

# Appendix C Summary: Single-Use Plastics and Litter Reduction Strategies Report

## Purpose:

- Review relevant government and industry responses to single-use plastics and litter.
- Summarize and identify the problem, approaches to managing single-use plastics and litter.
- Make recommendations for how York Region can better measure and report on progress on its waste reduction and diversion initiatives moving forward.

## Key Findings:

- The following strategies could be used to identify the root causes of litter within the Region:
  - » Gather waste collector feedback to identify where more infrastructure is needed.
  - » Gather information from bylaw enforcement staff and roads crews to identify litter 'hotspots' and possible causes.
  - » Initiate a hotline/online reporting through the Region or local municipal partner websites or app for members of the public to use to report litter 'hotspots'.
- Policy measures aimed at reducing the use of a specific material or package may inadvertently lead to the increased consumption of an alternative that is also problematic.
  - » Regulatory measures taken by other jurisdictions include: community led initiatives; industry led initiatives; material targets; disposal bans; by-request bylaws; and materials bans.

## Recommended Actions:

- Demonstrate local level Environmental Stewardship through green procurement options and reduction of single-use plastics within municipal buildings. Provide and incentivize staff and visitors with options to use reusable containers over single-use packaging.

## Recommended Actions *continued*:

- Actively participate and align policies with neighbouring municipalities to tackle single-use items to maximize opportunities for harmonization and consistent policymaking.
- Supporting businesses and community groups on waste reduction initiatives.
- Conducting research to better understand the underlying causes of litter in York Region specifically.
- Investing in infrastructure improvements to address those causes, where appropriate, and monitoring impact.
- Actively monitoring the impacts of policies implemented in other jurisdictions to gain insight and ensure policies being considered are designed to minimize substitute effects and do not sacrifice upstream environmental benefits.
- Continuing to consult with businesses and other stakeholders to understand the potential impact of the mandated policy options discussed above to inform policymaking.
- Develop positions and advocacy strategies related to mandatory take-back programs, disposal bans, deposit return, material targets, by-request bylaws, and materials bans.

## Link to Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Successfully navigate legislative change.
- **Objective 3:** Inspire people across the Region to embrace SM4RT Living and advance the circular economy.