



## SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Green Paper: Del Mar's Ordinances Targeting Plastic Reduction

Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

#### **Del Mar's Ordinances Targeting Plastic Reduction**

In Del Mar, there are a few ordinances targeting plastic reduction.

1. A **single-use plastic carry-out bag use reduction** requires food vendors, groceries, farmer's market vendors, and non-profit organizations from handing out purchases in plastic carry-out bags and are instead requested to offer a recyclable or reusable bag.

"The purpose of this Chapter is to protect the health, safety and general welfare of City of Del Mar residents and visitors; to conserve natural resources, to reduce beach litter and marine pollution, and to protect local wildlife."

2. While the Styrofoam containers (not pellets) can be recycled with our waste hauler, EDCO, Del Mar has a **ban on Styrofoam takeout containers**. They are non-degradable and are known to clog drains, generate costly public works repairs, and negatively impact the environment and marine wildlife.

3. Del Mar also has an **ordinance to regulate plastic straw stirrers**, which are frequently found during beach cleanups. As they photodegrade, studies have shown that plastics in waterways diminish the natural capabilities of carbon cycling, enter the tissues of marine organisms, contaminate the food chain, and diminish the generation of oxygen (Landrigan et al., 2020).

Refusing the straw for a drink and opting for brands with recyclable packaging are helpful to the environment. Most importantly, opting for reusable bags for produce and groceries and sturdy reusable containers for food will reduce our dependence on natural resources and energy used in the production of new products.

You can learn more by visiting Del Mar Go Green Zero Waste page.

<https://www.delmar.ca.us/675/Zero-Waste>

Sources:

<https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/5365/Expanded-Polystyrene-Ban-Ordinance-PDF>

[https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/5239/Item-9---Plastic-Straw-Ordinance\\_2nd-Reading-Full-Packet-PDF](https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/5239/Item-9---Plastic-Straw-Ordinance_2nd-Reading-Full-Packet-PDF)

Landrigan, P. J., Stegeman, J. J., Fleming, L. E., Allemand, D., Anderson, D. M., Backer, L. C., BruckerDavis, F., Chevalier, N., Corra, L., Czerucka, D., Dechraoui Bottein, M.-Y., Demeneix, B., Depledge, M., Deheyn, D. D., Dorman, C. J., Fénichel, P., Fisher, S., Gaill, F., Galgani, F., ... Rampal, P. (2020). Human Health and Ocean Pollution. *Annals of Global Health*, 86(1), p.151.

(link to report: [Human Health and Ocean Pollution - Annals of Global Health](#) )

[https://library.municode.com/ca/del\\_mar/codes/municipal\\_code?nodeId=TIT11HESA\\_CH11.36\\_SIEPLCATBAUSRE](https://library.municode.com/ca/del_mar/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT11HESA_CH11.36_SIEPLCATBAUSRE)