

Town of Exeter	Policy Number: <b>23-01</b>	Adopted by <b>Select Board</b>
<b>Distribution of Single Use Plastics on Town Property</b>	Adoption Date: 01-XX-23 Revision Date: Effective Date: 01-XX-23	Supersedes:

1.0 **Purpose of the Policy:** The Town of Exeter recognizes that limiting the distribution and subsequent disposal of single-use plastics through reduction is necessary to protect human health, to preserve the natural environment, and to promote sustainable and ethical practices regarding material waste.

2.0 **Departments and Individuals Affected:** All Town Departments and any Town facility, Town property (excluding Town streets unless special permit is issued), Town-managed or sponsored event, or activity authorized through special permits issued under the authority of the Town of Exeter Select Board.

3.0 **Definitions:**

- 3.1 Distribution: The act of selling, providing or supplying products for use by customers or intended recipients at a point of sale, gathering, event, or activity.
- 3.2 Human Service Organization: An organization focused on providing services to people in order to help them stabilize their lives and find self-sufficiency through guidance, counseling, treatment, and/or the provision of basic needs.
- 3.3 Reusable Bag: a sewn bag with stitched handles that is (i) specifically designed and manufactured for at least 175 uses; (ii) can carry 25 pounds over a distance of 300 feet; and (iii) is made of cloth or other machine-washable fabric other than polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride.
- 3.4 Single-Use Compostable Food Service Products: a bag, bottle, food container, cup, utensil, straw or other similar food service product that is composed of one hundred percent (100%) Polylactic Acid (typically derived from plant-based starch such as corn) and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purpose of transporting or consuming food.
- 3.5 Single-Use Plastic Bag: a bag that is made predominantly of polyethylene plastic derived from petroleum and provided at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or other goods. Trash bags used for disposing of waste are excluded.
- 3.6 Single-Use Plastic Food Service Products: a bottle, food container, cup, utensil, straw or other similar food service product that is made predominantly of polyethylene plastic

derived from either petroleum or natural gas, and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purpose of transporting or consuming food.

3.7 Single-Use Polystyrene Container: a container or cup composed of synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymers that is made from the monomer styrene (often called Styrofoam) and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purposes of transporting food.

4.0 **Policy**: The Town of Exeter adopts this policy to discourage the use of single use plastic disposable items at any town facility, town property (excluding Town streets unless special permit is issued), town-managed or sponsored event, or activity authorized through special permits issued under the authority of the Town of Exeter Select Board unless otherwise allowed under Product Exceptions 5.0 and 6.0 Organizational Exceptions.

4.1 Single Use Plastic Disposable Items Discouraged:

- 4.1.1 Single-Use Plastic Bags.
- 4.1.2 Single-Use Plastic Food Service Products.
- 4.1.3 Single-Use Polystyrene Containers.

5.0 **Product Exceptions**:

- 5.1 Reusable Bags.
- 5.2 Single-Use Compostable Food Service Products.
- 5.3 Packaging materials required for food safety reasons added at the site of the business or a processing facility. Examples: wrapping around meats, seafood, lettuce mix or other perishable products.
- 5.4 Products where alternatives to prohibited items do not exist, until an alternative is identified.

6.0 **Organizational Exceptions**:

- 6.1 All town departments/vendors may distribute their remaining inventory for 12 months following policy adoption.
- 6.2 Items used by emergency responders or human service non-profit organizations.
- 6.3 Prohibited Single Use Containers brought by staff/customers themselves.
- 6.4 Exeter Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Sustainability Committee to develop a transition plan, implementing acceptable alternatives as they are identified with an objective of meeting financial and sustainability goals.

7.0 **Implementation Support**:

- 7.1 Clarification on this policy, alternative product sourcing questions, or resources for event-based composting can be directed to the Town of Exeter Conservation and Sustainability Planner.
- 7.2 The Town of Exeter may provide recycle bins upon request to those adhering to this policy. This service is contingent on oversight to ensure proper recycling.