



Los Angeles's Path to Plastic Source Reduction

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Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program**

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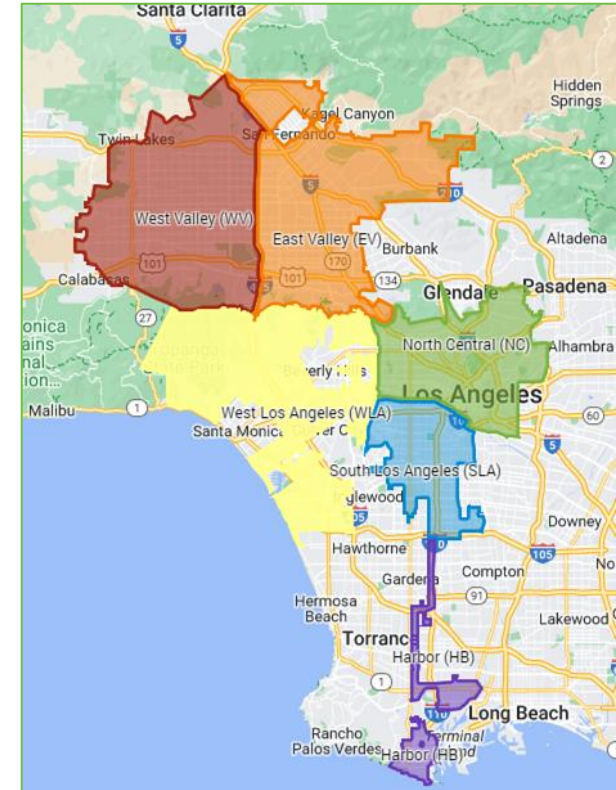
Managing Solid Resources in Los Angeles



~750,000 single-family homes,
small multifamily complexes
(< 4 units), and City facilities



~65,000 medium and large
multifamily complexes, condo
buildings, and commercial
businesses



The Plastics Problem

Globally:

- Less than 10% of plastics are recycled
- Over 6 billion metric tons of plastic in the environment

California:

- Primary source of land litter
- Threat to human health and wildlife
- Contribute to loss of tourism
- Diminish City aesthetics and recreation areas



Los Angeles's Zero Waste Goals & Commitments

- Increase landfill diversion
- Reduce per capita waste generation
- Phase out single-use plastics
- Eliminate organic waste from landfills
- Build a local circular economy



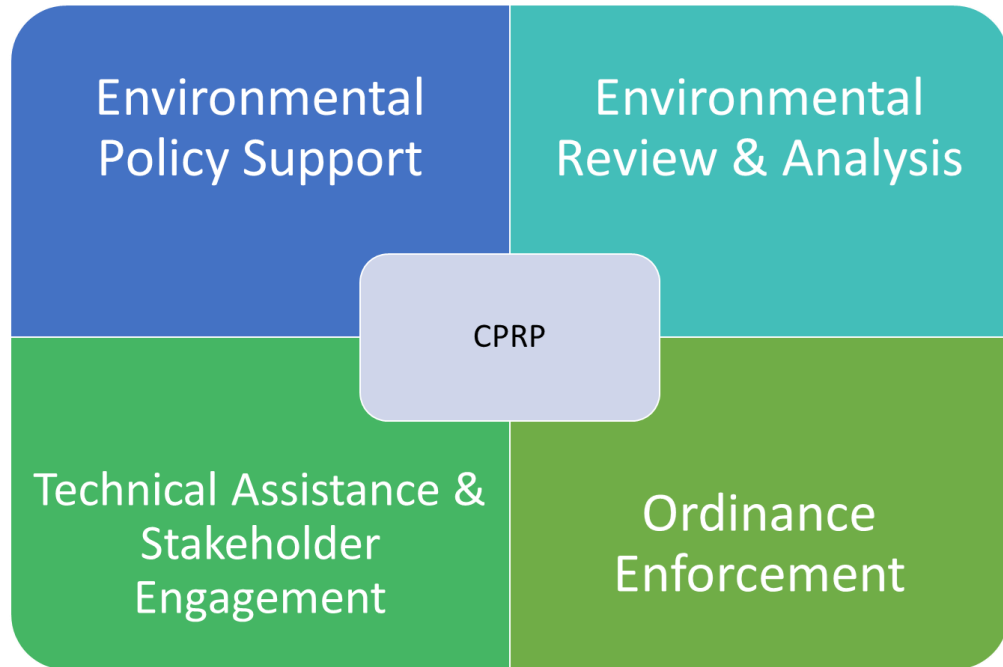
Why Source Reduction is Los Angeles's Focus

- Source reduction = most preferred option
- Recycling and composting still matter, but don't prevent waste creation
- Single-use plastics can be hard to recycle, often contaminate streams
- Prioritizing elimination over management



Driving Change Through Systems & Strategy

Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program



Los Angeles's Source Reduction Ordinances

2013

Single-use
Carryout
Bag
Ordinance
No.182604

2019

Straws
Upon
Request
Ordinance
No.186028

2021

Foodware
Accessories
Upon
Request
Ordinance
No.187030

2022

Single-use
Carryout
Bag
Ordinance
(Expanded)
No.187716

2022

Expanded
Polystyrene
Ban
Ordinance
No.187717

2022

Zero Waste
at City
Facilities &
Events
No.187718

Los Angeles's Plastic Reduction Strategy



Foodware

- Dine-In Services
- Single-Use To-go Foodware
- Meal Kit Reuse and Recycling
- Bioplastics in Foodware and Food-contact Products
- Plastic in Tea Bags
- Coffee/Beverage Pods



Plastic Bottles

- Plastic Water Bottle Ban
- Refillable Plastic Bottles
- Refillable Beverage Bottles
- Leashed Lids
- Plastic Holder Rings for Bottles and Cans



Textiles

- Textile Disposal Policies
- Washing Machine Microfiber Filtration



Other Products

- Plastic Bag Clips
- PFAS in Products
- Silly String
- Plastic Sandbags
- Lighter than Air Balloons
- Single-use Vape Cartridges and E-cigarettes
- Single-use Printer Cartridges



Collaborative Efforts

- Formation of Working Groups
- Regional Market Development
- Additional Studies
- Take Back Programs
- Pilot Programs
- Outreach & Education



Facilities

- Green Bin Facilities
- Blue Bin Facilities
- Black Bin Facilities
- Water Bottle Refilling/Hydration Stations
- Foodware and Linen Washing Facilities



Recyclable/compostable Standards

- Establish Improved Standards
- Establish Regional Consistency

Engaging LA to Support Education & Compliance

To date (from Jan. 2023 to Present):

Businesses visited	1,900+
Outreach events attended	60+
Inquiries responded to	130+
Ordinance mailers distributed	210,000+

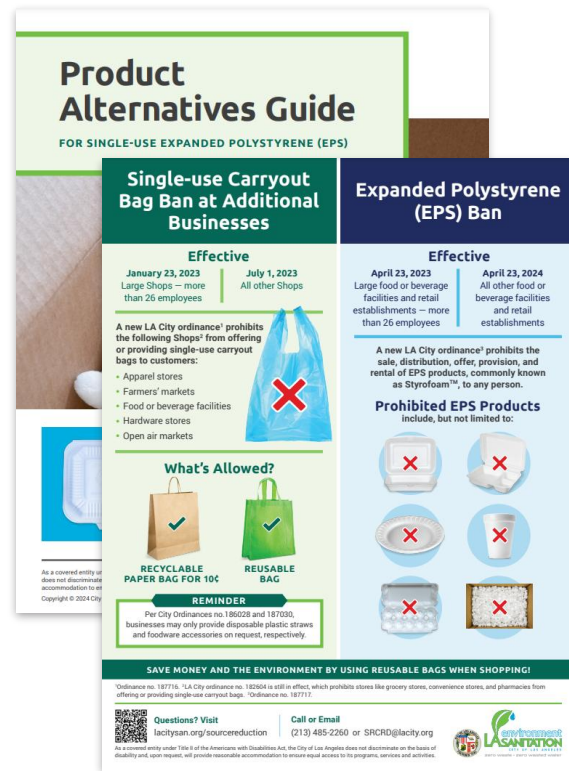
Flyers

FAQs

Mailers

Social Media Posts

Emails



Scaling Reuse through Business Support

Reusable Foodware Microgrant Program

- April 2023 - July 2024
- \$1M in financial and technical support
- Focus on environmental justice communities
- 120 food businesses transitioned
- Demonstrated beneficial outcomes:
 - Annual average cost savings
 - Significant waste reduction
 - Positive customer & business response



Three-phase Process

Priority Communities

P1

OUTREACH: 100% of all restaurants in Pacoima, Boyle Heights, South LA, Wilmington (613 businesses)

P2

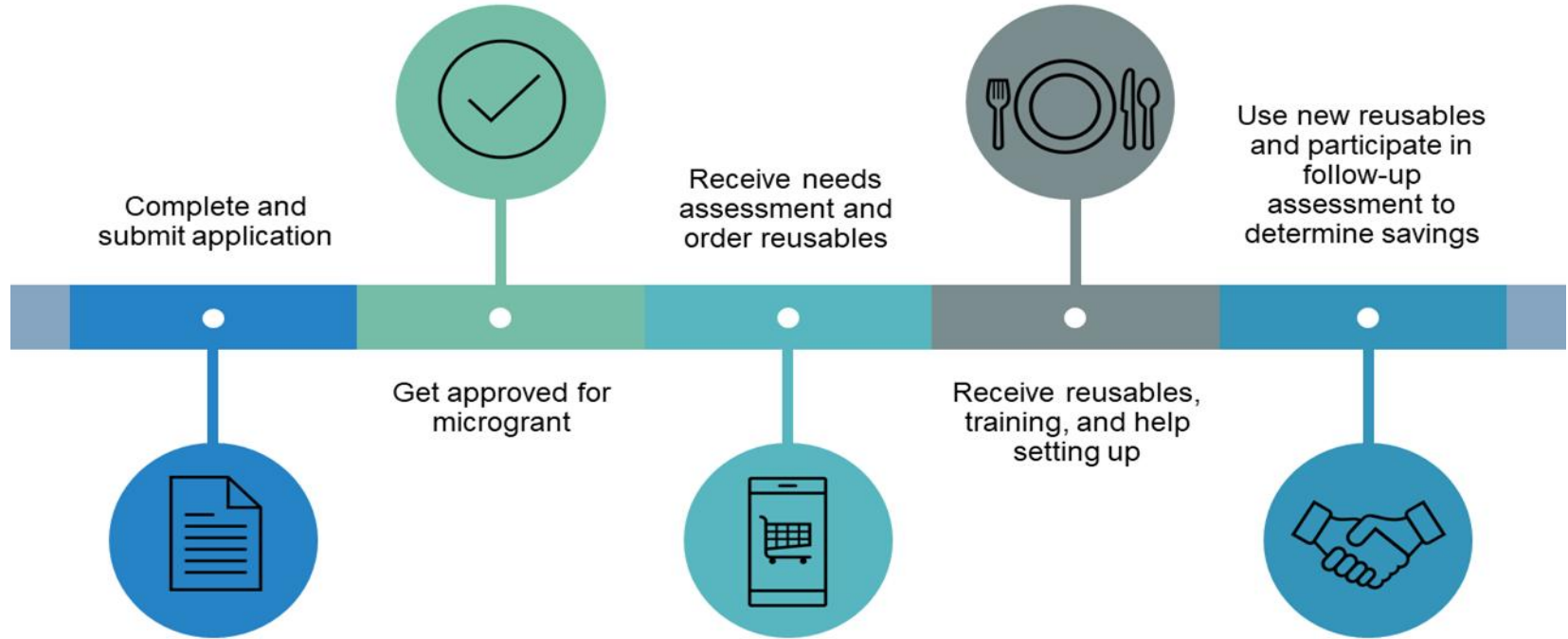
ENGAGEMENT: Restaurants receive 1:1 engagement (3 attempts)

P3

CONVERSION: Sign-up restaurants

Process

Remaining Communities



Reusable Product Guide



Key Takeaways & Next Steps

- Face-to-face engagement, needs assessment, and training are critical
- Samples of foodware options
- ~\$75/seat for conversion
- Developing summary document
- Considering expansion of program



Next Steps for 2025 & Beyond

- Ban on Single-use Printer Cartridges
- Reusable Foodware for Dine-in
- Recyclable or Compostable Single-use Take-out Foodware
- Water Bottle Refilling Station Expansion
- Reusable, Returnable Take-out Foodware Pilot



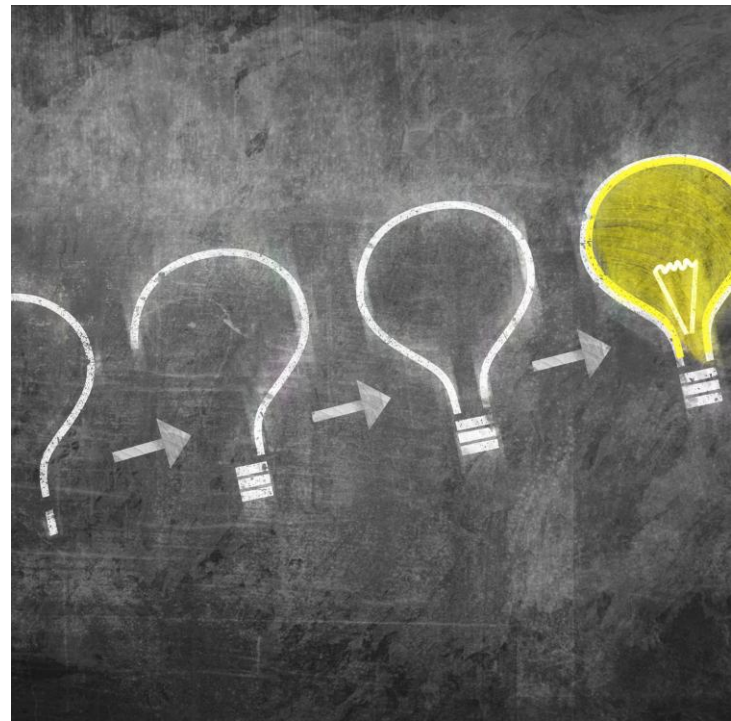
Proposed Single-Use Printer Cartridge Ban

- Prohibit sale of single-use printer cartridges within the City
- Not considered “single-use” if it meets all of the following:
 - Collected through a take-back program
 - Remanufacturable, refillable, or reusable
 - Does not infringe upon intellectual property rights or violates applicable laws
- Applies to retail establishments and online retail establishments - not a user-side ban



Lessons from Los Angeles's Plastic Reduction Work

- Start with education, enforce when necessary
- Engage stakeholders early and throughout the process
- Pair policy with funding and technical assistance
- Reuse is scalable with support
- Community trust takes time and consistency, leverage trusted networks
- Collaboration drives systemic change



Inspiring Systemic Change Together

- Plastic pollution negatively impacts our communities, human health, and wildlife
- Los Angeles is committed to protecting the public health and environment
- Let's work together to:
 - Support businesses in achieving zero waste
 - Foster collaboration and innovation
 - Build equitable, accessible, and economically sustainable systems
 - Advance circular economy





Thank You



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