

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is part of a worldwide movement to re-evaluate attitudes toward consumption, disposal, product stewardship, and infrastructure to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainability. Since 2013, the City, through the Bureau of Sanitation, has demonstrated its commitment to zero waste and the reduction of single-use plastics through various ordinances, most notably through the single-use carryout bag ban and the expanded EPS ban.

The City is now proposing to expand on these measures by implementing a city-wide Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program. The City is evaluating numerous measures to reduce or eliminate the production and use of single-use plastic products, and encourage reuse or recycling of other items to the extent feasible, thereby reducing or eliminating the input of single-use plastics into the City's waste stream and the environment.

These are known as upstream measures because they keep single-use plastics from entering the use and disposal streams. These upstream measures include bans on specific single-use products; product stewardship programs; extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs targeting specific items; policies to require and/or support the manufacturing of durable, reusable, repairable, and recyclable products; and the formation of working groups to evaluate program efficacy and conduct additional studies.

In a 2021 resolution, the City stated that the use of single-use printer cartridges is growing rapidly due to increased flow of aftermarket, new built, single-use printer cartridges that are imported from foreign manufacturers. In this resolution the City notes that single-use printer cartridges can take between 450 and 1,000 years to decompose in landfills.

A ban on single-use printer cartridges would potentially reduce the number of cartridges that end up in landfills due to replacement products which could be recycled for reuse. Therefore, a ban on single-use printer cartridges would result in a beneficial impact on the City's solid waste stream, as well reduce public exposure to hazardous materials by keeping printer cartridges out of landfills.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney, in consultation with the Bureau of Sanitation, to prepare and present an ordinance prohibiting the distribution and sale of aftermarket single-use clone-compatible printer cartridges.

PRESENTED BY 
JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY 

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