

**Summary of edits to plastic reduction ordinance based on feedback from March 22, 2023
Newton City Council Program & Services Committee Meeting**

On March 22, 2023, the Program & Services Committee of the Newton City Council met and discussed the proposed plastic reduction ordinance docketed by Councilor Danberg.

The councilors suggested splitting the items into the ordinance into categories of those that could come into effect soon, and those that should have later effective dates. There is perhaps some misunderstanding of whether then intent was to split this into two separate ordinances, or to have a single ordinance with varied effective dates. The proposed updates take the latter approach, with effective dates up to one year out (July 1, 2024). In addition, specific feedback was provided on certain items, and updates have been made to address that feedback. This document is intended as a short summary of the changes as compared to the draft that was previously docketed by Councilor Danberg. The Apr 14 draft of the ordinance reflects some of the feedback, and we anticipate the possibility of further edits after the May 19th meeting.

Summary of edits

- In the definitions section, the definition of single use plastic water bottle was amended to include “This also includes any similarly sized container (i.e. 1.1 liter) reasonably assumed to be a single serving container.”
- Under subsection (e), the items were categorized into effective dates to clarify the implementation rollout.
 - o Subsection (e) (i) was added for clarity on what is in the ordinance currently in effect
 - o Subsection (e) (ii) was added for those items we felt could take effect quickly, on September 1, 2023.
 - Added to this section are: i) a municipal ban on single use water bottles; ii) a ban on plastic splash sticks; iii) clarity that petroleum-lined containers are included in the ban
 - o Subsection (e) (iii) was added to include those items that needed a later implementation date of January 1, 2024.
 - Similarly add clarity re: petroleum-lined containers
 - Removed some confusing language in the item re: compostable utensils
 - Ban provision of straws except upon request
 - Add a municipal ban to mirror the food establishment ban
 - o Moved the items that need the most time to an effective date of July 1, 2024
 - RE: reusable dishwasher, update waiver option to encompass an inability to hire staff and an option for any establishment that provides fully compostable items

While there are a couple of new items, most of the edits are intended to address the recommendations of the committee and to address some of the concerns we heard from Greg Reibman.