



## SINGLE-USE CUTLERY AND CONDIMENTS TAKE OUT/DELIVERY FOOD ORDERS

### Total Plastic Waste in the U.S.

36

million tons

### Amount that goes to the landfill

27

million tons

### Percentage of plastic waste that is recycled

8.5%

(Source EPA, 2018)

### And the market for online restaurant delivery in the U.S. is booming:

**2019: \$31 billion**

**2020: \$44 billion**

(projected)

**2024: \$77 billion**

(projected)

(Source Morgan Stanley  
Research)

*The Wall Street Journal*  
January 16-17, 2021

**Goal:** Reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use items with take-out/delivery orders, **change customer habits regarding single-use items**, and help restaurants reduce costs for unneeded items.

**How:** Legislation requiring restaurants and 3<sup>rd</sup> party delivery services to ask customers to opt-in for cutlery, straws, condiments, etc.

#### How will this ordinance work?

Instead of automatically providing single-use accessories in take-out/delivery orders, restaurants or third-party delivery companies (such as Grubhub) must provide an option to the customer to opt-in for these items.

#### What items are being considered?

Straws, stirrers, drink stoppers, utensils, chopsticks, condiments and portion cups, napkins, and serving utensils for family style meals.

#### What items are excluded?

Self-service dispensers in restaurants and prepackaged food and beverages.

#### Why not just ban these items?

State Law (C.R.S. 25-17-104) prohibits municipalities from banning single-use plastics. Additionally, the measure is aimed at saving restaurants money. Currently cups and other items made with plastic alternatives are more expensive. The ultimate goal though is to change behavior by making the consumer think about the choices they are making.

#### What about compostable items?

Compostable items are preferable to single-use plastic however, until customers have more realistic options for composting their waste, there is limited benefit at this time. Additionally, some compostable items like forks are not easily composted even in commercial facilities.

#### How will restaurants and third-party delivery companies comply?

Rather than restaurants automatically providing the items, the new default will be not to provide them. For in-person and phone orders, employees can simply ask customers if they want the items or not. For online orders, customers can check what items they want included.

#### Has this type of ordinance been implemented anywhere else?

San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, Portland and Eugene

#### What stakeholders have been engaged?

Colorado Restaurant Association, Eat Denver, Uber Eats, DoorDash, Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency, Eco-Cycle and more to come.



Uber Eats and Postmates  
currently ask their  
customers to opt-in for  
single-use items!