

# CHAMPION & INNOVATOR PROFILES



## Communities City of Vancouver – Single Use Item Reduction Strategy

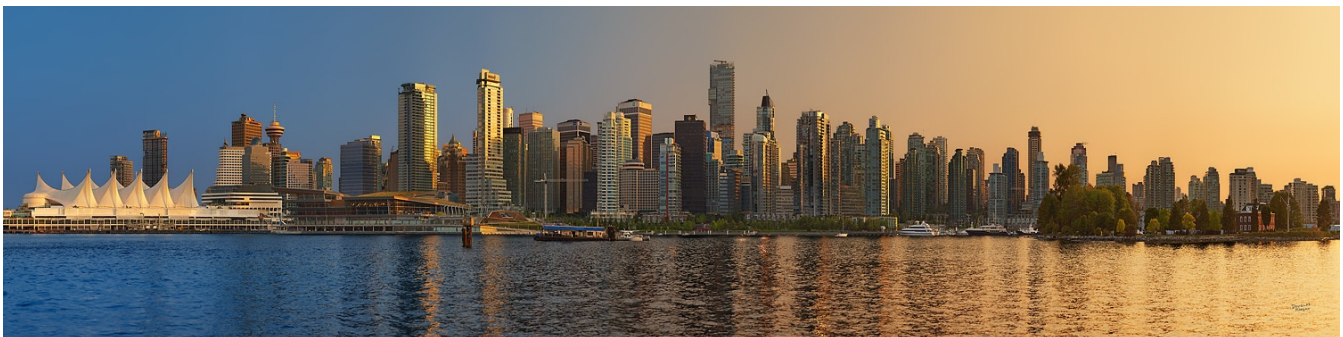
On May 19, 2014, Vancouver's recycling program expanded to include many of these single-use disposable items. Disposable coffee cups can be recycled through the residential collection program, while plastic bags and expanded polystyrene packaging can be recycled at depots. Some retailers have also developed take-back programs for some single-use items. Nevertheless, outside of the home a significant amount of these recyclable materials are disposed as garbage or end up as litter. On June 27, 2017, in support of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan and Zero Waste goal, Vancouver City Council directed staff to launch a stakeholder consultation and public engagement program on options to reduce the amount of waste generated from single-use items, including:

- Disposable beverage cups
- Take-out containers
- Plastic and paper shopping bags

Despite their convenience, these single-use items:

- Cost Vancouver taxpayers about \$2.5 million per year to collect from public waste bins and to clean up as litter in our parks, streets and green spaces.
- Are not often reused or recycled
- Take up valuable space in our land fill
- Have a lasting impact on our environment long after their short use
- Require a significant amount of resources from our planet

Recognizing there is no one-size-fits-all approach, and that the economic and social realities of Vancouver are unique, the City aims to address how single-use items are distributed and managed from all angles. Affordability and accessibility for residents, businesses and other organizations will also need to be considered as the strategy is developed.



Sources:

1. Single use consultation

