



City of Saint Paul

Sustainable “To Go” Food Packaging Project

Project:

Engage businesses and residents to evaluate sustainable “To Go” food packaging efforts and regulations for the City of Saint Paul. The project is limited to packaging of food intended for immediate consumption and does not include plastic bags.

Background:

- ✓ Two current sustainable packaging laws impact Saint Paul food establishments:
 - MN Statute 115A.151 – Recycling Requirements
 - Requires business with more than 4 cubic yards to offer recycling.
 - Saint Paul Ordinance 236 - Environmental Preservation: Plastic Packaging
 - Adopted around 1990, but never implemented. (All food packaging.)
- ✓ DSI facilitated 4 stakeholder workgroup meetings.
- ✓ DSI conducted:
 - Business Listening Sessions
 - Community Listening Session
 - Presentations to business/community organizations.
- ✓ DSI met with representatives from Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Bloomington. Discussed regional approach.
- ✓ In Ramsey County there is a county and state tax on trash—70%. There is no tax on recycling or organics recycling.
- ✓ Ramsey County offers Bizrecycling – a program assisting businesses in starting recycling programs.

Proposal

- ✓ Amend the current ordinance to apply only to food packaging intended for immediate consumption. Provide 1 year between Council adoption and effective date of ordinance.
- ✓ Require the use of compostable, reusable or recyclable food packaging except in cases where there are no commercially available alternatives. The following factors will be used in determining if there are any commercially available alternatives:
 - Availability
 - Economic consequences
 - Competitive effects

- Regional context
 - * Items for which there are no commercially available alternatives would be considered an “exemption” to the requirement.
- ✓ Establish list of “exemptions” and process for annual review of “exemptions” at time of ordinance adoption.
- ✓ Tie the initiative to existing programs:
 - Recyclable or compostable will be defined by City’s residential recycling contacts. (This effort will not entail amending the contract.)
 - Ramsey County BizRecycling program <http://www.bizrecycling.com/>
- ✓ Conduct business outreach and resource fairs during the proposed 1 year implementation period.

Current Work

- ✓ Finalizing “exemptions” list.

To Provide Comments

- ✓ Send e-mails to: DSI-InformationAndComplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us