



**AUGUST 2021**

## **WEST CHESTER'S SINGLE USE PLASTIC ORDINANCE**

### **IN JULY 2019 BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROVED AN ORDINANCE BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS AND STRAWS IN THE WEST CHESTER BOROUGH**

#### **KEY DATES:**

- September 2018 – West Chester students ask Council to address single use waste
- July 2019 – Council votes to approve ordinance addressing bags and straws
- July 2020 – Ordinance is in effect
- January 1 2022 – Enforcement begins

Single use plastics are a momentary convenience that last a lifetime. Many plastics, even plant-based varieties, are not recyclable and do not biodegrade but instead slowly break up into microplastics that enter our water, food, and air. Single-use plastic waste accumulates in our yards, streets and alleys, storm sewers, and our oceans, disrupting natural ecosystems while detracting from the beauty of the environment.

Let's do our part to eliminate single use plastic bags and straws from the Borough.



# What You Need to Know

- The distribution of plastic bags and straws is prohibited within the Borough
- Any “compliant” bag distributed to customers must include 40% recycled content and be curbside recyclable or compostable
- Businesses are required to charge 10 cents per compliant bag distributed to customers, and disclose this fee on the sales receipt. This revenue is retained by the business
- A business may request a year-long exemption for review by the Borough’s Sustainability Advisory Committee if compliance represents a unique burden
- Businesses found to be in violation of the ordinance will receive a written warning, then escalating fines for successive violations

Some Borough businesses are already working to reduce single-use plastics from daily operations. A complete list of members of West Chester Sustainable Storefronts can be found at [west-chester.com/singleuse](http://west-chester.com/singleuse)

Owners and managers have found that reverting to a request-only policy drastically reduces demand for straws, and that relocating alternative straws to new locations and staff training is critical to breaking the habit of reflexively providing straws to customers that do not want them.

Furthermore, **these businesses have received overwhelmingly positive feedback** from customers that broadly support efforts to improve our environment by eliminating wasteful practices.



For more information visit [West-Chester.com/SingleUse](http://West-Chester.com/SingleUse)

