



*Orange County BCC*

**Single-Use Plastics/Polystyrene  
Policy  
Work Session**

**December 3, 2019**



# Presentation Outline

- **Purpose/Background**
- **County Operations Review**
- **Recommended Policy Framework**
- **Next Steps**



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# Purpose

- Growing trend worldwide to restrict the use of single-use plastics due to identified pollution
- Polystyrene foam, plastic straws, and plastic bags are easy targets
- Sustainability team tasked
  - Assess single-use plastics within County operations
  - Present information at BCC work session





# Background

## Polystyrene and Single-Use Plastics

- Made from fossil fuels and chemicals
- Degrade very slowly
- One-time use
  - Most are not currently recyclable in curbside collection programs
- Lightweight and difficult to contain
  - Contaminate ponds, lakes, drainage systems, and natural environment
  - Put wildlife at risk





# Background

## Within Orange County

- **Primary Drainage Systems**
  - stormwater management (ponds, canals, pump stations)
  - **50% of debris**
- **Secondary Drainage Systems**
  - roads and drainage (inlets, pipes, swales)
  - **25% of debris**



**Orange County Pump Station**





# Background

## Taking Action

- **McDonalds**
  - Polystyrene foam (1990)
- **Marriott/Hilton/Hyatt**
  - Plastic straws (2019)
- **Disney**
  - Plastic straws (2019)
  - Future commitments for in-room plastics, plastic bags, foam cups
- **Starbucks**
  - Plastic straws (2020)
- **Portland, OR**
  - Polystyrene foam (1990)
  - Plastic bags (2011)
  - Plastic straws/utensils (2019)
- **Washington D.C.**
  - Plastic bags (2010)
  - Polystyrene foam (2016)
  - Plastic straws (2019)
- **Maine/Delaware**
  - Polystyrene foam (ME 2020)
  - Plastics bags (DE 2021)



# Background

## State Regulations

- **FS 403.7033 (2008) – regulation of plastic bags**
  - Prohibits restrictions on bags & wrappings for carrying contents from retail establishments
- **FS 500.90 (2016) – regulation of polystyrene**
  - Only allows local governments to restrict use on public property, vendors on public property, contractual relationships for goods and services
- **HB 771 (2019) – vetoed by Gov. DeSantis**
  - pre-empted local governments from regulating plastic straws

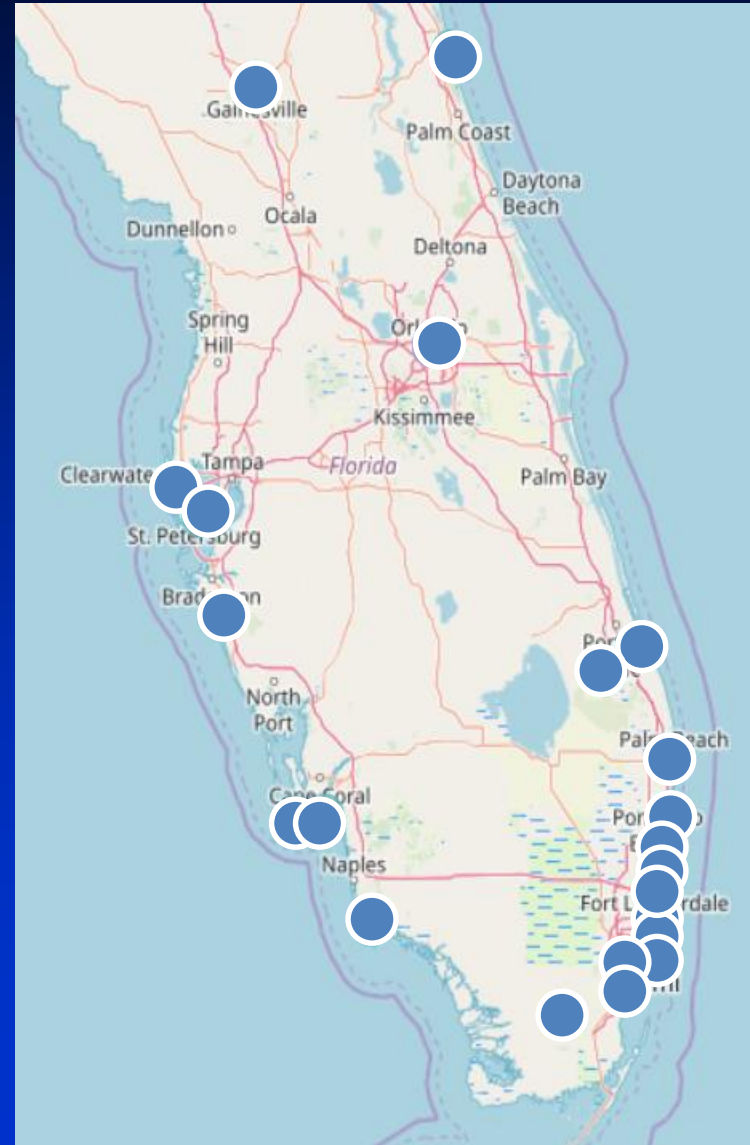




# Background

## Florida Jurisdictions & Restrictions

- 16 restrictions on:
  - Polystyrene foam
  - Plastic straws and stirrers
- 7 restrictions on plastic bags
- Variety of exemptions
- Mostly cities
  - Counties include: Miami Dade, Alachua, Leon
- Mostly coastal areas
  - Exceptions are Gainesville, Orlando





# Background

## Orlando's Policy



Includes this



Includes this



not this



# Background

## Encourages



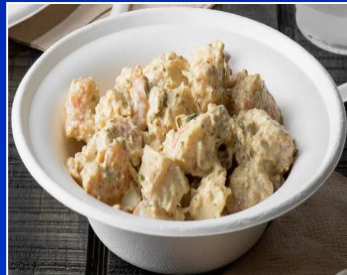
Paper straws



Wooden stirrers



Reusable



Biodegradable & Compostable



Biodegradable bags



Recyclables



# Background

## Overview of Orlando's policy

- Effective October 1, 2019
- Single-use products may not be sold or disbursed on City property by City contractors or permittees
- Encourages the use of biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, and reusable materials
- Applies to contracts and permits for all on-site vendors, venues, parks, events, and food trucks
  - **Exemptions include** pre-packaged food sealed prior to receipt, permitted events and rentals of 100 people or less



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# County Operations Review

## Diverse Operations

- Convention Center
- Corrections
- County Courthouse
- Fire Rescue
- History Center
- Parks & Recreation
- Community Centers
- Head Start
- Youth & Family Services
- Citizens' Commission For Children





# County Operations Review

## Takeaways

- **Convention Center, Fire Rescue**
  - No Polystyrene foam or plastic straws
- **Corrections, Youth & Family Services**
  - Larger quantities of use – some exemptions/additional costs
- **Head Start, Parks & Recreation**
  - Possible exemptions for pre-packaged meals
- **Community Centers, Parks & Rec, History Center**
  - Permits/Contracts for events and rentals
- **Internal Advisory Boards, Trainings, Events, Celebrations**
  - Change and education is key



# County Operations Review

## Cost Comparisons



Hot/Cold Paper Cup  
Same price



Eco Hot/Cold Paper Cup  
\$0.04 more/cup



Compostable/Paper Plates  
\$0.03 more/plate



Paper straw  
\$0.01 more/straw



Wooden stirrers  
Same price



Compostable/Paper Bowls  
Range \$0.04 – 0.09 more/item





# County Operations Review

## Cost Examples

	Product type	Quantities	Current costs	Replacement product costs
Citizens' Commission for Children	Styrofoam plates, plastic plates and cups	small	\$60	\$20 less
Communications-Events & Special Projects	Styrofoam cups, plastic plates and cups	medium	\$120	\$20 less
Youth and Family Services	Styrofoam plates, bowls, trays, and plastic cups	large	\$3,700	\$400 more



# County Operations Review

## Sustainability Advisory Board

- July 25, 2019 – concept discussion and survey review
- November 21, 2019 – final update
- Signed Letter of Support



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# Recommended Policy Framework

- **Restrict usage of polystyrene foam and plastic straws/stirrers**
- **Limit to County-owned/operated facilities and properties**
- **Provide appropriate exemptions**
- **Enhance procurement standards for new contracts**
- **Show leadership with internal events/meetings**
- **Encourage better products through education**



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# Next Steps

## With Board Direction:

- **Develop Administrative Regulation**
- **Coordinate with Procurement Division on new contract language**
- **Develop Education/Communication Plan**



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