

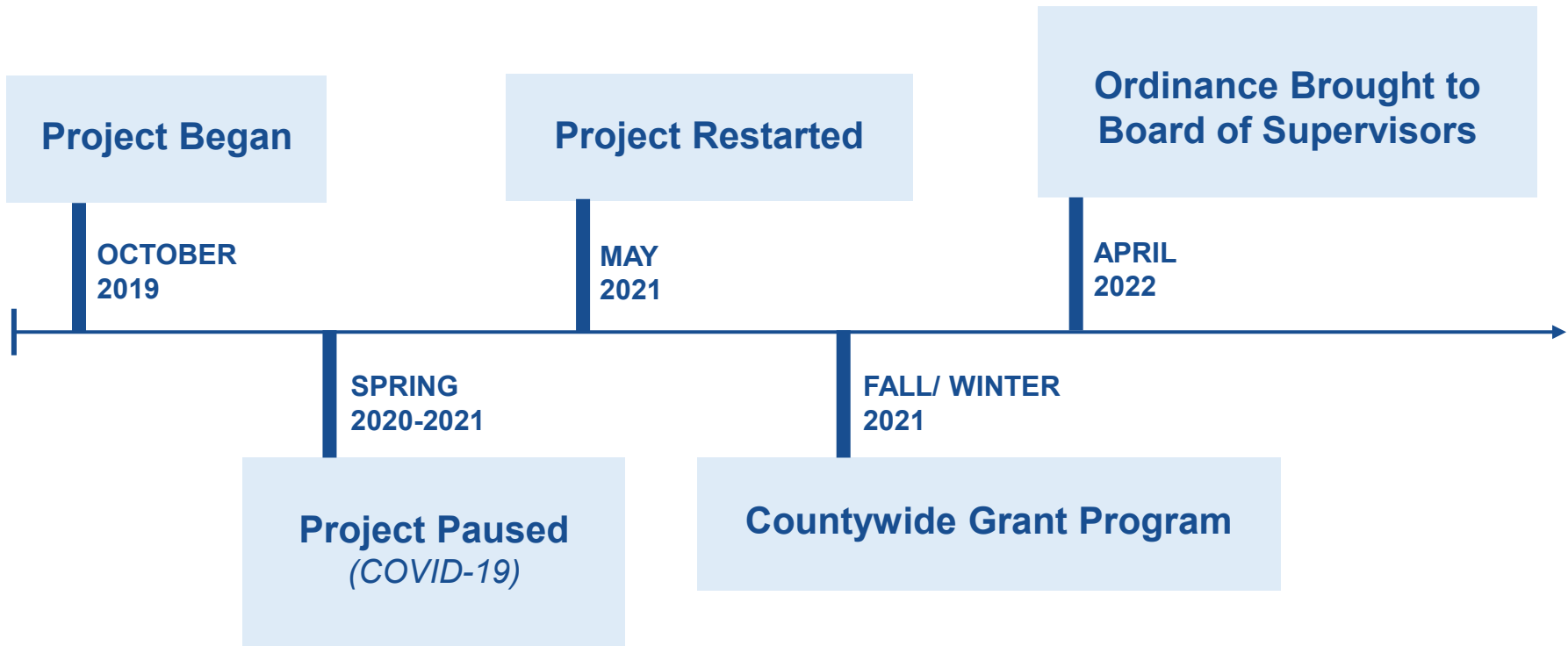
Reusable Foodware Ordinance

**Marin County Board of
Supervisors Meeting**

April 19, 2022



BACKGROUND



WHY A FOODWARE ORDINANCE?

- Plastic waste and litter left on streets and sidewalks collects in gutters, storm drains, and creeks and, ultimately, **gets discharged into San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean.**
- Reduction of plastics at the source by encouraging reuse and recyclable or compostable materials would **reduce litter and debris** from going into the landfills.
- Adoption of a clear consistent foodware ordinance would **provide guidance and clarity** to businesses and the community who want to do the right thing but are unclear on what that is.
- Adoption of the ordinance would also assist the County and Marin businesses in **complying with recently adopted state legislation** focused on waste reduction.

Replacing Disposables

- Improves environment:
 - Reduces litter, chemicals in foodware, and amount of waste being sent to landfill
- Less GHGs and use of resources to produce, transport, and dispose
- Helps to meet Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) trash reduction requirement
- Switching to reusables saves money!



Disposable Foodware Examples

- **Bowls, Plates, Clamshells, and Other To-Go containers**
- **Cups**
- **Straws**
- **Utensils**
- **To-Go Accessories**
 - **Napkins, cup sleeves, lids, condiment packets, cup spill plugs, stirrers, tooth/cocktail picks, etc.**

KEY ORDINANCE FEATURES

- **Ordinance Enforcement:**
 - 18 months after adoption
- **To-Go Foodware Must Be:**
 - Fiber-based, BPI-certified compostable (no bio-plastic)
 - Aluminum allowed
- **Dine-In Foodware Must Be:**
 - Reusable
 - Exceptions allowed for specified items, such as paper napkins, paper straws, and foil wrappers
 - Plastic stirrers, cocktail sticks, plugs and toothpicks banned

- **To-Go Accessories:**
 - Only upon request or at take-out station
 - Must be fiber-based compostable, when available
- **Disposable Cup Itemized Charge**
 - 25 cents with exceptions), retained by food vendor
- **Front and Back of House 3-Stream Collection Containers**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **Public Engagement ran from 10/2019-1/2022**
- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Formal Resident and Business Workshop Meetings
 - *Spanish translation services offered & recorded*
 - 20+ meetings, including County restaurant owners, various chamber of commerce groups (*including the Council of Chambers*), Latinx business leaders, disability advocates, haulers and processors, food inspectors, advocacy groups, etc.
- **Resident Survey** (*provided in both English and Spanish*)
 - 338 responses
- **Food Vendor Survey** (*provided in both English and Spanish*)
 - 97 responses

- **Accepted public comments on draft ordinance from 2/2020-11/2021**
- **Letter to all food vendors**
- **FAQ and matrix of compliant alternatives**
- **Variety of publications, including flyers and press releases**

Countywide Grant Program

- **Ran from 07/2021-11/2021**
 - Open to all food vendors in Marin County
 - Businesses could receive \$100-\$500 to voluntarily adopt requirements and receive technical assistance

- **Program Highlights**
 - 25% of businesses are using grant funds to purchase reusable foodware products
 - 19% of the businesses called and visited were provided Spanish in-language assistance

 - Several businesses showed appreciation for the education and compliance guidance around the new ordinance



Outreach & Messaging









IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FOODWARE

Replacing single-use disposable products with reusable containers can decrease litter, lessen harm to marine life, and lower the greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing disposables in the first place.

Our local organic compost facility cannot accept synthetic materials. Bio-plastic foodware, commonly labeled as "compostable," is not always compostable or degradable and may contain toxic chemicals. Such items are screened out by Marin County composting facilities and sent to landfill. Likewise, many plastics and plastic-lined papers are no longer marketable to recyclers and must be landfilled.

Community members are calling for a better solution.

REUSABLE FOODWARE ORDINANCE: HOW IT WORKS

 <p>Bring Your Own Reusable is BEST</p> 	 <p>Compostable or Aluminum is OK</p> 	 <p>Plastic & Plastic-Lined Paper are BANNED</p> 
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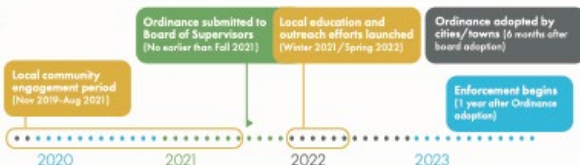
When dining-in at a restaurant, **reusable foodware and utensils must be provided.** Customers are allowed to bring their own clean containers for take-out.

All take-out foodware (plates, containers, cups, utensils, straws) must be **natural-fiber compostable or all-aluminum, and only available upon request.** An itemized charge of \$0.25 will be added for disposable cups.

Plastic and plastic-lined paper containers are banned. Many paper containers are lined with thin plastic film and cannot be recycled or composted. Bio-plastics labeled as "compostable" are NOT allowed.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The ordinance is expected to be adopted by the County of Marin no earlier than Fall 2021, followed by Marin County cities and towns shortly thereafter. Local businesses will be provided with education and outreach through the end of the year to ensure that our communities are equipped and ready to comply with the ban one year after adoption.



For more information, including a copy of the draft ordinance, please visit:
www.marincounty.org/ehs




Tired of trash?

It's time to choose reusable

Help us eliminate single-use disposables in Marin County!

Starting soon, restaurant customers in Marin County will be allowed to bring their own reusable containers for take-out!

Please scan the code at right or visit us online to learn more about how to use reusables with your next takeout order.



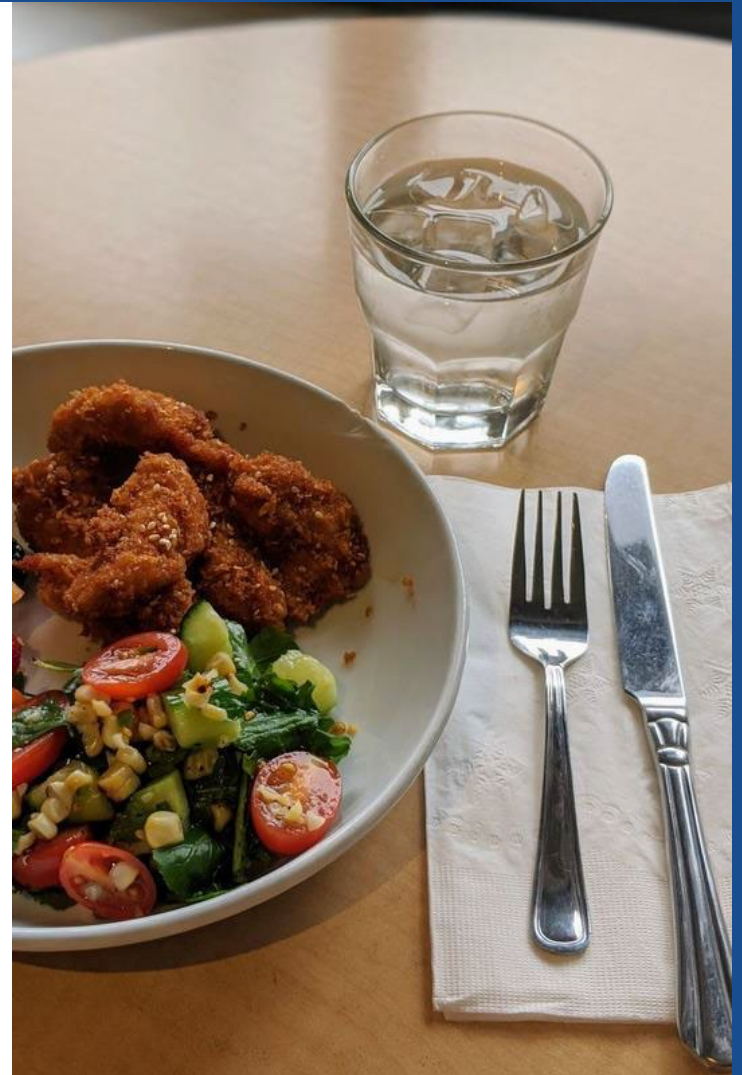
/divisions/environmental-health-services/reusable-foodware-ordinance

COUNTYWIDE APPROACH & ENFORCEMENT

- **Interested Cities and Towns May Sign onto County's Ordinance Within 12 months**
 - Levels the “playing field” for food vendors
 - Cities and Towns may sign on after 12 months with a one-time enforcement program set-up fee
- **Enforcement** *(18 months after adoption)*
 - County EHS will take **proactive** approach in education and enforcement
 - Cost would be passed through to businesses via Food Inspection Fees

NEXT STEPS

- Consider adoption of the Proposed Reusable Foodware Ordinance amending Chapter 7.25
- If adopted, County's consultant will provide outreach to unincorporated County businesses as a part of the County's current contract
- Pending one-time budget request to fund continuation of the grant program to assist businesses with the transition



REUSABLE FOODWARE ORDINANCE

Questions & Answers

