



Decatur Single- Use Plastics Survey Results:

Comments and Other

Responses

January 2020



Appendix: Comments and Other Responses

The following pages list the additional comments and other responses included by respondents to select questions in the Decatur Single-Use Plastics Survey. Please refer to the Decatur Single-Use Plastics Survey Results document for a complete list of questions and a summary of responses.

Question 3: How often do you use reusable bags for the following occasions?

Comments: 74

- We now have reusable sandwich bags and produce bags
- I use them but admittedly sometimes to forget to bring bags with me
- Transporting supplies for projects, for bulk bins and vegetables and fruits
- Use for grocery shopping most of the time. Sometimes forget
- I also re-use "disposable" bags frequently/all the time
- I don't take a bag if I don't need one. I try to give reusable bags when giving items to friends so we share them back and forth.
- Packing my kid's belongings for sleepovers
- Trader Joe's (specialty grocery)
- Bags for travel or kids snacks
- As a book bag for work
- Small household garbage bags and city Decatur trash bags
- lunch bag
- Taking lunch, trash can bags-reuse bags I have accumulated
- storage of clothing, etc.
- Produce
- taking items to events, services
- Work, everything!
- Taking items to events
- We repurpose paper bags by giving to consignment and thrift shops
- basically more of transporting my own belongings... As well as returning things to people/giving food and supplies to those in need
- Dog poop
- Packing food at home
- N/a
- Transporting recycling
- Anything that fits in my big old purse goes in! Or I just carry things when I can, without bags.
- Lunch box
- Have a large purse that I use for retail items
- various cloth bags for produce inside the store or market
- use reusable bags for buying bulk items like nuts, vegetables, fruit
- I always keep a stash of them in my car to use whenever I need a bag
- packed lunch
- Library, going to visit friends & bringing a gift
- Reusable silicon baggies instead of ziplocks in school lunches
- food storage
- I only receive the plastic bags from the grocery store to reuse when I'm walking my dog. So they're free "poop" bags. However, if it's better for the environment to purchase poop bags, I can certainly bring my reusable bags to the grocery store.
- Reuse retail plastic bags
- reuse paper gift bags
- miscellaneous transport of food and objects.
- Traveling
- Snack bags, wet bags
- Yesterday I picked persimmons roadside with reusable bags. I also bring things to people (casseroles, etc) with reusable.
- giving things (like meals) to others
- Trashbags
- Garbage bags for small containers; diaper bags
- Camping trashbags
- Work
- Sports games, kid activities
- Use them for trash bags
- Restaurant
- Produce
- Sometimes I forget a bag for groceries.
- as much as possible
- shopping and transporting items for my department at Agnes Scott College
- Food
- When donating items, clothes
- home storage / organization
- gift-wrapping
- I try to give gifts and that sort of thing in reusable bags.
- Lunches for kids
- Lining trash cans
- I wish there was clear plastic regulations for grocery stores, i.e. Publix, Krogers, the Decatur Farmers Market, etc. so that they have to pay for the disposal of all the plastic they are selling and the wrapping they are using for their own products.
- As often as possible
- wastebasket liners
- I often don't take a bag if buying just a few items.
- Reusable produce bags aren't well liked by stores, especially YDFM
- bag for lunch
- bringing lunch to work
- Transportation of good and supplies for schools or others
- for cat litter sometimes or misc uses
- Bags
- Birthday gifts
- storing produce, lunches
- Try to use mesh reusable bags for produce
- everything I can think of; travel, for instance

Question 4: What prevents you from using reusable bags (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 81

- Some retailers (e.g. Macy's) require them so it doesn't look like I'm shoplifting with my cloth bag
- I reuse some plastic bags for cat box cleaning
- Don't think about it
- Reusable bags are usually bulky
- Some stores seize bags upon entry and return them upon exit. OK if you bought something, but annoying to wait to have bags returned. Also, someone else may claim your bags as theirs.
- Even if I have my reusable bags then I still ask for plastic bags for raw meat, etc from the grocery store
- Baggers at large supermarket who are used to using plastic seem put out and slowed down.
- Like paper bags to put recycling in
- lack of planning ahead
- When I do grocery pick up at Kroger there is no choice
- Just not used to it and because it's not enforced that you have to use your own it makes it easier to just use what's provided
- I don't always use them for retail because my bags are in various states of food stains etc.
- I don't always use them for retail because my bags are in various states of food stains etc.
- Plastic bags at Dekalb Farmers Market to put individual produce in- have not found a good reusable replacement
- All
- don't bring retail shopping; use exclusively otherwise
- I have been using plastic bags for carrying some groceries like vegetables, fruit, or meat (but have been trying to remember not to use)
- Grocery stores often reluctant to put meat in a reusable bag.
- I don't use plastic bags for other uses, but from time to time will opt for a paper bag so I may use it to collect my compost to deposit in the community garden
- not expecting to buy something
- I use them most of the time. Usually if I'm not using them it's because I came from home. I ask for paper when I forget.
- It has to become a habit, but once that happens it is very easy
- Don't like to put meat or seafood into bags that are reusable but not washable.
- Use plastic bags to pick up after my dog
- Instacart
- We use Instacart for groceries and rarely shop
- Not very connivence for each time shopping
- There are times where I am impulse shopping and they are not offered in that establishment.
- some items (i.e., raw meat) go in plastic to prevent ruining the reusable bags
- I've bought more than my reusable bags can hold
- Dont have enough
- sometimes it's impractical to carry around reusable bags
- I don't have control in what bags we get from the grocery store because I'm 15
- Don't own any reusable bags and use paper bags for doing or litter
- holes or torn
- if grocery stores let us bring in reusable bags for loose produce that would be good
- I am pretty consistent with reusable bags
- Good opportunity for a bag give-away or bag exchange program with nice, durable city of Decatur bags available at all stores, visitor center, etc. AND 2-3 bags for new residents with an 'environmental note'
- Use plastic for meats
- the only time I use plastic bags is for raw chicken or other raw meat
- The only time I use plastic bags is for Kroger clicklist. Wish I didn't have to though.
- Sometimes i get paper bags at groc store on purpose for recycle bin
- Nothing. I usually use them, except when Don't have them with me.
- I use plastic as trash can liners. I OBTAIN these plastic bags by reaching into the plastic recycling containers at Wal-Mart. I know it's a little gross
- Uncomfortable carrying and using them in retail situations
- Some supermarkets have difficulties handling reusable bags
- Dekalb farmers market makes you check in reusable bags. Inconvenience
- Inconvenience - Don't know how many I will need
- Kroger online ordering uses plastic
- I forget because it is not mandatory
- I order shipt and get groceries delivered.
- I don't bring my own bags for non-grocery/reg. retail shopping as it could be misconstrued as suspicious by store mgt/security; however, I almost always decline a bag unless purchasing too many items to easily carry.
- Forgot to put them back in the car OR made an unplanned stop at the grocery
- There's too much plastic in this world and would rather use other easily recyclable items
- Disposable
- Sometimes grocery items or even personal items end up wet and I don't want stuff leaking in my car, etc.
- clerks don't know how to bag the groceries properly in the reusable bags
- Forgot to bring them for non grocery shopping trips
- My husband does the grocery shopping & refuses to use re-useable bags!!!
- Unplanned shopping trip
- I often buy groceries online for pickup or delivery and I can't use my own bags for that.
- Nothing: I wish there were alternative to plastics for sale, and I mean alternatives to most plastic we use in every room of our house. It does not only pollute the planet, but via microplastic we are poisoning ourselves (plastic in water we drink, plastic in food we heat up in microwave or hot coffee plastic cups, etc.)
- Spills
- Some places like Dekalb farmers market do not like them

Question 4: What prevents you from using reusable bags (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 81

- I carry two reusable bags in smaller bags in my purse in case I forget the larger ones
- If I'm not in my car, I don't have them. I also sometimes need bigger bags.
- don't care
- Don't have enough high quality bags
- They do not last long enough to justify the environmental impact from production vs plastic.
- I make a "quick stop" instead of a planned grocery outing.
- Use for groceries but not other shopping as the size of bags not large enough.
- I use them most of the time.
- Lazy
- Bring my own 99% of time. Use plastic 1% when I forget
- Don't plan to shop but end up buying something
- I need to purchase the nylon bags that can be reduced to fit inside a purse when retail shopping. Carrying the standard bags to retail locations is too cumbersome
- using reusable bags for food can be unhygienic
- Grocery delivery service uses plastic. But I always recycle at point of sale.
- When I forget I ask for paper but they don't always have them
- Unfamiliarity
- Community doesn't use much

Question 5: What would encourage you to reduce your use of single-use plastic bags?

Other Responses: 67

- I get my groceries delivered in paper
- I never single use d
- I recycle my bags at the store or I reuse as trash bags or poop bags for the dogs. I rarely use reusable ones at the store as they get full of dog hair in my car.
- All of the above would help
- I like Target's incentive of giving a discount by bringing your own bags!
- I'd use them if I had them but I don't always know I'm going to the store.
- n/a I use mine!
- Plastic not offered. Only paper
- I would remember more if there were no single use bags at Publix
- More public encouragement
- Nothing. I like them and use them for many other things.
- When I lived in California the county introduced a 25c fee per bag, and it worked like a charm!
- I'm not sure paper bags are a better alternative as they use alot of resources to produce
- Don't use single use- never.
- I don't use them!
- Stop making them!
- Ban or tax on plastic bags (the first two items on this list would also work; just not as well)
- We don't use plastic bags
- I avoid them, as much as possible!
- A better memory
- Some grocery stores sell reusable plastic bags for ten cents. If I have forgotten a bag I'll buy one.
- I already use my own bags, but if I forget them, I would rather use paper than plastic. I think any bags offered should be made of compostable materials.
- I would like to not receive a plastic bag I didn't ask for: I would like for the cashier to assume that I will have a reusable bag and not give me plastic
- I decline to use plastic bags as much as possible.
- Discount for bringing reusable bags
- unlikely that any incentive/dis-incentive would make me think raw meat goes in anything but plastic bags
- I already try to avoid using plastic bags whenever possible.
- If retailers like Target would actively encourage bringing your own bags
- if no plastic were available then all usage would decrease
- Any kind of reminder is helpful.
- Many European groceries don't stock them. You out of luck if you don't bring your own. Decatur should do this as well. Or, at the very least, charge for plastic bags. Other cities/counties do that.
- I do not like single use plastic bags and try to avoid them
- first three answers
- small reward (piece of fruit/candy/points/coupon etc) for using the reusable bag
- If reusable bag option is POS
- Ban the plastic bags
- Offer reusable for small price at check out
- If we shop ourselves we use our own bags but we often use instacart which requires you to use single use bags
- I don't use single plastic but if you had to pay or not have them then others will stop
- All of the above!
- My use would decrease with all of the above. Also, I used to live in Austin TX, where all bags are banned in stores. It works. It forces everyone to bring a bag or have to walk out of Target juggling an armload of items. You guys should talk to city officials in Austin.
- Aldi offers all plastic bags for a fee and paper bags for a fee. People choose the plastic always. i hate it. Just don't offer plastic bags. They aren't getting recycled. Many people will only change when they are not offered. We all survived before plastic bags. We will survive. It's not hard to get in the habit of reusable bags. Offer paper for a fee if people forget them. I do see people grabbing boxes at Aldi and using them. At least paper and boxes are recyclable.
- I would like a small fee per plastic or paper bag, and would love for our stores to not have plastic bags available!
- none of the above - just remembering on those occasions when I forget
- The only time I use them is I forget and its too much to just carry
- Stop providing plastic bags
- I never use plastic bags
- If grocery stores offered paper bags or paper to put veggies and meat/seafood in for purchasing and don't wrap them in plastic to begin with.
- For those of us who usually store bags in our cars, reminders in the parking lot or on the doors would be helpful. Also a small credit for bringing your own bag.
- Already using reusable bags except on rare occasions that I forgot
- A combination of paper bags offered first and having to pay a small fee for plastic
- Signage in parking lots reminding people to grab their reusable bags
- Don't know
- Please outlaw plastic bags so my husband has to bring reusable ones when he goes grocery shopping.
- already exclusively use re-usable bags
- I am happy with any of the options that effectively help people refrain from using, whether it is paying or simply not having them anymore. Whatever Americans take to more easily. I am suspecting that this is a psychological problem. If plastic has a price, then people will be more careful.
- sometimes they are needed, but try not to use them when possible.
- all would be effective
- I typically use my own- 99.9%
- Stores should sell reusable bags & only offer those if a patron doesn't have a reusable bag
- I already don't
- I Rarely use plastic bags. I use them only if I forget my reusable bags.
- It's already something I want to do.
- Learning more about them, what's available, where to get

Question 6: What do you consider to be the biggest problem with single-use plastics?

Other Responses: 70

- All of the above
- Both microplastics in waterways and increased waste
- They aren't a problem because they are recycle able. So they aren't single use.
- misinformation
- All of the above
- The biggest problem is that only very few baggers at the cashier tries to put as much and reasonable amount of products in one bag as possible. I see in many places where only one item is put inside a plastic bag which naturally increases the total number of non-needed plastic bags in this country.
- Animals and marine life harmed by plastics
- All of the above problems named above!
- Recyclable ~ have no problem using them
- they are increased waste themselves, but also create the need to manufacture more, or spend energy recycling
- People not disposing of them or any trash properly.
- All single use plastic bags are recyclable, but the general public is not well educated on how to recycle them. It doesn't help that we don't have good infrastructure to recycle them as they have to go in a different stream than mixed use recycling, but if people understood that plastic bags are recyclable and how to recycle them, I do think that people would be more open to continued use of them. I believe it would help for City of Decatur to partner with other municipalities and potentially even corporations to work on educating the public on A. how to recycle plastic bags(flexible packaging including shrink films and 6 pack rings, etc) and B. what the trade offs are in carbon footprint for production of plastic vs paper vs reusable bags. There's always a trade off and I think the general public needs to be educated on that prior to banning something wholesale.
- The first 4 options are equally bad.
- plastic litter killing wildlife
- all
- All of the above
- All of the above except 'I don't consider it to be a problem'
- Long time to decompose, landfill, microplastics
- All
- All the above
- ALL!!
- All the above
- All of these are concerning]
- All of the above
- All of the above
- All of the above
- All of the above, yes... But also, the act of conscious change for the betterment of the world and our communities impacts our chances of making better decisions in other regards. Using reusable bags makes us more conscious people.
- I can't choose just one. Each of the problems listed above (except for the last answer, obviously) are of dire concern.
- All of the above!
- All the above - plastic bags are a problem
- All of the above, except "I don't consider it to be a problem"
- All of the above, minus not being a problem. Plastic bags normally do not decompose in a person's lifetime and anything inside a plastic bag cannot break down either. This includes food waste inside City of Decatur trash bags.
- 1-4 above
- it takes a long time to decompose and it increases waste in landfill, which really hurts our planet
- All of the above
- All of the above!!
- All of the above except not being a problem. It all concerns me greatly.
- dangerous to wildlife, waste of environmental resources to produce
- All of the above
- fossil fuel plus waste pollution
- Almost all of the above
- Carbon footprint
- All of these! (Except the "I don't consider it to be a problem")
- Plastics in the ocean, PLUS can no longer recycle with our weekly recyclables
- Apart from environmental issues, it's just a hassle to carry 20 bags that start ripping immediately.
- All of the above!
- All of the problems listed!
- all of those concerns
- ALL of these!!
- ALL OF THE ABOVE!
- Recylers dont want them.
- all of the above
- All of the above (Long time to decompose, microplastics in waterways, litter in community, increased waste in landfill)
- I always reuse or recycle them
- All of the above
- All of the above are serious concerns - it's difficult to place one above the others.
- All of the options that pollute environment and our health long-term as they don't disintegrate
- Allllll
- Impact on Ocean Waters - floating plastic islands in Atlantic and Pacific
- All of these!
- All of the above
- many of the above, but sometimes are necessary.
- All the above options are serious problems.
- Litter, waste, microplastics, environmental hazards, resource waste to produce bag, limitations on recycling and decomposition, etc.
- The fact that single use plastics are intended to be waste and are accompanied by all of the above side effects.
- Injury to wildlife
- no easy way to recycle. we save ours and bring them to the walmart or kroger to recycle but we dont always remember and the can pile up quickly
- related carbon emissions

Question 7: Of the following single-use plastics, which do you think your community should take steps towards reducing in our local economy and waste stream?

Other Responses: 35

- Styrofoam trays
- education on recycling options
- Ensure adequate recycling bins and recycling products.
- non recyclable or no compostable
- CSD and private schools use of tons of single use plastic.
- I would need more information from studies to know which is the most pressing problem and which would have the most beneficial results
- If people would properly recycle or dispose of their waste properly this wouldn't be an issue.
- I believe the focus should be more on educating consumers on proper recycling habits vs what should we ban. I'm not saying we shouldn't try to use less plastic, but the single reason why plastic producers aren't able to use more recycled content in their products and create a closed loop system is because the general public is very poorly educated on how to do it properly. There are certainly challenges in the recycling industry now, but some of these challenges exist because the general public makes it more difficult for recyclers to operate due to a number of things - stream contamination with food, putting flexibles in mixed use streams when they need to be separated, etc
- I think all of these are equally important
- None.
- All the above
- I want to point out that plastic straws are absolutely necessary for some people with disabilities, and eliminating plastic straws is ableist.
- All of the above
- Whatever takes the longest to decompose - styrofoam
- Everything except plastic straws - straws are necessary for people with disabilities to safely hydrate
- none
- 5, 4, 2, 3, then 1-in that order
- We have to consider the total consumption, the end of life solutions available, and the likelihood that it gets recycled for each plastic. Straws, while hard to recycle and no one wants to see a bad turtle picture, are not going to have a big impact. PET bottles, while heavily consumed, are the most recycled plastic. I would love to see shopping bags and styrofoam containers go away.
- I place equal value on all these, but styrofoam has ESPECIALLY got to go
- I think individuals should make the choice on their own without coercion to decide to use fewer Plastics
- The plastic bags the City of Decatur requires residents to purchase to throw their trash away.
- Not a government function; I want better police, fire, & education first.
- whichever has the biggest impact (and I don't know what that is)
- all, plus plastic bags for produce at grocery store + YDFM
- I do not think the community - meaning the City of Decatur government - should work towards reducing single-use plastics. People should and will decide this on their own.
- It's really not the city's realm to mandate how retailers do their business
- All of the above
- Don't know which is biggest problem
- none of the above
- Decatur has already reduced their solid waste by 70%
- All are equal but I would rank School use of styrofoam for lunch as a very top issue (Renfro)
- We should work on proper recycling.
- I don't believe local government bans on different types of plastics are effective. They also increase costs to local businesses and put potential hardships on people with different needs. While it's important to reduce waste, emphasis should be placed on better educating citizens about not littering (taking personal responsibility for the products they buy), using the recycling options available in the community and having the option to choose a reusable or single-use container.
- When government tells us what bags we can use and will impose a fee if we use them...well that sounds more like a dictatorship. Communism.

Question 11: Do you support an ordinance restricting the distribution of plastic straws at ... (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 125

- ALL
- They should be provided for individuals who might need them (disabled, children, etc)
- Restaurants in Decatur
- plastic straws should not be made at all
- Schools
- It depends on what the alternative is
- Anywhere
- Restaurants
- please always have them available, though, for individuals with disabilities.
- no
- None. People with disabilities often need them. Start with education and recycling.
- I do not support this
- Yes in general, when disability issues are considered. Paper straws would be helpful.
- All of the above
- Reusable or degradable plastic straws are great but the question is where would all the cost to cover this will come from? Our use of tax money should be clearly explained to residents
- Less use of plastic straws are great but where would all the money to cover the costs come from - out tax money?
- Could paper straws replace plastic?
- schools, events
- BUT should offer paper option! Nothing like a cup of ice hitting you in the face! Also, elderly have trouble lifting glass easily.
- No ~ recycle them
- Not a critical government role
- Restrict plastic straws, but must provide good alternative for people with disabilities who need plastic-like, not metal or paper straws.
<https://www.eater.com/2018/7/19/17586742/plastic-straw-ban-disabilities>; <http://cdrnys.org/blog/disability-dialogue/grasping-at-straws-the-ableism-of-the-straw-ban/>
- I think they should OFFER the straws, but not automatically put them in every bag. Just like "would you like any sauces with that?" Also, not many (any) plastic straws from Atlanta are making their way to the ocean and straws are the smallest thing - I can't figure out why people are so hung up on straws. I would you use your straws and not use the 3 plastic bottles of water every day.
- support upon ask but not ban. straws are only minor part of problem
- All locations
- I don't support an ordinance restricting single use straws because there are many who need them (those with disabilities, for example)
- None. Why isn't "none" an answer?
- not enough details here for a definitive answer
- Schools
- Absolutely not.
- disabled people may need to use plastic straws to safely drink
- all if it means offering but not always assuming someone wants them
- no
- For businesses: rather than a ban, provide info about reducing use? I.e, not automatically providing straws whether or not someone wants one?
- Straws are only one part of the problem.
- None
- Sure but why the big fuss about straws? Bigger issues.
- no
- This is ableist! People like me, who have disabilities that affect motor function, swallowing and jaw muscle control, would be disproportionately negatively affected by a plastic straw distribution ban. I already have to carry other supplies necessary to accommodate my disabilities, and forgetting a straw could put me at risk of further kidney damage due to dehydration. Please don't add to the burdens of minorities, including the disabled community.
- Everywhere!
- Straws are a much smaller problem than other plastics
- There is no need for a plastic straw. People can buy their own reusable straw to carry with them, there may be paper/bamboo/etc. options made available, or people can (!!!) drink from the cup (!!!)
- As long as exceptions are made to be mindful of those who need straws for medical reasons
- Plastic straws should be banned everywhere. There are plenty of compostable alternatives, so there's simply no excuse for our use of plastic straws at all.
- Should be available for people with swallowing issues
- I'm concerned about people who have a disability and might need straws - I'd rather encourage paper/compostable straws than a
- There is currently no universal replacement for plastic straws that is ADA accessible for all people with disabilities
- No
- no restrictions
- people with disabilities may need straws and it shouldn't be up to business owners to feel like they have to discern whether or not someone has a disability
- not sure what you mean by "restricting" - if available only on request, that would be great.
- No, some people with disabilities need straws.
- Plastic straws available by request
- Do not support
- No. Straws are a ridiculously small issue compared to others.
- Realize it's too hard to eliminate entirely, so require biodegradable straws
- Straws are really not the problem. Educate people to decline straws. By weight, they're nothing.
- Straws should be offered in businesses for people who use it because of mental/physical health issues. Getting rid of straws only supports able-bodied people. We need to do what's best for our community as a whole

Question 11: Do you support an ordinance restricting the distribution of plastic straws at ... (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 125

- Only provide to disabled
- Private events held in the city
- Do not prohibit the uses of straws entirely. It's bad for special needs people who cannot use metal or paper straws
- selling them at Kroger & other stores
- No. Banning straws may confer 'moral license' - allowing companies and their customers to feel they have done their part. The crucial challenge is to ensure that these bans are just a first step.
- No. Businesses should ask if someone wants a straw!
- Straws can be really helpful to disabled people who struggle with motor skills, so I think they shouldn't be banned altogether.
- I would only support this if plastic straws were required to be replaced with BPI certified industrially compostable "plastic" straws or paper straws
- All locations: plastic straws should be banned entirely.
- what would impact for city schools be? no idea how many straws are used, or what the cost implications might be
- Restricting distribution of straws, take out containers, etc. by businesses is a last resort- enact carrots to entice businesses to act... see best practices from other cities along with EDUCATION
- If such a law were in place I would personally purchase 1000 straws from Amazon each month for \$14, and use them and throw those I didn't use out into the trash. I don't like the totalitarian approach of forcing someone not to use straws.
- NO
- One problem with restricting straws is that kids and people with disabilities benefit from use of straws. I think there are lots of better ways to reduce single-use plastics.
- there are some accessibility issues. Some people need straws
- All of the above
- Some disabled people need plastic straws. We have to discourage their casual use without hurting people who need them
- Prohibiting sales at local stores but offering an alternative for those who must use them for health issues.
- A single plastic bottle is many straws. Not the problem.
- I do not support government restrictions
- I can't imagine schools/hospitals not being allowed to use straws; doesn't seem feasible. We have kids at the school at which I work who cannot drink without a straw. (wheel chairs, poor coordination, etc.)
- People with special needs may need straws. Limited use rather than total ban better.
- No
- Everywhere except where required for healthcare needs
- I support restricting, but straws should always be available for those that require them such as for a medical reason.
- Provide compostable straws!
- I do not support banning plastic straws as it would become another burden placed on people with disabilities to bring their own straw with them. Additionally, the actual environmental effect of plastic straws is minuscule in the grand scheme of things; banning things like plastic straws provides people just enough of the feeling that they are helping to deflect from actual long term solutions to the bigger problem.
- No. Some people w/ disabilities need them.
- None of the above
- We shouldn't use straws or plastic cups and bottles at businesses or events.
- Not a government function
- I think at businesses they should not be automatically given. Make the patrons ask for them.
- everywhere. we don't need plastic straws.
- No. they're needed by some disabled individuals. Leave it up to the businesses.
- I do not support an ordinance restricting the distribution of plastic straws.
- For certain persons with disabilities, plastic straws are important, but I believe they should be made available upon request, rather than a full ban.
- only if paper straws or metal straws are an option
- For accessibility purposes, there should be re-usable straws provided everywhere. But single-use straws should be banned.
- No
- No Ordinance - More Education
- None. For many individuals with disabilities plastic straws are a necessity. I believe that businesses should primarily have alternatives (no straws, paper straws, etc) but make plastic straws available by request to maintain accessibility.
- No, I don't support it
- Paper or some other types of biodegradable straws
- Unless needed by people with disabilities
- Restricting, but not prohibiting. I support discouraging their use.
- I support the use of plastic straws for dine-in only; carryout should be paper.
- I don't think plastic straws are such a huge problem
- Children and elders need straws.
- All of the above
- None of the above. Don't consider straws a problem.
- Some people need straws because of disability, but perhaps they can carry multiple use straws?
- no
- Straws are necessary for some people due to physical limitations. There should not be a ban but their use should be discouraged unless a suitable replacement is made available
- Should have more paper straws and other forms of the bio plastic like the ones made from corn.
- no
- I would not support this ordinance.
- all the above
- Exemption for specific use but with strict requirements and a fee for use (medical)

Question 11: Do you support an ordinance restricting the distribution of plastic straws at ... (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 125

- All, switch to paper. Offer reusable straws for sale.
- Straws can be helpful for people with disabilities. Make them available on request
- OK for ill or handicapped persons
- Weren't plastic straws an ocean environmental concern?
- No. I do not support such ordinances. Plastic straws are a convenience for many and a necessity for some. Other options will be costly for the businesses and community organizations that are subject to these restrictions.
- I do not support this. People with disabilities need straws.
- with exceptions for disabilities/need for straws to drink
- Only if those who need it can request them. But approve not handing them out I requested. Many Decatur restaurants already do this.
- No

Question 12: Do you support an ordinance restricting the distribution of all plastic to-go cups, takeout containers, and silverware at ... (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 95

- You should have to pay for them if you need them
- Only paper or reusable containers should be allowed
- Schools
- Anywhere
- Yes, provided we can provide those businesses with an acceptable alternative for their product
- no
- Absolutely not.
- I do not support this
- Alternatives for plastic cup?
- All of the above
- "All" is too restrictive.
- No
- I don't agree on restricting the use of plastic items
- Not sure about silverware. Don't want to eat my meal with wooden utensils.
- No-this seems impossible because there isn't an alternative solution
- No ~ recycle them
- Not a critical government role
- No. I think people will vote with their feet to the businesses that figure out how to incorporate less plastics.
- with alternatives widely promoted
- None. Your survey results will be unbalanced because you don't give "none" as an answer.
- Better disposable options
- goal should be identify ways to minimize, by presenting perceived draconian measures to the public, government will ignore the problem
- No I do not.
- Schools
- this could get too pricey for businesses
- no
- if these things are recyclable--and recycling containers made available--then don't restrict.
- None
- Depends on the alternatives
- Yes
- Let's encourage people to bring their own tupperware with them to a restaurant. Charge for a box, AND give a discount for bringing their own food. No incentive for leaving food behind.
- Does that mean more styrofoam?
- Again, there are so many compostable alternatives that no one should be using any plastic containers. Period.
- Yes, but bamboo forks, etc, should be available
- No
- no restrictions
- anywhere it's feasible. Festivals seem hard to do. Maybe have a charge for this, like a plastic bag fee.
- No. This is not government's job. Restaurants can choose to do so and customers can also choose.
- Fully support limits and restricting to certain types of plastic, no styrofoam
- First: Charge a fee; later prohibit
- Bad question. Fundamentally flawed survey. You didn't include NO as an answer
- Prefer voluntary
- Unless affordable, practical substitutions for these products are proposed, I wouldn't support this because it would likely be very hard for many businesses (restaurants in particular) to find substitutions for this kind of plastic product. I would, however, support certain restrictions of styrofoam specifically.
- Private events
- Only styrofoam!
- Worthy of community discussion
- All locations
- I support anything that is evidenced based at reducing overall environmental resource waste, pollution, environmental toll
- this is impossible to answer without more detail about impacts - of course I support the idea, but don't know what is meant by "restricting" or how it might work for businesses - what would be the options/substitutes? Are viable substitutes even available?
- again, ordinances are difficult and, in fact, run into political and legislative roadblocks- e.g., the effort some 7-8 years ago to ban plastic bags brought out the American Chemistry Council lobby, for one, and legislators who were set on undermining any such ban
- Why is no I do not support this not an option to check
- NO
- If they are recyclable or compostable, I do not oppose plastic.
- There are cups and silverware now being made of compostable materials. We all need to move to those.
- All Decatur restaurants
- All of the above ex
- Some kids may need straws due to motor difficulty so I would hate to take away a needed resource from one group, but generally I'd like to see an ordinance.
- No. How will people drink?
- No, I do not support government restrictions
- None
- No
- I support a small fees for containers. We all sometimes forget. So, I support a fee for environmentally friendly to go containers.
- Provide compostable
- No restrictions
- I would need to know what other options are available, styrofoam is not a good alternative and paper doesn't always make sense
- Not a government function
- if there are alternatives, I support ordinances restricting use of plastics everywhere.
- I do not support an ordinance restricting the distribution of all plastic to-go cup
- Yes, I think there should be an ordinance restricting distribution, however for restaurants, if they must provide to-go container, they should provide ones that can be easily re-used by the consumer.

Question 12: Do you support an ordinance restricting the distribution of all plastic to-go cups, takeout containers, and silverware at ... (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 95

- No
- No ordinance - More education
- I personally reuse plastic to-go containers as Tupperware for packing lunches and leftovers and will use them until they break and then properly recycle them. I think there does need to be a heavy emphasis on the elimination of Styrofoam and other to-go containers that are not compostable or recyclable.
- No
- Depends on the cost
- Idealism should not trump being sanitary; sometimes plastic silverware are necessary.
- Can the city subsidize the use of degradable materials to encourage their use rather than mandate?
- all of the above
- Yes - we should restrict - but give businesses support and guidance on how to implement in ways that strengthen their business.
- Some plastics are made from plants and biodegradable
- No.
- no new ordinance
- As long as there is a viable replacement - or a phase out over a year so that businesses aren't left in the lurch.
- no
- No
- I would not support this ordinance.
- all the above
- Festival/business part should be for a fee. Also, this question was for plastic but not styrofoam so it may just create a different problem. Discounts for bring your own cup would help.
- All of the above. Switch to more environmentally friendly to-go packaging
- No.
- No, I do not support such a restriction. Plastic containers and utensils have important uses. They are more hygienic than some reusable options; they don't need to be washed, which uses considerable energy and water; and having to identify and use alternatives could be very costly for local businesses and community organizations.
- I do not support this
- only if there was a viable alternative
- Absolutely do not support
- That's a tough one; there are biodegradable takeout containers but not sure how much extra they'd cost.

Question 13: Do you support an ordinance restricting the distribution of all styrofoam takeout containers at ... (check any that apply)?

Other Responses: 59

- No styrofoam that isn't for long term use should be allowed
- Schools
- Anywhere
- no
- Absolutely not.
- I do not support this
- We don't need styrofoam. They didn't use is much in the 70s for takeout. There are plenty of viable options. Also - wax paper straws are better.
- Everywhere, including all schools, private and public
- City related events.. how much per year would the added costs be?
- No-this seems impossible for some businesses
- No ~ use biodegradable or recyclable
- Not a critical government role
- None
- take-out containers can be sustainable paper
- No I do not.
- None
- I would support a ban on plastic and/or styrofoam containers if better options are available (depending on environmental studies)
- Yes
- Schools in CSD!
- Styrofoam should be banned outright. Again, there are so many compostable alternatives that there's no excuse for any use of styrofoam. I currently boycott Chick Fil A for their excessive use of styrofoam and it sickens me to see the amount of styrofoam waste that comes from their business, due to the huge popularity with school age kids in Decatur. It must be stopped by the government if the store won't stop on its own.
- no restrictions
- No
- No
- Prefer voluntary
- Private events
- Give restaurants an incentive to reduce styrofoam, can we have Clty of Decatur approved to go boxes that folks could recycle, reuse, turn in to the restaurant as the restaurant gives you a new one with your food like recycling old milk bottles used to be
- All locations
- see answer above - yes, great in principle - but have these entities been able to discuss what the alternatives might be, how they would work, cost impact? And again - what do you mean be "restricting"? Does that mean limited use? Forbidding use?
- no- sometimes people need an option and maybe the business could charge 25 cents, for example, with funds to be used for non-profit support
- No
- maybe everywhere. I'd have to think about it.
- NO
- All Decatur restaurants
- All of the above
- No, I do not support government restrictions
- No
- I think we should make all styrofoam illegal in Decatur
- Not a government function
- yes. styrofoam is evil.
- I do not support an ordinance restricting the distribution of all styrofoam takeout containers
- Schools for sure! I hate seeing styrofoam and other plastics in the cafeteria!
- No
- No ordinance - More education
- No
- They restricted the use of styrofoam in Somerville, MA when I was living there. It resulted in businesses choosing much more eco-friendly, sustainable options!
- If Decatur continues to have a viable recycling program of styrofoam, I'm not opposed to allowing
- all of the above
- no new ordinance
- E
- no
- No
- all the above
- Hospital cafeterias in Decatur
- .No
- No, I do not support such an ordinance. Styrofoam has important insulating properties that helps cut down on food/drink waste.
- only if there was a viable alternative
- No
- styrofoam is evil.
- In particular styrofoam!

Question 17: Does your business use any of the following single-use materials (check all that apply)?

Other Responses: 7

- We only use recycled or reused products
- Biodegradable plastic bags
- styrofoam cups and bowls and plates
- No
- Paper products. Over reliance on printed material
- It's a dog walking business, so we use a lot of poop bags. I always buy the compostable ones, but I think about this a lot.
- Our water provider brings plastic cups for water, but we also provide ceramic cups which we wash after each use.