen <KCamporeale@StamfordCT.gov>

Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2024 9:59 PM

To: de la Cruz, Virgil <VdelaCruz@StamfordCT.gov>; Tomas, Carmine <CTomas@StamfordCT.gov> **Subject:** California Plastics Recycling practices and a new ordinance for Stamford / the entire state of Connecticut?

recalled once to add something

Dear Chairs de la Cruz and Tomas,

I hope this email finds you both well.

This is the first time I'm asking to start a discussion on a new ordinance so please excuse me if I'm not following protocol. I have no idea how to do this or who I'm supposed to cc so I'm starting with the two of you.

This may be an item for Land Use, or Health and Public Safety as it affects all all three committees/areas of life.

I would like to have a discussion in committee with the goal of enacting an ordinance banning all single-use plastic utensils, cups, straws, and containers in Stamford, and replacing those items with compostable alternatives. This would fit with our new compostable program. We would need to give retailers and their suppliers time to ease into this. The good news is that because California (a huge market) has already enacted this, national retailers like Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Burger King, etc. already know how to handle such restrictions and are doing so in the State of California and perhaps other places.

If the discussion leads us to the conclusion that some of this is out of our purview, we could pass our work onto the appropriate state legislators. I don't know who that would be, but I'm sure we could figure it out. All of this fits with the Mayor's executive order on climate change, which she signed in April of 2023 so I think we would get support there.

Here's one article highlighting the greenhouse effects due to plastic:

<https://cen.acs.org/environment/greenhouse-gases/Plastic-production-belches-over-5/102/web/2024/04>

The other thing I'd like us to look at is only allowing recyclable plastics when there is no compostable alternative – i.e. laundry detergent containers etc.

I also believe we are paying to pick up materials, in our single stream cans, that are not recyclable or salable, and then where do they go? Are they burned? Is that climate friendly? If they aren't burned, are they carted to landfill dumps? If that be the case, we are carting things twice using fossil fuel – once to the recycle plant and once to the dump. Then, it ends up in a landfill. Landfill, as you know, generates greenhouse gases. I've emailed Dan to ask him these questions.

The best source of information on California's progressive recycling policies and legislation seems to be the **CalRecycle regulatory agency page** (<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/>).

In 2022, the State of California passed legislation (**SB 54**) that "ensures all packaging material sold, distributed, and imported in California is recyclable or compostable by 2032." So plastics have to be either recyclable or compostable. Here is an article titled "Landmark California Plastic Law's Anniversary Brings Progress" from Bloomberg: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/landmark-california-plastic-laws-anniversary-brings-progress>.

Additional article:

<https://www.ehn.org/california-plastic-waste-reduction-regulations-initiative-2666928645.html#:~:text=In%202022%20Governor%20Gavin%20Newsom,recyclable%20or%20compostable%20by%202032%2C>



This legislation (**SB 54**) also includes a ban on single use containers and plastic items as supplied by California retail food establishments. Single use items such as plastic cutlery will only be supplied with take-out orders and then only if the customer requests them. **It sounds like the changes are being rolled out gradually in different parts of California with Los Angeles County being one of the first to implement the new policies. This tells me we could be the Los Angeles of Connecticut** (as shown by this article from the California Public Interest Research Group). A city CAN be a leader in a county and state!

<https://pirg.org/california/updates/single-use-plastics-are-now-banned-in-restaurants-in-parts-of-los-angeles-county/>

You'll note the article explicitly states, "Before the ordinance went into effect, Los Angeles County was creating nearly 30 million tons of waste each year, with plastic items the greatest contributors. California recycles less than 15% of its single-use plastic. The rest ends up in landfills, burned in incinerators or in the environment. That plastic breaks down into microplastics in our environment, which have been found in every corner of the globe, as well as in human bodies, potentially hurting people's health."

"Plastics that are marked recyclable but never are recycled"- refers to plastic items that are manufactured with a recyclable symbol and number on the bottom of the item but in real practice are hardly ever recycled and will almost certainly end up in a landfill. In 2021, California enacted a bill called **SB 343** which firms up recycling standards and promotes transparency in what is actually being recycled. See <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/wcs/recyclinglabels/>.

I checked Connecticut recycling policy webpages, and it does not appear that any new recycling legislation has been passed for a long time. Connecticut's Public Act 10-87, enacted in 2010, is still the law of the state (<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/reduce-reuse-recycle/pa-10-87>), and is pretty generic.

The State of Connecticut does not have anything similar to California's SB 54 because Connecticut does not require that food establishment packaging be recyclable and/or compostable and has not banned single use containers, plastic cutlery, etc. And as far as I can tell, Connecticut does not have anything similar to California's SB 343 which requires specific detail and the reporting of statistics on what percentage of the various materials, such as plastic, are actually being recycled. I/we did find a compilation of recycling data from DEEP, although the data is quite old

(<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/reduce-reuse-recycle/data/solid-waste--recycling-data#ln>). It says that 14.8% of plastic packaging was recycled in Connecticut in 2014.

Sadly, it would seem that Stamford and Connecticut have not been particularly progressive when it comes to recycling. I'd like for us to change that.

Let me know your thoughts when you have a chance to digest this.

Please share this with anyone you chose but please do get back to me and let me know if we can start to act on this.

Respectfully
Rep. Camporeale