

# Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program

## Program Environmental Impact Report

### What is the Issue?

Single-use plastic items are ubiquitous in modern-day life and their use has increased significantly over the last two decades: half of all plastic ever produced has been made since 2002. Less than 10% of plastic is recycled globally leading to a huge accumulation of plastic waste, over 6 billion metric tons, in the earth's environment. In 2010 alone between 4 and 12 million tons of plastic waste ended up in the ocean. Locally, single-use plastics are the top items collected during annual clean-ups of California beaches; are found in local waterways and clog stormwater infrastructure; and harm the aesthetics of the City of Los Angeles (City) when littered.

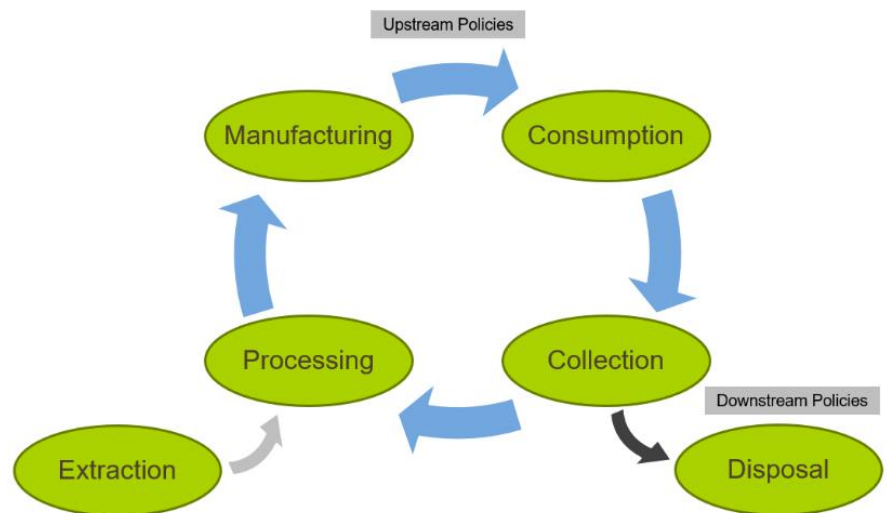


In general, plastics do not biodegrade in the environment and pose a risk to both terrestrial and aquatic life when littered. They also pose a risk to human health. Many single-use plastics are not recyclable or compostable in the City. Therefore, they must be disposed of in landfills, hindering the City's ability to meet its goal of zero waste disposal in City landfills by 2050.

### Program Overview

The City seeks to implement a citywide Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program (Proposed Program) and is preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) of the Proposed Program under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to support its decision-making process. The City is evaluating numerous measures to reduce or eliminate the production and use of single-use plastic products and encourage reuse of other items to the extent feasible, thereby reducing or eliminating the input of single-use plastics into the City's waste stream and the environment. These are known as upstream measures because they keep single-use plastics out of the waste stream.

These upstream measures may include bans on specific single-use products; product stewardship programs; extended producer responsibility programs; policies to require and/or support the manufacturing of durable, reusable, repairable, and recyclable products; and evaluating program efficacy and conduct additional studies.

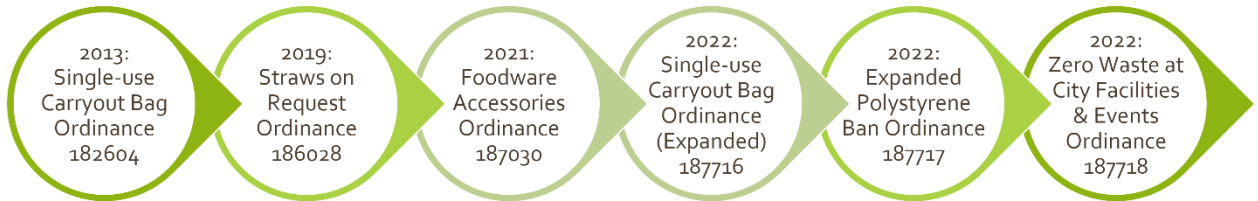


For those plastics that cannot be addressed through upstream measures, and to manage the increase in the use of compostable alternative materials, the City is also evaluating “downstream” measures by which to increase the City's ability to manage these materials, such as by collecting, reusing, recycling, and composting of alternative materials and support reusable products. These downstream measures may include the construction or expansion of recycling and composting facilities; regional market development to expand the City's ability to recycle and reuse currently

unmarketable single-use items; and infrastructure to support reusable items. The Proposed Program would also include public education, outreach, and engagement as well as enforcement.

## Previous City Actions

Throughout the last decade, the City has demonstrated its commitment to zero waste and the reduction of single-use plastics through ordinances related to reducing plastic pollution. To date, the City Council has adopted the following six ordinances:



For additional information about the City's efforts in reducing and eliminating single-use plastics, please visit: [www.lacitysan.org/sourcereduction](http://www.lacitysan.org/sourcereduction).

## CEQA Process

The Proposed Program is a comprehensive series of actions intended to minimize or eliminate single-use plastics within the City; therefore, the City is developing a program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

The environmental review process under CEQA, which is currently underway and is expected to go through the end of 2024, includes the following components:



● Opportunities for public input

To learn more visit:  
[www.lacitysan.org/ceqa](http://www.lacitysan.org/ceqa)

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