

# Resident Transition Workshop

City of Charleston  
Single-Use Plastic Regulations



# Agenda: Resident Transition Workshop

1. Welcome / City Support for Businesses (5 mins)
2. Charleston Surfrider on “Why” (5 mins)
3. City Regulations, Q & A (10 mins)
4. County Recycling and Composting, Q & A (10 mins)
5. Reducing single-use plastics in your life (5 mins)

## **Questions?**

After, ask questions about the ordinance and acceptable products

## **Ordinance Questions**

Ask City staff

## **Recycling Questions**

Ask Charleston County staff

Get your free reusable bags and straws, and ask questions!

Ordinance applies to  
Single-Use Plastics that are

NOT recyclable or  
compostable

Charleston Surfrider Foundation:

Why this code is important  
and supportive data

# SURFRIDER CHARLESTON LITTER SWEEP DATA



# LOCATION: BEN SAWYER CAUSEWAY, SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

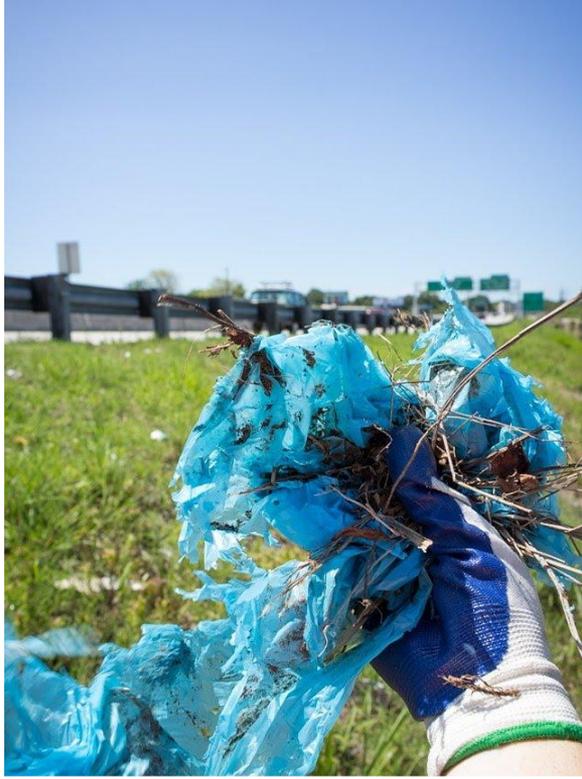
Year	Plastic Bags Found / Cleanup	Plastic Bags Found / Volunteer Hour
Pre-ordinance (2017 & 2018)	74	1.67
Post-ordinance	20	0.61
Reduction in Bags Found	73%	63%

As a result of this reduction, we have been able to invest fewer volunteer hours on Sullivans and are focusing on other areas of Charleston.

# LOCATION: 2ND STREET EAST & 2ND STREET WEST, FOLLY BEACH

Year	Plastic Bags Found / Cleanup	Plastic Bags Found / Volunteer Hour
Pre-ordinance (2016)	33	0.92
Post-ordinance (2017-2019)	15	0.34
Reduction in Bags Found	54%	63%

As a result of this reduction, we are focusing on reducing straws on Folly Beach.



Plastic bag – breaking  
down into micro plastic...



Drains to ocean...



Never going away...

# THE CONNECTION



What is the New City Code?



CITY OF CHARLESTON

## Plan Ahead for New Single-Use Plastics Guidelines

**BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020**

Operations throughout Charleston will be required to eliminate use of single-use plastic carryout and merchandise bags, as well as certain plastic carryout and food packaging items.

These new measures will mean cleaner city streets and ocean waters, but we know they also will mean big changes for you and your customers.

Use this guide to learn more about alternatives that will work for your organization.

**WHO NEEDS TO GET READY?**

The new guidelines apply to all commercial and nonprofit operations including:

- Concession/event vendors and food trucks
- Farmers markets/stands and takeout stands
- Schools and government
- Grocery and liquor stores
- Restaurants and bars
- Retail stores

*Continued on back*

### What's IN?

Establishments will be able to choose from numerous affordable alternatives and certain specialty items will still be allowed:

#### ✓ Reusable Bags and Recyclable Paper Bags

##### ✓ REUSABLE BAGS

- Cloth or other washable fabric or plastic bags at least 4 mils thick
- A minimum lifetime of 125 uses



- With handles and clear display of information on reuse/recycling

##### ✓ RECYCLABLE PAPER BAGS

- Paper bags of all sizes
- With and without handles
- Including glossy gift bags with handles



##### ✓ Recyclable or Compostable Disposable Food Containers and Service Ware

Food service ware, containers and packaging made out of materials that are compostable<sup>1</sup> or are accepted by the Charleston County recycling program<sup>2</sup> including:

- ✓ Aluminum
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Glass
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Recyclable plastics



### What's OUT?

**AFTER JANUARY 1, 2020**, operations will be required to stop using:

#### ✗ Plastic Single-Use Carryout Bags

- ✗ Intended for one-time use to transport purchases
- ✗ Less than 4 mils thick
- ✗ Not included in the "Exceptions: Specialty Items" section (back page)



#### ✗ Non-Recyclable and Non-Compostable Disposable Food Containers and Service Ware

Polystyrene (also known as plastic foam or Styrofoam™) and other non-recyclable and non-compostable food service ware, carryout containers and food packaging materials including:

- ✗ Bowls
- ✗ Boxes
- ✗ Clamshells
- ✗ Cups
- ✗ Plates
- ✗ Stirrers
- ✗ Straws



(See "Exceptions: Specialty Items" section on back)

#### ✗ Operations also will be required to stop selling or renting polystyrene:

- ✗ Bowls, cups and plates
- ✗ Coolers, containers and ice chests
- ✗ Shipping boxes and packing material

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## EXCEPTIONS: Specialty Items

The following specialty items are not restricted or are exempt from restrictions:

- Bags for bulk grocery items
- Bags for raw, frozen or prepared foods
- Bread bags
- Condiment packages
- Cutlery
- Deli bags
- Dry cleaning/garment bags
- Egg cartons
- Floral/plant wrapping
- Garbage bags
- Meat trays
- Newspaper bags
- Pet waste bags
- Plastic drink or soup container lids
- Produce bags
- Straws for use by customers with disabilities



## WHY are we doing this?

These new measures are about cleaner streets and waterways, preserving the beauty and livability of Charleston for generations to come.

Plastic bags and containers are convenient, but they also-

- **Trash our neighborhoods and waterways.** More than 302 million tons of plastics are discarded worldwide each year.<sup>3</sup> Plastic waste ends up on Charleston's streets and 7.6 tons are in Charleston Harbor alone.<sup>4</sup>
- **Threaten wildlife health.** As many as 100,000 marine animals have been injured or killed by entanglement with or ingestion of plastic waste.<sup>5</sup>
- **Pose risks to human health.** Plastics never fully biodegrade, but when pieces of these bags and containers are eaten by animals, the plastic enters our food chain.

## WHERE can I learn more?

Detailed information is available online at [www.charleston-sc.gov/plastic](http://www.charleston-sc.gov/plastic)

For specific questions, call (843) 724-7311 or email [citizenservices@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:citizenservices@charleston-sc.gov)

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# What Recyclable & Compostable Means

## Recyclable

Acceptable products that are recyclable need to be accepted by the Charleston County Recycling Program.

## Compostable

Acceptable Products that are compostable need to meet ASTM Standards and need to be accompanied by a commercial composting service.

Q & A

City Code

Charleston County Environ. Mgmt.:

What Residential  
Recycling and Composting  
programs are available?

**How Does Recycling Actually Work?**

**Who are Buyers?**

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# Charleston County Recycling Program

## How to Recycle Right!

Please ONLY recycle items like these:



### PAPER



office paper



cardboard



mail



magazines



food boxes



note pads

### PLASTIC BOTTLES & CONTAINERS



### ALUMINUM & STEEL CANS



### GLASS JARS & BOTTLES



**RECYCLE RIGHT.**



**RECYCLE RIGHT.**



# Why Recycle?

With just a little effort, recycling pays back huge dividends to our community.

## The benefits of recycling are:

- Saves energy
- Reduces pollution
- Preserves natural resources
- Decreases the amount of materials buried in landfills
- Minimizes the expansion of landfills in residential areas
- Reduces our reliance on landfills



# Don't Just Recycle.

# Recycle Right.

More Information:

What can be recycled? <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/environmental-management/recycle-what.php>

## YES!

PLEASE PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR RECYCLING CART

**Paper**



- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Office paper
- Envelopes
- Junk mail/envelopes
- Greeting cards
- Catalogs
- Books/textbooks
- Coupons
- Posters
- Sticky notes
- Paper bags
- Wrapping paper

**Plastic Bottles & Containers**



- Water bottles
- Soda bottles
- Milk jugs
- Liquid containers
- Jars and tubs (yogurt, margarine tubs, etc.)
- Detergent and all-purpose cleaner bottles
- Soap and shampoo bottles
- Rigid plastic product packaging, such as clean rigid clamshell containers (Remove any plastic film or aluminum)
- Plastic cups

**Paperboard & Cardboard**



- Corrugated cardboard boxes
- Soda/beverage boxes
- Shoe boxes
- Gift boxes
- Clean food boxes (cereal boxes, microwave meals, boxes of rice, etc.)
- Paper towel rolls
- Paper egg cartons

## NO!

DO NOT PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR RECYCLING CART



**Keep the following items out of your recycling cart:**

- Plastic bags (i.e. shopping bags, cereal bags, trash bags)
- Plastic wrap (i.e. thin plastic food wrap or shrink wrapping/product packaging)
- Styrofoam packaging or food containers
- household garbage
- shredded paper
- food waste
- yard waste
- cartons (i.e. juice boxes, chicken broth cartons)
- bulky plastic items (i.e. toys, hangers)
- batteries
- light bulbs
- electronics
- clothing and shoes

# How do I start recycling: single family home

## Request a recycling cart to start recycling!



- Single family homes along Charleston County Environmental Management's existing curbside collection routes are eligible to receive (1) 95-gallon recycling roll cart.
- Carts are serviced every two weeks.

Request a cart: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/environmental-management/recycle-bins.php>

# How do I start recycling: multi-family

- Recycling service is available for residents living in apartments and condominiums.
- Recycling containers are serviced on a weekly basis.
- Based on size, multiple 95-gallon recycling roll carts or a central dumpster can be offered for recycling.



# What is Single-Stream Recycling?



- Instead of separating your recyclables, **you can mix them together** in your single stream roll cart
- The sorting is done for you at the recycling center.
- We make it easier so you'll recycle more!



# Before you recycle

- **Empty and rinse** all containers to remove food residue.
- **Flatten** boxboard and corrugated cardboard.
- **Do not “bag”** Recyclables!



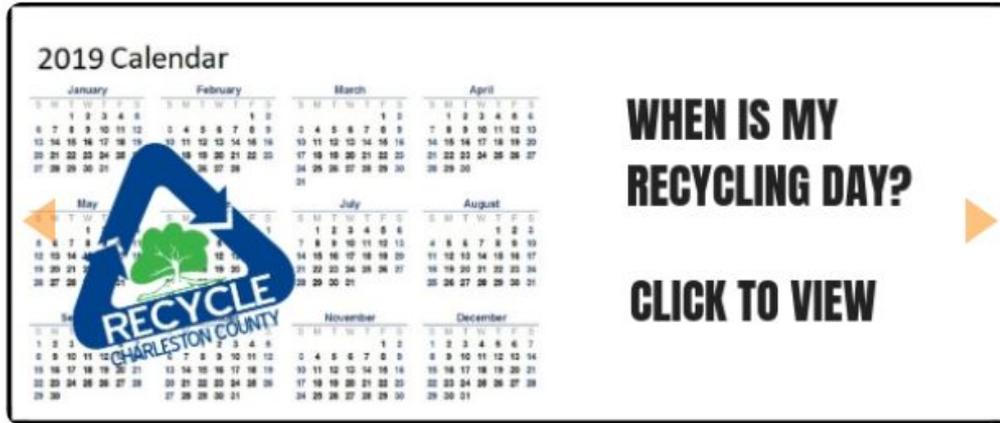
# Where should I place the cart?

It is very important that you place your roll cart properly at the curb so the robotic arm can lift it.

- Keep a clearance zone of **3 feet around the cart**, away from mailboxes, parked cars, trash cans or trees.
- **Arrows point toward the street** and the handle points toward your home.
- Lid is closed.



# When should I put the cart out?



The image shows a 2019 calendar for Charleston County. A large blue recycling symbol with a green tree in the center is overlaid on the calendar. The text "RECYCLE CHARLESTON COUNTY" is written across the bottom of the symbol. To the right of the calendar, the text "WHEN IS MY RECYCLING DAY?" is displayed in large, bold, black letters, with "CLICK TO VIEW" below it in a smaller font. Two orange arrows point towards the text from the left and right sides.

- Your cart should be at the curb before 7:00am on your scheduled pickup day.
- After it is emptied, return it to your garage or backyard storage area to keep it safe and clean.

Residential Recycling Pickup Schedule:

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/environmental-management/recnewsletter.php>

# Recycling Convenience Centers & Dropsites

Convenience Centers are staffed centers and will accept:

- Used electronics
  - TVs, printers, monitors & computers only
- Hazardous household materials
- CFL & LED light bulbs
- Yard waste
- Tires
- Paint, motor oil
- Car batteries, battery acid, NiCad batteries
- Scrap metal
- Appliances
- Household batteries
- Fluorescent tubes, antifreeze and propane tanks (caps on propane tanks must be unscrewed and removed)



# Charleston County Composting Program

Table to Farm: Recycle Your Food Scraps Into Compost

*You've heard about farm to table,  
but what about table to farm?*



Charleston County  
Compost

More Information:

Composting & Hauling Partners

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/environmental-management/compost-commercial-info.php>



# Questions on what to recycle?

## YES!

PLEASE PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR RECYCLING CART

### Paper



- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Office paper
- Envelopes
- Junk mail/envelopes
- Greeting cards
- Catalogs
- Books/textbooks
- Coupons
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- Sticky notes
- Paper bags
- Wrapping paper

### Plastic Bottles & Containers



- Water bottles
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- batteries
- light bulbs
- electronics
- clothing and shoes

Best Practices &  
Creative Ideas for

Reducing Single-Use Plastics  
in Your Life!

# SHOP WITH **REUSABLE** BAGS



**Be part of the movement and Help Cultivate a Culture of Responsibility  
and Community-wide Behavioral Change!**

# Reusable Bag Giveaway Today!

## Insulated Bags

Great for buying or transporting perishable items (meats, cheeses, vegetables, etc.)!



## Cotton Bags

Great for large items and grocery store shopping!



## Foldaway Bags

Great for quick/ small purchases!

Handy to keep in a purse, attach to keys, or hang on handlebars!



# Incentives for using Reusable Bags

- 5 - 10 cent rebate / bag



- Target
- BiLo
- Harris Teeter
- Trader Joes
- Earthfare
- Whole Foods

# Use Reusable Straws! or skip the straw!

Secondary option:

## Compostable Straws

- no straw can be recycled in Charleston County- they are too small and jam machines.



# Reusable Straw Giveaway Today!



# Use Reusable Coolers

- Folding Insulated Cooler Bags
- Large Coolers



# Use Reusable Plates, Cups, and Utensils!

Secondary option:

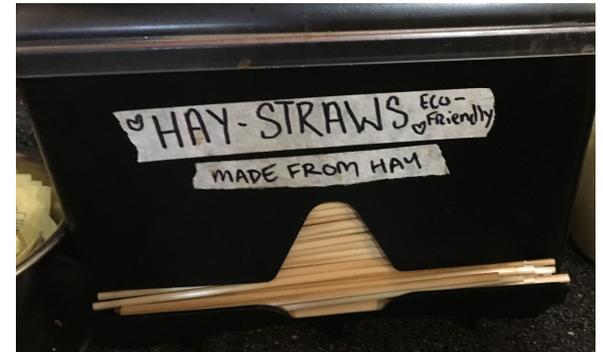
**Purchase  
compostable  
or recyclable  
products**



# Reduce Straw Demand

Do we really need straws as often?

- When restaurants offer straws only upon customer request
  - Reduce straw consumption drastically
  - Diminishes cost of alternative straws
  -
- Please, keep some plastic inventory for people who really need it
  - Exemption for plastic straws for people with a disability



# Other Ideas

- Reusable produce bags
- Reusable water bottle
- Reusable food packing and wrap
- Glass jars for bulk items



--- Quick Poll ---

# Thank you!

Don't forget to take home some reusable bags today and  
**shop with reusable bags!**

[www.charleston-sc.gov/plastic](http://www.charleston-sc.gov/plastic)