



Interoffice Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM

November 11, 2019

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
— AND —
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director
Planning, Environmental, and Development
Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: Alan Marshall, Assistant to the Director
Planning, Environmental, and Development Services
(407) 836-5884

SUBJECT: December 3, 2019 – Work Session
Expanded Polystyrene/Plastic Straw Policy

There is a global conversation regarding the use and improper disposal of single use plastics and the harmful effects seen in our environment, especially to marine life. As part of the County's sustainability initiatives to reduce waste and pollution, and utilize more eco-friendly products within our government operations, staff has conducted an internal review to identify the changes necessary for an internal policy aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastics. In particular, staff has reviewed the options and protocols necessary for limiting, to the extent practicable, the use of expanded polystyrene (commonly known by the name-brand Styrofoam[®]) and plastic straws in County programs, public services, and work areas. These products were targeted because, as a waste product, they are difficult to contain, contributing to litter and storm water debris, and because they are not easily recycled, especially through residential collection programs.

This work session will review local, regional, and national policies as well as the provisions of Florida Statutes. It will identify areas within County operations where these products are in use, suggest viable alternatives, address the potential economic impact of requiring alternative products, and review the details of an internal administrative regulation to pursue this course of action.

This item is for informational purposes.

JVW/FB

C: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Jeffrey Newton, County Attorney