

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/03/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 08/04/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0064

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council urges the City to adopt, pending the drafting of the ordinance from the City Attorney, a City-wide ban on EPS products, more popularly known as styrofoam, and urges the City to coordinate with the County of Los Angeles to expand to a county-wide ban on EPS products.



Serving the Silver Lake Community Since 2003

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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Support and Expansion of Council File [21-0064]
(Foodware Accessories Upon Request / Disposable Foodware Accessories / Small Business
Commission / Food Service Providers / Zero-Use Trash)

LA City Council Members
LA County Board of Supervisors

Dear Council members and County Supervisors:

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council urges the City to adopt, pending the drafting of the ordinance from the City Attorney, a City-wide ban on EPS products, more popularly known as styrofoam, and urges the City to coordinate with the County of Los Angeles to expand to a county-wide ban on EPS products.

Since 2008 Los Angeles has had a Governmental facility ban on expanded polystyrene. Expanding to a full ban is long overdue especially as we move forward toward adopting the Green New Deal, both on a city level plan¹ and national² level.

Los Angeles county is home to over 10 million people. The small act of banning non-compostable/ recyclable materials would have a massive carbon footprint for the better and set a precedent for cities across America. Polystyrene takes on average *500 years* to decompose and is responsible for up to 30% of landfill waste.³ Not to mention similar statistics apply to ocean waste, making EPS and XPS the most common pollutant to our seas⁴ with potentially upwards of 9 million metric tons⁵ of it dumped each year. These chemicals also never fully breakdown, creating micro plastics that trickle down into our food sources and into humans on a cellular level.

If we were to follow in the footsteps of other coastal cities like Ventura, Contra Costa County, Baltimore and even New York City,⁶ we would be part of the next wave of government decisions that are on the side of planet earth. These cities have adopted a ban on polystyrene and have seen compliance as well as found biodegradable and compostable solutions. Los Angeles can do this as well.

¹ <https://plan.lamayor.org>

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109>

³ <https://sej.org/publications/backgrounders/styrofoam-facts-why-you-may-want-bring-your-own-cup#>

⁴ <https://phys.org/news/2020-07-ocean-polystyrenepollution-global-scale.html>

⁵ <https://dtmag.com/thelibrary/problem-plastic-pollution-oceans>

⁶ <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/styrofoam-ban-food-policy-snapshot>

Los Angeles already sets a standard by banning the use of EPS materials in Government facilities. Fully regulating the uses of polystyrene makes further steps in our commitment to being a more environmentally conscious city.

Other environmentally progressive legal acts such as Title 12's Bag Ordinance⁷ (bag ban) as well as Assembly Bill 1884⁸ (plastic straw ban) has been passed in California in recent years and enjoys widespread support. It would be remiss not to undertake a full ban on polystyrene and expanded polystyrene.

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council also supports the additional aims of the Council file No. 21-0064 Recommended Council Actions, including:

- INSTRUCT all City departments to purchase only recycled-content paper products and printing and writing paper, that are at least 30 percent, by fiber weight, post-consumer fiber, to meet the City's Zero Waste policy and Senate Bill 1383 regulations, including required recordkeeping to indicate meeting the procurement requirements.
- REQUEST the City Attorney, in coordination with BOS, Department of General Services (GSD), and other City departments, to draft an Ordinance for Zero Waste City Facilities and Events on City Property, as well as necessary contract provisions to be incorporated into future tenant lease agreements.
- INSTRUCT GSD, Department of Recreation and Parks, and relevant departments to implement all aspects of Attachment 2 of the March 30, 2022 BOS report, attached to the Council file, (Zero Waste Mandates for City-Sponsored/Hosted Community and Catered Events), that do not require the adoption of an ordinance by January 1, 2023.
- INSTRUCT BOS to report on the following:
 - Anaerobic digestion capabilities related to composting and organic waste.
 - Outreach specific to minority chambers as it relates to the elimination of plastic waste and zero waste.

We continue to support the original CF, but aim to place a determined focus on expanding the full ban of EPS products within Los Angeles City and County.

⁷ https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/aboutthebag/resource/pdfs/BagOrdinance_final.pdf

⁸ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1884

Sincerely,

PRESENTED BY: Green Committee

SECONDED BY: Kristen Egermeier

YES: 17, NO: 0, ABSTAIN: 0, INELIGIBLE: 0, RECUSAL: 0

ON THIS DATE: 8/3/22