



## WHY REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS?

City Council adopted new regulations to reduce single-use plastic waste, effective January 1, 2023. These regulations are intended to reduce waste in our environment and litter in the ocean, protect public health, and reduce our dependence on plastic. The purpose of the City of Bainbridge Island's Disposable Food Service Ware and Waste Reduction ordinance is to:



### **SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

- It takes a lot of resources, such as energy and water, to produce plastics, many of which are only used for a few minutes before being discarded.
- The world uses 500 billion plastic cups every year\* and an estimated 5 billion single-use personal care products in plastic bottles provided by lodging establishments are disposed of annually.
- At least 14 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year, where they don't decompose and can harm marine ecosystems.\*

### **"COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS" ARE NOT ALWAYS COMPOSTABLE AND MAY CONTAIN TOXIC CHEMICALS.**

- So-called "compostable plastic" products are only compostable where consumers have access to industrial composting facilities. Such composting is not currently available to residents of Bainbridge Island.
- When not properly disposed of, most "compostable plastic" products pose a similar threat as petrochemical-based plastic, particularly to the marine environment.
- Certain plastic products may contain fluorinated chemicals ("PFAS"), which have been linked to serious human health effects, including kidney and testicular cancer, thyroid disruption, delayed puberty, and obesity.

### **LUCKILY, MANY ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS ARE READILY AVAILABLE!**

- Virtually all food service ware products are now available in natural plant fibers that do not contain toxic chemicals and that safely degrade in soil and marine environments (i.e., home compostable products).
- You can find examples of compliant products on the City's website at [www.bainbridgewa.gov/ZeroWaste](http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/ZeroWaste).

\*References: [Earth Day Network, Single-Use Plastics Fact Sheet, 3/29/22](#)



CITY OF  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

For questions or to learn more, please visit:

