

PHASING OUT SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN PINOLE

ISSUE SUMMARY AND OUTREACH RESULTS

AUGUST 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commonly Used Terms In This Document	4
Introduction	5
Legislation at the Federal, State and Local Levels	8
SUP Bags	8
Federal Level.....	8
State Level	8
Local Level.....	9
SUP Foodware	13
Federal Level.....	15
State Level	15
Local Level.....	16
Pinole SUP Outreach Results	19
Single-Use Plastic Surveys	19
Methodology	19
Business Surveys.....	19
Resident/Visitor Surveys.....	41
Alternatives to Single-Use Plastics Expo	56
Snapshot of Attendees	58
EXPO Exit Survey Results	58
Exit Survey Results - Visitor/Residents	63
Additional Research	66
Foodware/FireWings Pilot	66
Outreach to Pinole Grocers	66
Republic Services Waste Hauler Information.....	67
Bag Pricing	68
Foodware (app-based returnable reusables company) pricing	69
Town of Truckee Green Box Program Pricing (non-app returnable, reusable program).....	73
Additional comments	73
Cost Scenarios.....	74

City-wide Reusables program.....	74
“Takeout Fee” versus “Rewards” program	77
Partnership with plastic reduction project.....	78
Policy Considerations.....	79
Bags	79
Regulatory Considerations	79
Foodware	80
Transition period	81
Appendix A: Full Results of Business Survey.....	82
Appendix B: Full Results of Resident/Visitor Survey.....	83

COMMONLY USED TERMS IN THIS DOCUMENT

AB	Assembly Bill
BPI	Biodegradable Products Institute
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
DBE	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
PLA	Polylactic acid derived from renewable sources like cornstarch or sugarcane
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances: a toxic class of fluorine compounds known as “forever chemicals”
SB	Senate Bill
SUP	Single Use Plastics

INTRODUCTION

Single-use plastics (SUP) items are made from fossil fuel-based chemicals (petrochemicals) that are intended to be used and disposed of immediately. These include items such as plastic bags and foodware (plates, bowls, cups, utensils, etc.) which, while convenient, have negative impacts on both our health and the environment. Plastics do not decompose naturally but rather break down into smaller pieces over time due to exposure to sun and heat, ultimately becoming microplastics.

Microplastics can be harmful to both humans and wildlife. When ingested, microplastics can build up in an animal's body and cause health issues such as organ damage or intestinal blockages. Humans can also be negatively impacted by exposure to microplastics and the chemicals added to plastics during manufacturing. These chemicals, known as endocrine disruptors, can lead to hormonal imbalances, reproductive problems such as infertility, and even cancer¹.

Although single-use plastic pollution is visibly accumulating on our streets, our water is actually suffering even more. Litter is often the beginning of a waste stream that flows into waterways as plastics discarded on the streets are carried away by rain or through storm drains and into rivers and streams. A study conducted by Friends of the Pinole Creek Watershed in 2023 identified single-use food packaging as a major pollutant in the Pinole Creek area². The maps in **Figures 1-4** demonstrates the unsightly prevalence of single-use plastic litter throughout Pinole using Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed data.



Trash collected by the Friends of the
Pinole Creek Watershed;
Photograph from
www.friendsofpinolecreek.org

¹ <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/single-use-plastics-101#why>

² <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2022CSJ000017>

Cumulatively, these alarming concerns prompted the City to conduct community outreach to understand how businesses, residents, and visitors feel about introducing policy that would regulate single-use plastic bags and/or foodware in Pinole.

Figure 1: Bayfront Park cleanup results

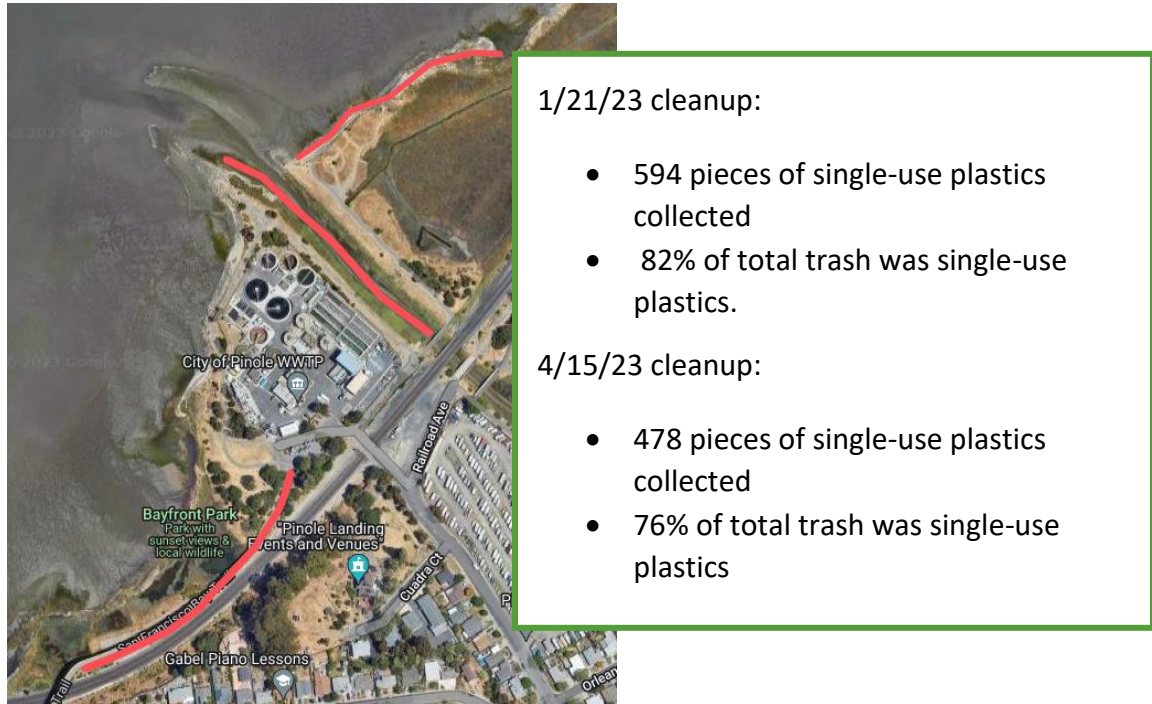


Figure 2: Fernandez Park cleanup results

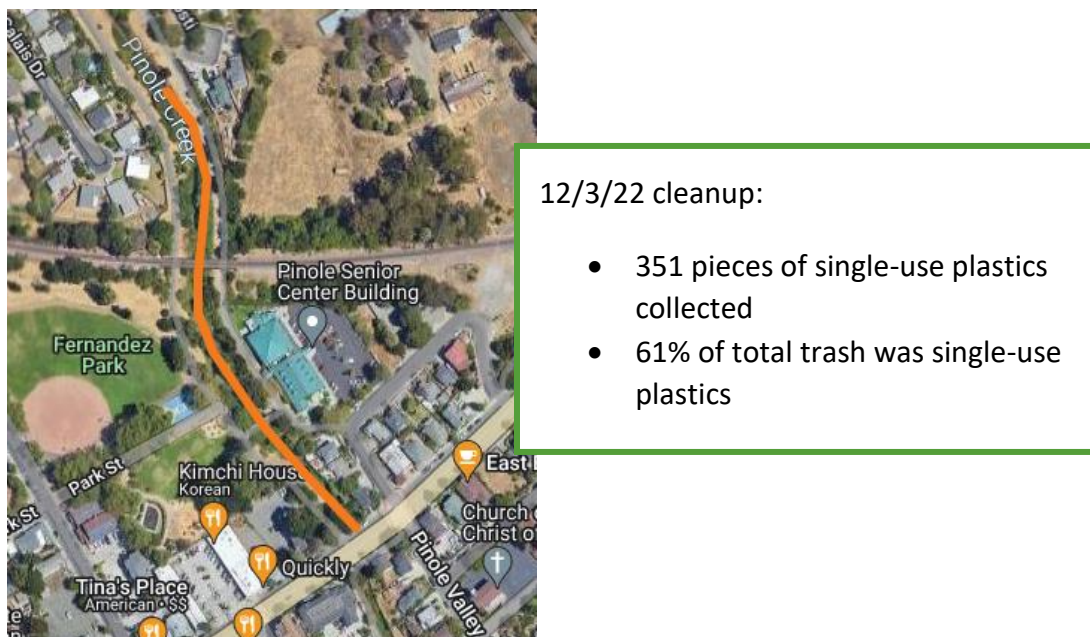
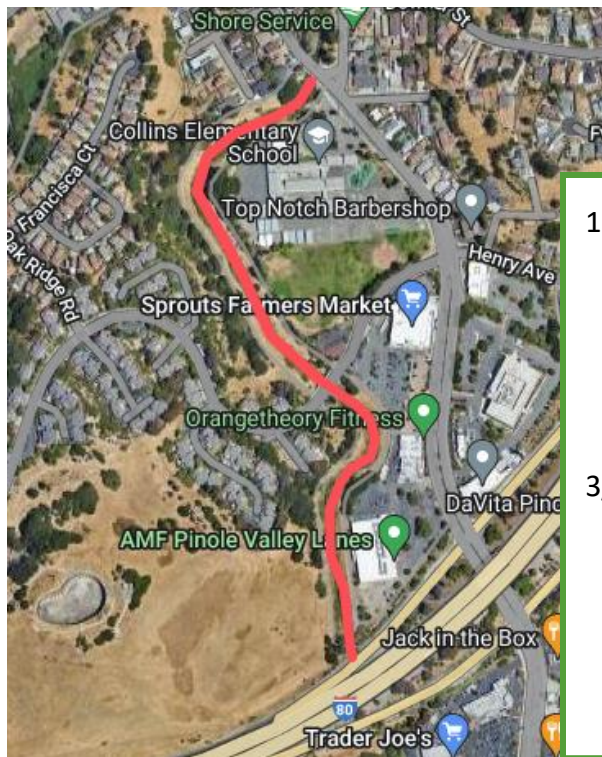


Figure 3: Collins Elementary School to I-80 cleanup results



11/19/22 cleanup:

- 329 pieces of single-use plastics collected
- 28% of total trash was single-use plastics

3/25/23 cleanup:

- 346 pieces of single-use plastics collected
- 79% of total trash was single-use plastics

Figure 4: Pinole Library cleanup results



10/29/22 cleanup:

- 918 pieces of single-use plastics collected
- 71% of total trash was single-use plastics

2/25/23 cleanup:

- 893 pieces of single-use plastics collected
- 77% of total trash was single-use plastics

5/13/23 cleanup:

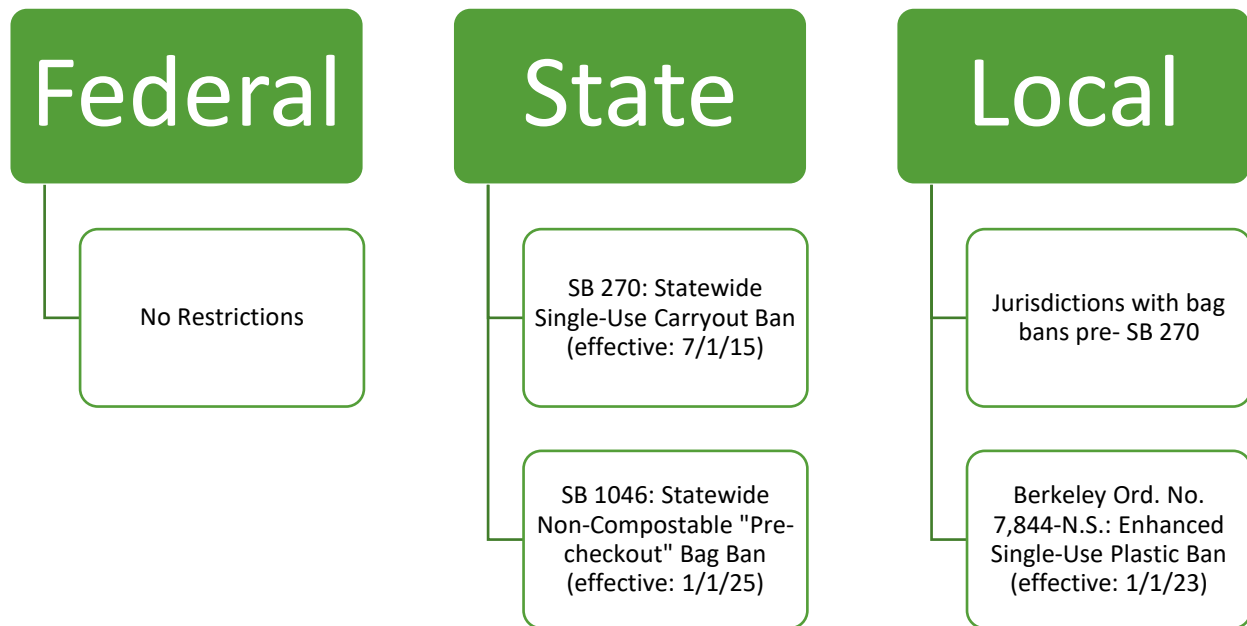
- 97 pieces of single-use plastics collected
- 56% of total trash was single-use plastics

LEGISLATION AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS

SUP BAGS

This section provides a summary of SUP bag legislation at the Federal, State and local levels. **Figure 5** provides a graphic of overarching regulations.

Figure 5: Single Use Plastic Bag Legislation



FEDERAL LEVEL

Currently, in the United States, there are no federal regulations restricting single-use plastics.

STATE LEVEL

There are two major pieces of legislation in California that regulate single-use plastics: Senate Bill (SB) 270 and SB 1046. See **Figure 6** for a graphic representation of these two regulations.








- SB 270: On November 8, 2016, California voters approved Proposition 67, the statewide Single-Use Carryout Bag Ban. Approval of Proposition 67 made California the first state in the US to pass legislation imposing a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at large retail stores. As a result, SB 270 became effective January 1, 2017 and prohibits most grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers. Instead, these stores may provide a reusable



grocery bag or recycled paper bag to a customer at the point of sale at a charge of at least 10 cents. A reusable grocery bag made from plastic film is required to be made of a minimum of 40% postconsumer recycle material capable of carrying 22 pounds over a distance of 175 feet for a minimum of 125 uses and be at least 2.25 mils thick.

- SB 1046: In 2022 SB 1046 was adopted and will be in effect beginning on January 1, 2025. SB 1046 will prohibit single-use, non-compostable bags to be given to shoppers before they reach the checkout counter. “Pre-checkout bags” as the bill refers to them, not only applies to bags typically seen near fresh fruit and vegetables, but also includes bags used for unwrapped food items such as meat, fish, nuts, grains, candy, and bakery goods.

Figure 6: SB 270 and SB 1046 Regulations

Applicability:		Regulation:	
  	Full-line, self-service retail/grocery stores with annual sales of at least \$2 million that sell some perishable items	 Banned	Flimsy plastic film carry out bag (effective 1/1/17)
	Large retail stores with a pharmacy that have at least 10,000 square feet of retail space and that generate sales or use tax	 Banned	Plastic pre-check out bag (effective 1/1/25)
	Convenience stores, food marts, or liquor stores that are engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods, generally including milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, and that hold a Type 20 or Type 21 alcohol license	 \$0.10 min.  \$0.10 min.	Thicker film carryout bags: 40% postconsumer recycle material capable of carrying 22 pounds over a distance of 175 feet for a minimum of 125 uses and be at least 2.25 mils thick Paper carryout bags: 20-40% postconsumer material

LOCAL LEVEL

SB 270 included a grandfather clause in order to allow cities and counties to continue managing and enforcing the requirements established by adoption of local bag ordinances, provided that

future amendments to the ordinances were limited to increasing the amount a store could charge for bags. Jurisdictions that had local ordinances in place before the state implemented SB 270 enjoy greater regulatory latitude than communities that did not adopt local ordinances, due to state preemption.

In Contra Costa County the following jurisdictions enacted single-use carryout bag bans prior to SB 270 State legislation:

- **Danville:** The town adopted a plastic bag ban in all stores and restaurants on December 16, 2014. Effective July 1, 2016.
- **El Cerrito:** The City adopted a plastic bag ban with a charge on paper and reusable bags in all retail stores on September 17, 2013. Effective January 1, 2014.
- **Hercules:** The City adopted a plastic bag ban with a charge on paper and reusable bags in September 2014. Effective in January 1, 2015.
- **Lafayette:** The City adopted a plastic bag ban in all retail stores and restaurants on December 8, 2014. Grocery, drug, and convenience stores can distribute paper bags with a minimum 10 cent charge. Effective July 1, 2015.
- **Martinez:** The City unanimously adopted a plastic bag ban with 10 cent minimum charge on paper or reusable bags on June 18, 2014. Effective January 1, 2015 in all retail stores and restaurants.
- **Pittsburg:** The City adopted a bag ordinance on October 21, 2013. Effective in all retail stores by January 15, 2014. Plastic carryout bags are prohibited, and paper and reusable bags are allowed with a small charge.
- **Richmond:** The City adopted the first bag ordinance in Contra Costa County on July 16, 2013. All retail stores are prohibited from using single-use plastic carryout bags and may sell paper or reusable bags for a small charge. Effective January 1, 2014.
- **Pleasant Hill:** The City adopted a bag ordinance, effective in all retail stores and restaurants on August 4, 2014. Plastic carryout bags are prohibited, and paper and reusable bags are allowed with a small charge.
- **San Pablo:** The City adopted a plastic bag ban with a 5 cent charge per paper or reusable bag (to increase to 10 cents after two years) on October 8, 2013. Effective January 1, 2014 in all retail stores.
- **Walnut Creek:** The City adopted a plastic bag ban and 10 cent minimum paper bag charge in all retail stores and restaurants in March of 2014.

See a comprehensive list of jurisdictions that enacted ordinances prior to SB 270, prepared by Californians Against Waste³.

The City of Berkeley did not have a single-use plastic bag ordinance prior to SB 270. However, in 2022 Berkeley adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of the thicker reusable plastic bags. Berkeley’s approach targeted “loopholes” with respect to thicker carryout bags allowed under SB 270. According to the staff report for the Berkeley ordinance⁴:

Despite the assumption of reusability, there is limited evidence to suggest that thicker plastic bags are being repurposed to the degree accounted for by SB 270. Some studies suggest that fewer than 1% of people actually reuse the thicker and thus technically reusable film bags. [Save Our Shores, “Help Ban Plastic Bags,” <https://saveourshores.org/help-ban-plastic-bags>] This erroneous legislative assumption can be addressed at the local level at least in stores not regulated by the state.

The adopted ordinance applies to supermarkets, convenience food stores, foodmarts and other places greater than 2,500 square feet that sell food items. It also applies to retail stores not already regulated by the state. Additionally, a \$0.10 charge will be levied for each “pre-checkout” bag (compostable or not) that grocery store customers use to carry produce to the checkout stand. The ordinance is in effect as of January 1, 2023. The following highlights the key policy measures in the Berkeley ordinance:

- **Grocery Stores > 2,500 sf**

- Beginning in 2025, when SB-1046 comes into effect, plastic film pre-checkout bags would be completely prohibited. The state plans to only allow paper or compostable bags to be provided as defined (however reusable bags may still be sold). In anticipation of the new State law, the Berkeley ordinance regulates grocery stores with more than 2,500 square feet of retail space by requiring store owners to apply a minimum charge of \$0.10 for each plastic film pre-checkout bag provided, regardless of thickness, and regardless of composability. When SB-1046 is effective the preempted portions of Berkeley’s ordinance would be phased out.

3

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d3a62be4b068e9347ca880/t/583f1f57e4fcb5d84205b330/1480531800415/LocalBagOrdinances1Pager_072815.pdf

⁴ <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-11-15%20Item%2019%20Adopt%20an%20Ordinance%20Adding%20a%20Chapter.pdf>

- **Retail Stores Not Regulated by State**
 - The State currently regulates full-line, self-service retail stores with gross annual sales of at least \$2 million that sell a line of dry groceries, canned goods, or nonfood items, and some perishable items, large retail stores with a pharmacy that have at least 10,000 square feet of retail space, and most convenience stores, food marts, or liquor stores. All other retail stores are currently unregulated by the State. Despite state preemption from further carryout regulation in Grocery Stores, Berkeley's ordinance bans thicker plastic bags in all retail stores not already regulated by the State. Therefore, retail stores covered under the Berkeley ordinance are only be able to provide paper carryout bags for a \$0.10 charge, or truly reusable bag.
- **Restaurants**
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic hardships and the onset of SB 1383, Berkeley determined that further restaurant regulation was infeasible at this time. The only new provision of the Berkeley ordinance applying specifically to restaurants is that a restaurant providing a customer with a plastic film carryout bag, at the customer's request, in order to carry leftovers after sit-down meal service, will incur a minimum of \$0.10 charge. No such fee will apply to paper bags provided for such purpose.
- **Permitted Events, City events, and City-sponsored events**
 - Many of the same loopholes applicable to grocery stores and retail stores also exist at permitted events. Therefore, the Berkeley ordinance extends the same regulations applied to private businesses to any event and not subject to State law. In addition, the ordinance specifies that the City of Berkeley and any City sponsored event shall provide or sell to a customer or participant only recycled content paper bags or reusable carry-out bags for the purpose of carrying away goods or other materials from the point of sale or event.
- **All stores**
 - The Berkeley ordinance contains a provision that requires all stores, with the exception of Restaurants with respect to takeout orders, shall not unreasonably deny a customer from using bags or containers of any type that they bring themselves (exceptions granted for customer bags that are damaged or inappropriate in size, material or condition for the product).
- **Exemptions and Waivers**
 - The Berkeley ordinance exempts all product bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags such as those intended for use as garbage, prescription medication, pet waste or yard waste bags, or which are integral to the use of other objects, from regulation consistent with County and State law. In addition, except as regulated by State law, the ordinance allows covered entities and food product

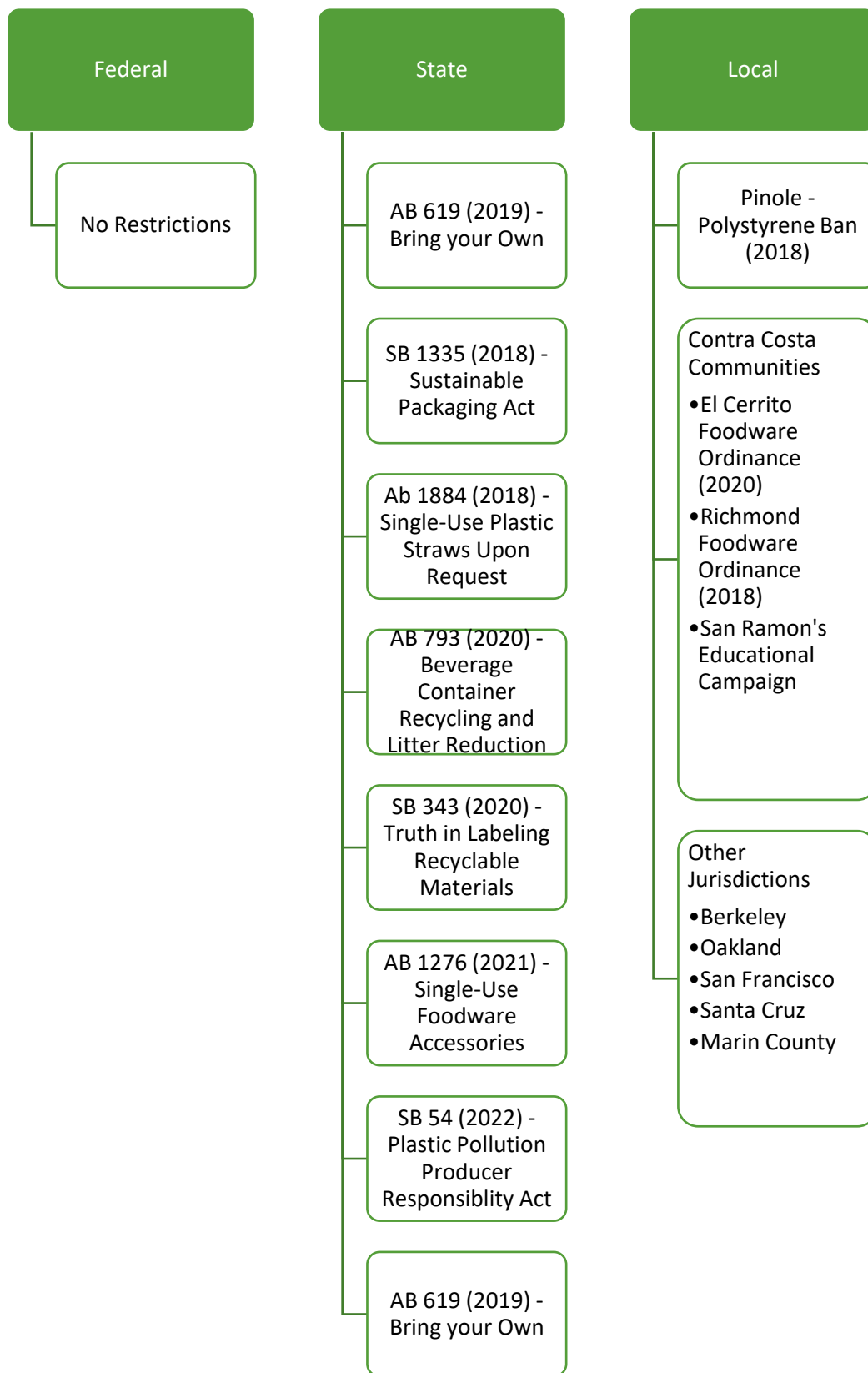
stores to provide recycled content paper bags as carryout bags to persons in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, Calfresh, and Supplemental Food Program for free. Additionally, the ordinance provides the City Manager with the authority to prescribe and adopt rules, regulations and forms for covered entities or food product stores to obtain a partial waiver from any requirement of this ordinance upon sufficient evidence by the applicant that the provisions would cause undue hardship. The phrase "undue hardship" may include, but is not limited to situations where compliance with the requirements would deprive a person of a legally protected right.

SUP FOODWARE

According to the California Coastal Commission⁵, more than 30 percent of all waste collected during their annual beach clean-ups is from disposable food ware and accessories. This section provides a summary of SUP foodware legislation at the Federal, State and local levels. **Figure 7** provides a graphic of overarching regulations. Note the local legislation column is not exhaustive.

⁵ <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/history.html>

Figure 7: Single Use Foodware Legislation



FEDERAL LEVEL

Currently, in the United States, there are no federal regulations restricting single-use plastics.

STATE LEVEL

There are at least seven major pieces of legislation in California that regulate single-use plastic foodware and accessories: SB 1335, AB 1884, AB 793, SB 343, AB 1276, AB 54, and AB619.

- **Sustainable Packaging for the State of California Act of 2018 (SB 1335)** was signed into law on September 20, 2018. SB 1335 requires a food service facility located in a state-owned facility, operating on state-owned property, or otherwise contracted by the state to use “food service packaging” that is deemed to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable. “Food Service Packaging” is defined to include anything that is used to serve or transport prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages. This category includes plates, cups, trays, bowls, and hinged or lidded containers. Beverage containers, single-use disposable items, and single-use disposable packaging for food that is mass-produced by a third party off the food service facility premises are exempted. The legislation also requires the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to create, publish, and maintain a list of acceptable packaging materials and items. CalRecycle published the initial list of approved service packaging⁶ on March 4, 2022.
- **Bring your Own Bill (AB 619)** was signed into law in July 2019. The bill delineates the safety measures a restaurant must take if they want to allow their customers to bring their own cups and containers for takeaway.
- **Single-Use Plastic Straws Upon Request (AB 1884)** was signed into law on September 20, 2018. AB 1884, prohibits full-service restaurants from providing single-use plastic straws, unless requested by the customer. The legislation defines a “single-use plastic straw” as “a single-use, disposable tube made predominantly of plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources, used to transfer a beverage from a container to the mouth of the person drinking the beverage.” Straws made from non-plastic materials, including, but not limited to, paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood, or bamboo are not included in the definition. With the enactment of this bill, California became the first state to restrict the use of plastic straws in restaurants.
- **California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (AB 793)** was signed into law on September 24, 2020. Beginning in 2022, AB 793 requires all plastic bottles



⁶ <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/packaging/statefoodservice/list/>

covered by the state's container redemption program to average at least 15% post-consumer recycled resin. The amount of required post-consumer recycled resin increases to 25% in 2025 and 50% in 2030. CalRecycle is in the process of developing regulations to implement this mandate.

- **Truth in Labeling Recyclable Materials Bill (SB 343)** was signed into law September 24, 2020. It prohibits environmental markings or statements on products or packaging that are not deemed to be “recyclable” by the state of California. The legislation defines a packaging product as “readily recyclable” if at least 60% of the population of California can recycle it through local programs. For plastic packaging to be labeled as recyclable, it must meet both of the following criteria:
 - It may not include any components, inks, adhesives, or labels that prevent recyclability.
 - It may not be made from plastic or fiber that contains perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) above 100 parts per million or that contains any intentionally added PFAS.
- **Single-Use Foodware Accessories and Standard Condiments (AB 1276)** was signed into law on October 5, 2021. Effective January 1, 2022 this law aims to reduce the waste created from single-use items from the retail food industry by only providing single-use accessories (utensils, chopsticks, condiment cups, straw, etc) to customers upon request.
- **Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54)** was signed into law on June 30, 2022. This legislation requires producers of covered material to form and join the producer responsibility organization (PRO) by January 1, 2024. Covered material is defined as single-use packaging and single-use food serviceware with exemptions for items such as packaging for medical products, infant formula, and medical food. The law also:
 - Prohibits the sale or distribution of covered materials manufactured on or after January 1, 2032, unless they are recyclable or compostable
 - Requires plastics covered under the legislation to meet the following recycling rates: 30% by January 2028, 40% by January 2030, and 65% by January 2032.
 - Bans expanded polystyrene (EPS) food serviceware unless it meets the following recycling rates: 25% by January 2025, 30% by January 2028, 50% by January 2030, and 65% by January 2032.
 - Requires the PRO to, among other things, develop and implement a plan to achieve a 25% reduction by weight and 25% reduction by plastic components for covered material by January 2032.

LOCAL LEVEL

The City of Pinole adopted a polystyrene ban in 2018.

The Sustainability Commission of Contra Costa County has made progress towards implementing a foodware ordinance. They have formed a working group to draft recommendations for the ordinance. Due to their shared waste hauler, the County is hoping to coordinate with the City of Richmond on the ordinance. Since February 2023, there has not been any movement on this ordinance, since there has not been a chance to bring it to the Board. Outside Contra Costa County, the cities of Berkeley, Cupertino, and San Mateo County, to name a few, have foodware ordinances banning single-use plastic foodware.

Other jurisdictions in Contra Costa County have done some work at tackling this issue.

- **El Cerrito's** foodware ordinance is effective July 1, 2022 and requires foodware to be reusable or compostable. A compliant disposable foodware product guide was created to help businesses understand options⁷. Enforcement begins January 1, 2024.
- **Richmond's** foodware ordinance, effective December 15, 2018, applies to retail and lodging establishments and allows recycleable foodware in addition to reusable and compostable foodware. The ordinance states businesses may charge a takeout fee to offset the increase of cost of compliant foodware. The ordinance allows establishments to charge a take-out fee to customers to cover the cost.
- **San Ramon** has not adopted an ordinance regulating plastic foodware however, the city has developed an educational campaign. The campaign's Instagram, *#trashfreesanramon*, highlights businesses that are "trash-free certified" by offering reusables for dine-in and invites other businesses to do the same through their website. Participating businesses are identified with a Trash-Free certificate and window clings. The City also has a reusable tumbler program where partnering businesses are offering customers a discount for bringing in their reusable tumbler with a City sticker.



In the greater Bay Area, a number of jurisdiction have adopted foodware ordinances. Some highlights follow:

- **Berkeley:** requires that only reusable foodware be used for dine-in services. All disposable foodware must be certified compostable, free of intentionally added fluorinated chemicals, and provided upon request only. Also requires food vendors that have self-bussing to provide

⁷ https://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/18163/Foodware_Ordinance_Product_Guide

color coded receptacles for customers to separate their recyclables, compostables and landfill waste. And mandates a \$.25 fee for every single-use beverage cups provided.

- **Oakland:** requires that food service ware be biodegradable and compostable, and that beverage straws be provided upon request only. This extends to all Oakland food vendors selling prepared food—including restaurants, delis, fastfood establishments, vendors at fairs and food trucks. All City facilities must also follow the ordinance.
- **San Francisco:** Starting July 1, 2019, sets limits on single-use plastic foodware accessories such as plastic beverage plugs, cocktail sticks, stirrers, toothpicks. And clarifies that foodware sold in San Francisco must be certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). Includes grocery stores and other retailers.
- **Santa Cruz:** Requires food providers to only give straws, lids, and cutlery and to-go condiment packages upon request of the customer. And bans plastic cutlery; stir sticks and Polystyrene #6 products including hot beverage lids. Food service providers are encouraged to charge a take-out fee of \$.25 and provide a \$.25 credit for customers bringing their own reusable containers for to-go items.
- **Marin County:** Applies to food facility operators and establishes a hierarchy of reusables are best, compostable fiber foodware is compliant, and single-use plastics are prohibited (see Figure 8)

Figure 8: Graphic Depiction of Marin County's Food Ware Ordinance



PINOLE SUP OUTREACH RESULTS

Outreach for Pinole’s single-use plastic reduction campaign, Plastic Wise Pinole, was conducted by various methods in March-May 2023. As a part of the outreach, a survey was distributed to the business and resident/visitor community, an Alternatives to Single Use Plastics Expo was held, a pilot reusable takeaway program was spurred, and a cost analysis was completed. A logo and website, www.ci.pinole.ca.us/plasticwise, were developed to guide the campaign.



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SURVEYS

METHODOLOGY

Two surveys were created to offer insight on how the community feels about regulation of single-use plastics. These surveys were aimed at receiving input from the business community as well as the resident/visitor population. Both surveys were available directly from the City’s website. The City conducted outreach through the city’s normal communication channels: online, through *The Pulse* and through social media (Facebook, NextDoor and Instagram).

Additionally, business surveys were emailed to all businesses in Pinole. Businesses without an email were mailed a letter with a QR code to participate in the survey.

A flyer was created that provided background on the reasons for the campaign as well as QR codes for each survey type. Flyers were distributed at different public events such as the City’s Earth Walk, Farmer’s market, and the Crockett Shoreline Festival. Flyers were also physically posted around town at different community boards and breakrooms.

Lastly, surveys were also disseminated with the help of community partners, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Pinole Creek, and 350 Contra Costa.

BUSINESS SURVEYS

This section provides an overview of the responses received from the business survey.

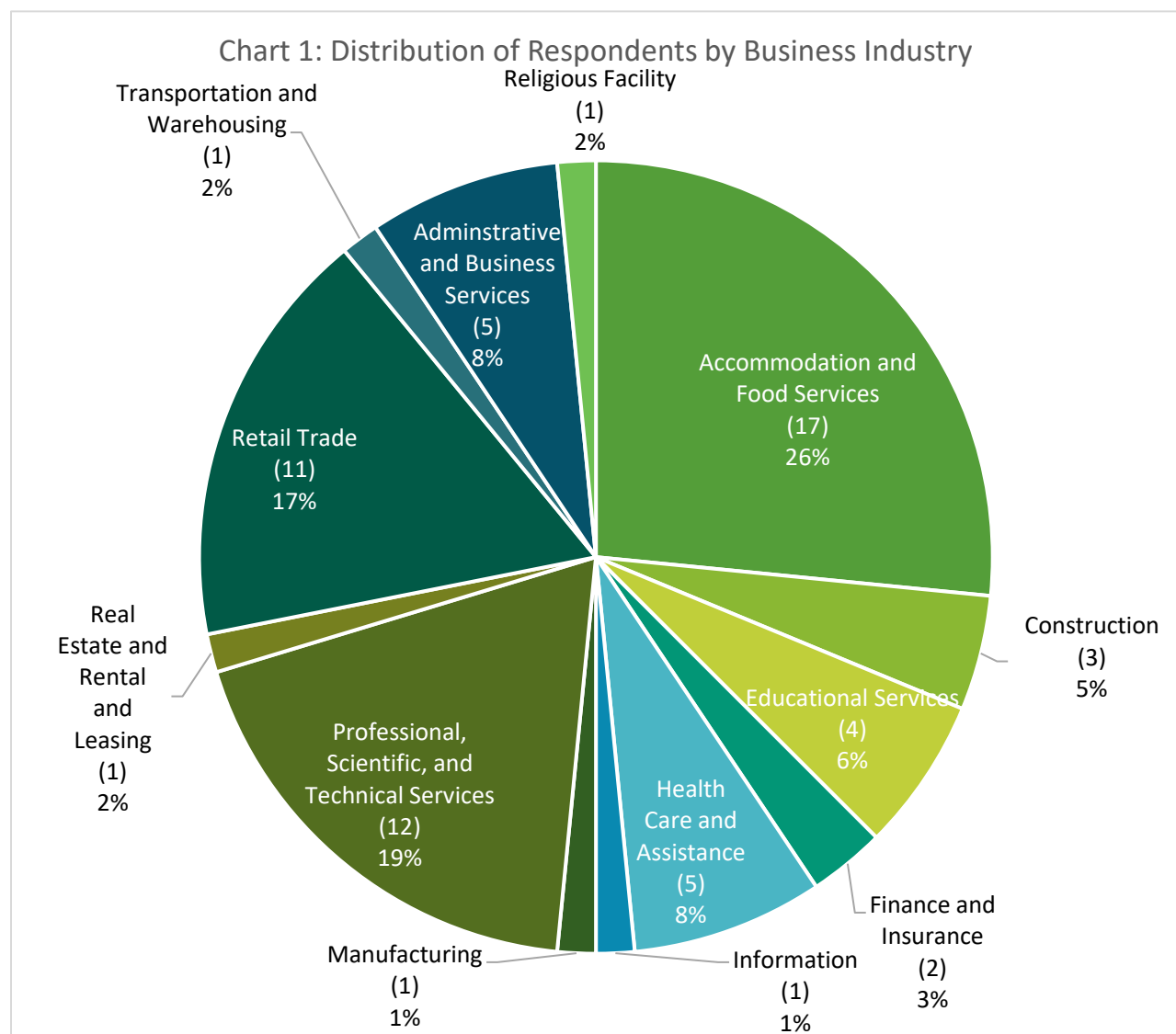
SNAPSHOT OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1 below shows the number of responses received from the business community by method of survey distribution.

Table 1: Business Survey Respondents by Survey Method

Email invitations	84 responses from 674 invitations
Letter invitations	6 responses from 138 invitations
Website links	2 responses
Partners' email dissemination	2 responses
Social media	1 response
Total Responses	95 responses

Chart 1, below, with 65 of 95 respondents answering, shows the type of industry the responding businesses most closely aligned.



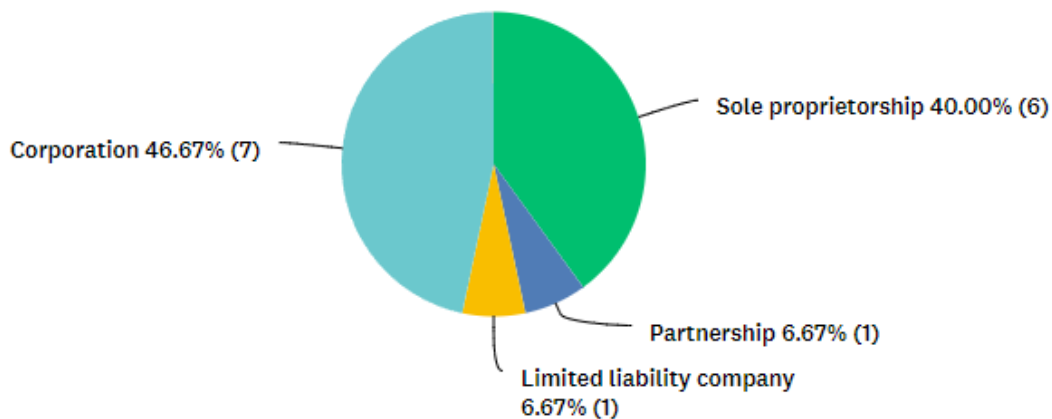
Of the 17 business that identified as part of the Accommodation and Food Service type, 15 were food-related businesses. **Table 2** provides more detail of the types and distribution of food-related businesses responded to the survey.

Table 2: Type of Food-Based Business (Food-Based Business Respondents)

Café/Coffee House	3
Casual Dining	4
Dessert/Ice cream/ Bakery shop	1
Fast Casual	1
Gastropub/Bar	1
Other (please specify)	Catering (2) Pre-packaged snacks N/A (2)

Chart 2 shows how the food-based business respondents' businesses are owned.

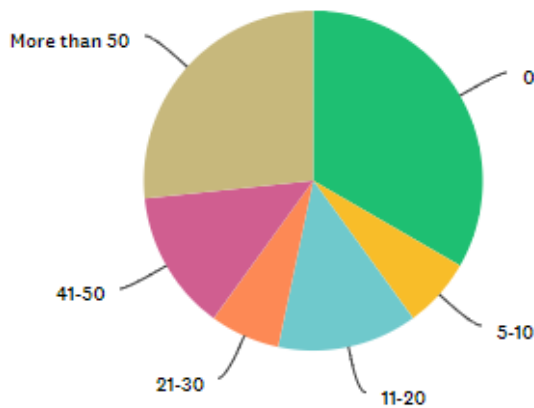
Chart 2: Ownership Type (Food-Based Business Respondents)



Additionally, 12 of 15 respondents (80%) shared their business is not a chain or franchise; 12 of 15 respondents (80%) shared their business is less than 10,000 square feet.

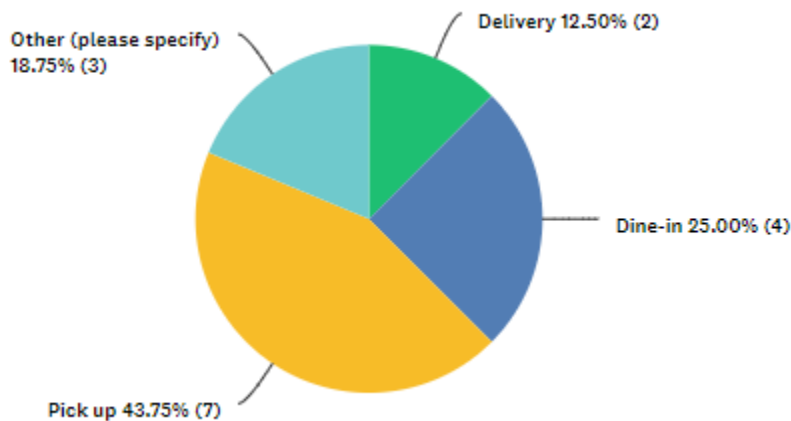
The seating capacity of the responding businesses is shown in **Chart 3**, below:

Chart 3: Seating Capacity (Food-Based Business Respondents)



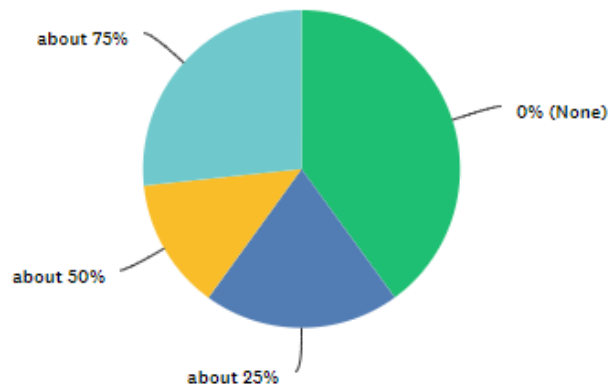
Of the 15 food-based business respondents, seven reported the primary dining experience was for pick-up, four reported dine-in as being the primary focus of the restaurant and two indicated that their business was focused on delivery. See **Chart 4**.

Chart 4: Primary Dining Experience (Food-Based Business Respondents)



Of the 15 food-based business respondents, six responded that their customers never dine-in; four responded that their customers dine in about 75% of the time; three responded that their customers dine in about 25% of the time; two responded that their customers dine in about 50% of the time. See **Chart 5**.

Chart 5: Primary Dining Experience (Food-Based Business Respondents)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 0% (None)	40.00%	6
▼ about 25%	20.00%	3
▼ about 50%	13.33%	2
▼ about 75%	26.67%	4
▼ 100% (All)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		15

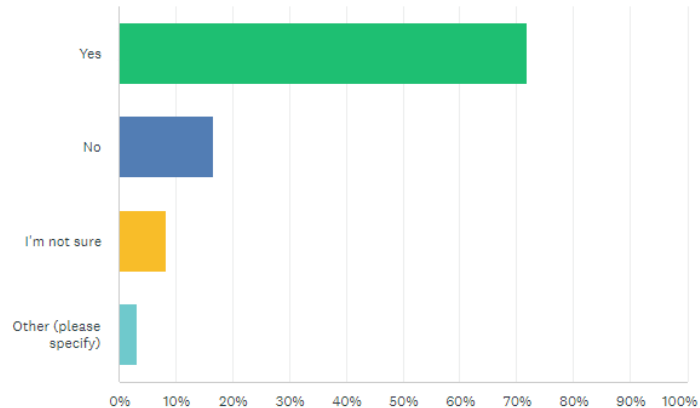
KEY FINDINGS

The following provides key findings from the survey. Full results are in Appendix A.

QUESTION 1

This is photo of single-use plastics in an overflowing garbage can. Single-use plastics include such items like plastic bags, takeout containers, cups, straws and utensils made for a one-time use only and typically end up in landfills, waterbodies and as litter in our communities. Do you worry about the amount of waste created by single-use plastic bags, to-go cups, containers, and other disposable foodware accessories?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 1

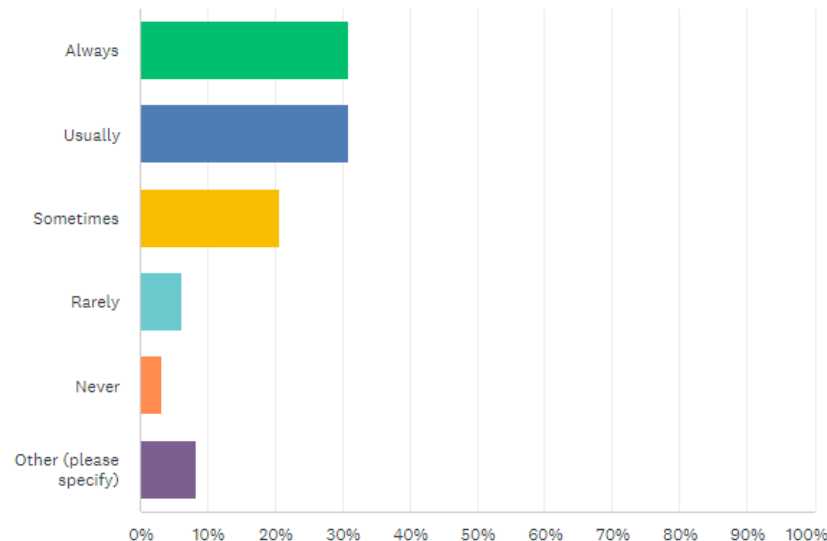


Staff observation: from 96 responses, more than 70% of business respondents worry about the amount of waste generated from single-use plastic items.

QUESTION 3

How often do you actively attempt to avoid using single-use plastics in your business operations?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



STAFF OBSERVATION: 60 out of 97 respondents (about 62%) usually or always attempt to avoid using single-use plastics in their business operations demonstrating a high eco-awareness of plastics among Pinole businesses.

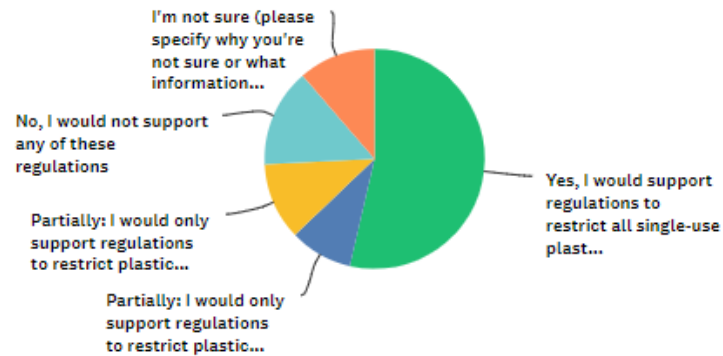
BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- i don't use them
- We try to reduce waste as much as possible and are very strict with trash, compost and recycling separation. However, we are a dental office and single use products are necessary.
- It depends on the items. There are some items in my business I have no choice but to use only once as I deal with chemicals as a hairstylist. Where I can avoid it I do my best to. I also have to consider my clients and what can work best for them.
- to avoid cross-contamination, we are unable to.
- not relevant to our online business
- My business is in construction, not in food preparation.
- We have done what we can to use compostable items where it is possible and realistic for the safety of our patrons and integrity of our product.
- My business does not require packaging, so I never need to use single-use packages

QUESTION 4

Would you support new regulations in Pinole that would regulate and restrict single-use plastics in the City? For example, reusable bags and food containers would be highly encouraged, all disposable to-go bags and containers would be compostable and all single-use plastics would be banned.

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes, I would support regulations to restrict all single-use plastics in Pinole	53.61% 52
▼ Partially: I would only support regulations to restrict plastic foodware products in Pinole	9.28% 9
▼ Partially: I would only support regulations to restrict plastic bags in Pinole	11.34% 11
▼ No, I would not support any of these regulations	14.43% 14
▼ I'm not sure (please specify why you're not sure or what information you'd need to form an opinion) Responses	11.34% 11
TOTAL	97

STAFF OBSERVATION: 52 out of 96 respondents (54%) would support a restriction on all single-use plastics. From the comments, cost is a concern for businesses.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

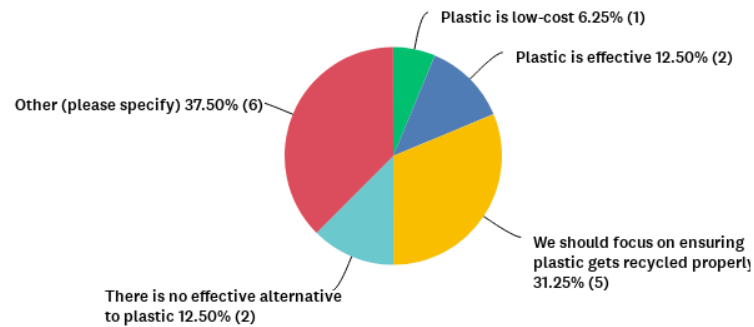
- Too expensive
- I don't think paper containers for food is a good idea as items with liquid would cause a difficulty and possibly hurt someone's business that needs containers that store food properly. Also not sure what the cost would be to the residents or small businesses that would now have to find a way to provide an alternative that could potentially cost more than what can be afforded. I don't disagree that there should be some way to reduce the use, however I urge the city to consider finding an alternative that would be the same price as or even better yet less than what is currently being spent for those items. Consider small businesses not just the bigger names that can afford paying more. Also for places that do have food items and are now needing to use and or accept reusable items, what will the new practices be

to ensure that the food is not being contaminated in some way. While good establishments may have a higher standard required for cleanliness, not every individual has or knows how to properly clean and sanitize different items.

- We would prefer to retain creative control over the choices we make for our business- to be informed by education and recommendations rather than imposed regulation and restrictive legislation.
- I just do not want the entire burden of cost and control levied on small business. We do our best when at all possible, but some items are just cost prohibitive. Hopefully in the future cost will align with ideals. It is especially difficult given the current economy.
- no because the non single use items never break down. need all biodegradeable only!
- I would need more information to exactly what will be banned, restricted, and what cost will be included.
- I just do not want the entire burden of cost and control levied on small business. We do our best when at all possible, but some items are just cost prohibitive. Hopefully in the future cost will align with ideals. It is especially difficult given the current economy.

QUESTION 6

Q6 Select all reasons why you would NOT support a ban or restriction on single-use plastics foodware and plastic bags in Pinole. (Please select all that apply)



STAFF OBSERVATION: 16 out of 97 respondents (about 16%) stated they would not support a ban. For the majority, they had their own comments listed below. For the rest, the main reason was shifting the focus on increasing the recycling rate of plastics (currently 9%). There are also concerns with functionality of plastic alternatives.

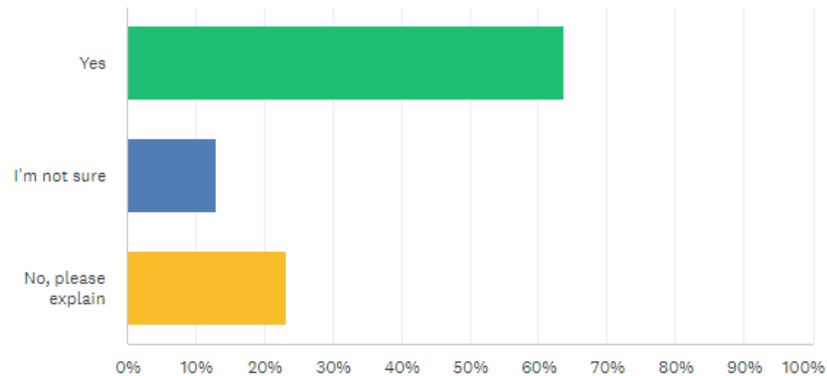
BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- It's not the job of the local govt to get involved in these regulations.
- Plastic alternatives can also be harmful to health and wildlife if not properly managed, regulated, and monitored.
- This is not a choose all that apply option. Cost, pros outweigh cons and quality
- Take care of the crime and homeless people. More important than plastics
- While bans on bags seems well and good, bans on plastic utensils and straws will affect disabled communities who can only eat/drink with those utensils in particular. For example, metal utensils can't be used as they can get too hot/cold, and many compostable utensils could have allergens.
- It's going to be very difficult to do take out.

QUESTION 7

Would you be supportive of new regulations in Pinole that may require customers at food businesses to bring their own reusable bag or pay for a paper or reusable bag at checkout in order to carry away to-go items?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 28



STAFF OBSERVATION: Over 60% of 69 respondents are okay with customers bringing their own reusable bags to food businesses or charging customers for a paper/reusable bag. Comments raise concerns such as unhappy customers for charging which may impact the local economy and drive business away. There are also concerns with sanitation of customer-brought bags near food.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

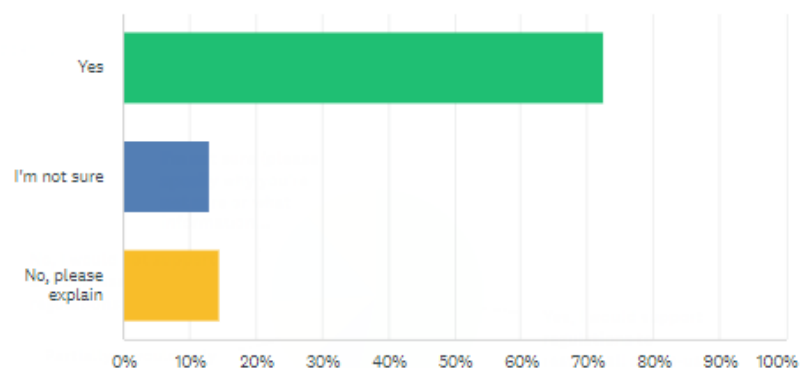
- I'm in favor of it for businesses like Target and Food Max. In fact, reusable plastic bags are the worst so paper should only be an option. Small businesses should not be required to charge.
- It's only going to hurt Pinole businesses. It's not the job of Pinole to make this rule, if it's a state rule then everyone affected evenly. Local rule only hurts Pinole businesses. Why are you trying to hurt Pinole? People will just go to Hercules, Richmond, unincorporated, San Pablo... too many other options. It will only hurt us!
- People are smart They do not need city of Pinole to set regulations and create further headaches
- Could be unsanitary or contaminate other items in the store
- There is already too much regulations, some people don't keep "clean" bags & bring those into the stores. Sanitary issue. Bags for the most part of free in stores.
- Bad for business
- I feel in this area most folks consistently bring their own bags. Occasionally, as we all forget our re-usable bags so the bag charge seems an extra fee.

- we pay enough when we get a to go order. I don't like how I get nickel and dime for every little thing. The customer should be able to leave with a bag to carry they're food in.
- For sanitary reasons, it is best to have cooked food in fresh clean bags
- Too difficult to implement
- As a consumer, I don't believe in being required to pay for re-usable bags.
- Not sanitary
- Guests won't typically have a bag to carry out their food.
- It's unrealistic and will create unhappy customers resulting in less revenue for businesses and less taxes being paid to the city
- I would want to supply my customers with something to hold their leftovers to take home.

QUESTION 8

Would you be supportive of new regulations in Pinole that may require customers at all retail businesses to bring their own reusable bag or pay for a paper or reusable bag for purchased items?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 28



STAFF OBSERVATION: Over 70% of 69 respondents support allowing customers to bring their own reusable bag or charging customers for a paper/reusable bag. Concerns with driving business away are raised in comments along with concerns about hygiene.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

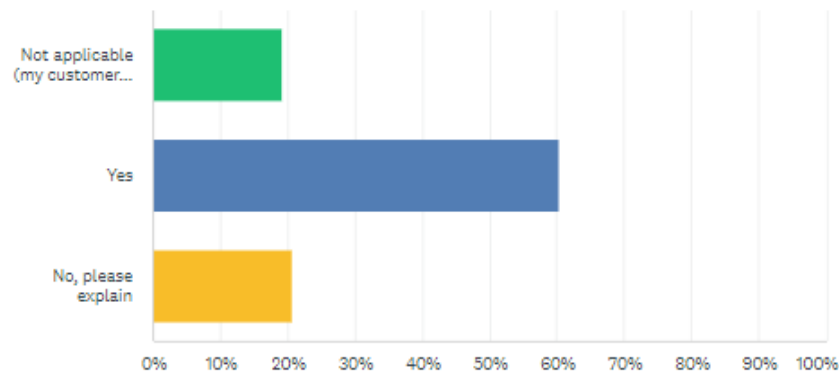
- Bad for business
- Same note as before
- my customer has already paid for they're items. I should not ask them to pay for a bag.
- If a re-usable bag is needed, it should be the responsibility of the business to supply it. They may need to increase their prices to accommodate the mandate.

- there is already state regulations requiring this.
- Same reason

QUESTION 9

Do you feel a paper bag will properly carry your customers' good and takeaway items?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 29



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Not applicable (my customers do not need bags to takeaway items)	19.12% 13
Yes	60.29% 41
No, please explain	20.59% 14

STAFF OBSERVATION: 60% of 68 respondents feel a paper bag will properly carry their customers' goods. Comments raise concerns with sturdiness of a paper bag and attenuation of paper bags with spilled food.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

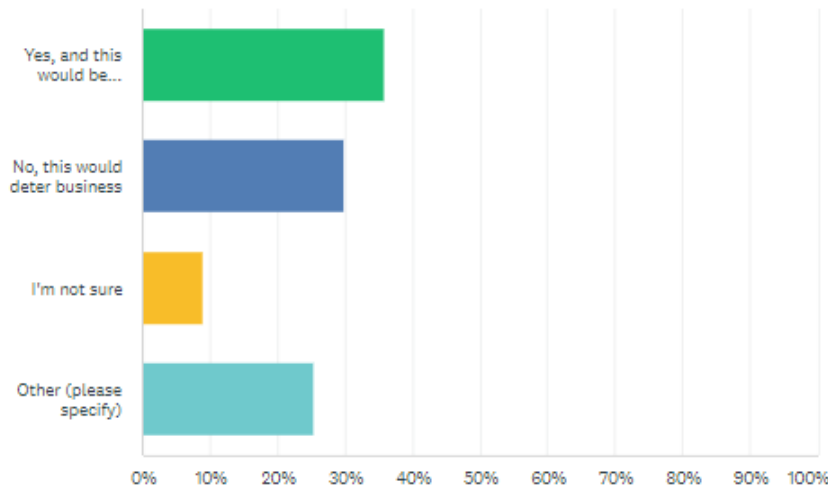
- Liquids and heat cause bags to break
- A paper bag's utility depends on the weight of the product(s) placed in them and the weight of the paper bag.
- paper bags aren't always the sturdiest most take-outs are already in appropriate containers.
- Depends on the weight of the products my clients are purchasing. Similar to grocery stores, I may have to double bag in order to support the weight of the items.
- Some food items may cause bag to dampen and break
- I've provided paper bags for many years!
- heavy items easily tear paper bags
- use reuseable bags

- Handles are not strong enough- use more bags with fewer items per bag
- Customers regularly complain
- Paper bags break easily. I bring my own reusable bag. My business doesn't need bags.
- They'll break. Food, grease, moisture will dampen the bag causing tears, spilled food and an overall poor experience

QUESTION 10

Would you be willing to charge customers 10 cents or more for a paper bag for their takeout, good, or takeaway items to offset any financial impact to your business?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, and this would be helpful as an offset	35.82%	24
No, this would deter business	29.85%	20
I'm not sure	8.96%	6
Other (please specify)	25.37%	17

STAFF OBSERVATION: About 36% of 67 respondents are okay with charging 10 cents or more for a paper bag. About 30% of 67 respondents feel this will deter business. Concern of cost for supplying paper bags without upsetting customers is raised in comments.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

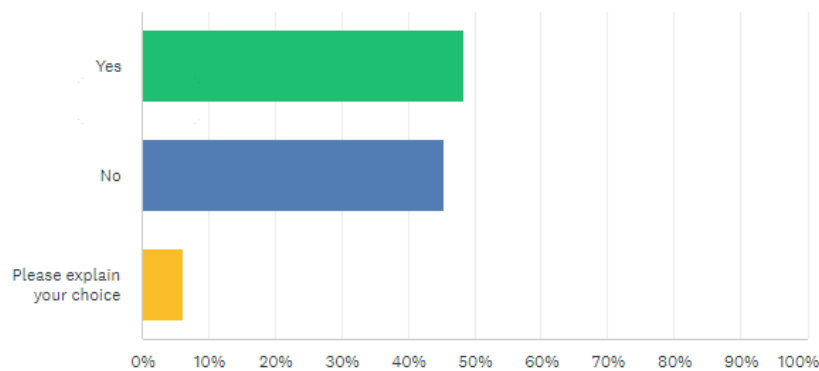
- I don't feel like I would have any other option other than to charge for the bag. As a small business and a small space I don't have the ability to order the bulk size needed to get a lesser price per bag. I don't think .10 per bag would be enough to offset the cost to my business.

- We already are passing on our significant rise in cost of goods to our customers and would prefer to avoid additional reasons to raise our prices--and, we already use paper bags and would prefer to continue to decide where and when to spend our limited funds.
- We have already switched to recycled paper bags and boxes and have folded those costs into our retail pricing. It's simpler and does not make our customers like they are being nickle and dimed

QUESTION 12

The thicker plastic bags in this picture are reusable up to 125 times. Considering how many times customers may actually be reusing them before disposing, do you consider these bags to be truly reusable?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 33



STAFF OBSERVATION: Respondents are split on the question of thicker film plastic bags being reusable considering the number of time they are actually used before disposal.

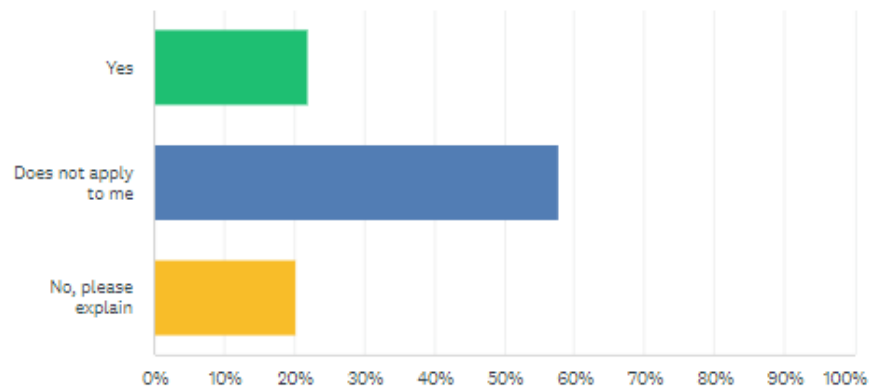
BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- I have reused these bags, they have a tendency to "smell"
- Studies show these bags are used less than once before being tossed. Paper is a much more sustainable option
- No. Reusable should not have a limit of 125 times.

QUESTION 13

Would your business be willing to increase the consumer price of these thicker plastic bags in order to discourage their purchase and use?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 33



STAFF OBSERVATION: For the businesses that this question applies to, slightly more businesses are willing to increase the price of thicker plastic bags

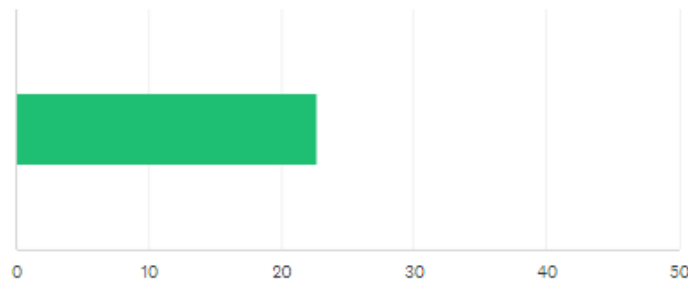
BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- People reuse them all the time for all kinds of things
- Let the market decide
- Bad for business
- Thicker plastic is bad for environment and most people don't reuse them anyway. So we do not want to offer the thicker plastic even at the cost to the customer
- has not worked, if you raise the cost, consumers will just not buy them and typically affects how much they purchase. consumers end up purchasing less items so they can carry them without having to purchase a bag.
- It's a business deterrent
- I feel that raising the price of something to deter customers from purchasing that thing is unethical

QUESTION 14

The slider below shows the current price of the thicker reusable plastic bags (10 cents). Using the slider below select what price (in cents) per bag would you be willing to increase the price of these thicker plastic bags to discourage their purchase and use?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 56



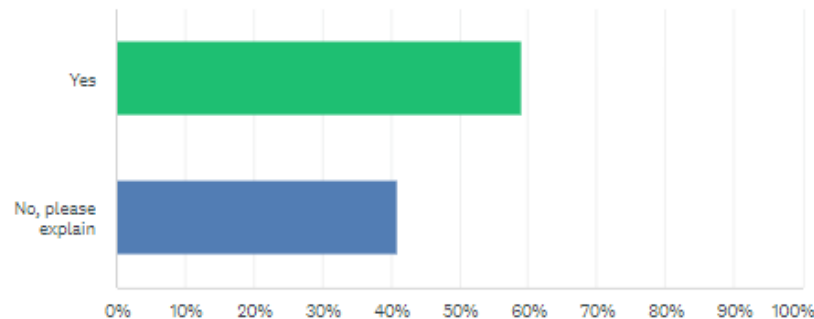
ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Responses	23	930	41
Total Respondents: 41			

STAFF OBSERVATION: Respondents collectively averaged a fee of 23 cents deterring the purchase of thicker film plastic bags. Interesting, San Francisco's 2019 Ordinance increasing the amount of money charged for checkout bags from \$0.10 to \$0.25 referenced an Irish law, which increased the price of plastic checkout bags from 15 cents to 22 cents, reducing plastic checkout usage by more than 95 percent, as precedent.

QUESTION 15

Would you be comfortable with customers bringing their own to-go cup or tupperware for leftovers at food establishments?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 36



STAFF OBSERVATION: About 60% of respondents are comfortable with customers bringing their own to-go cups and Tupperware. The majority of comments raised concerns with sanitation. One commentator worries it will invite false accusations of food poisoning if the customer's container was not clean in the first.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

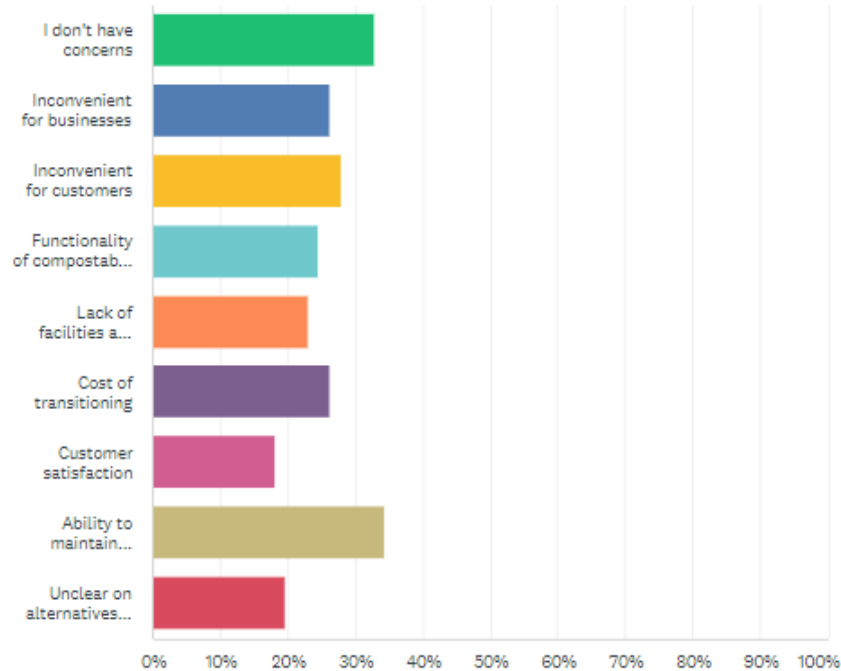
- Contamination
- not sanitary
- It's only going to hurt Pinole businesses. It's not the job of Pinole to make this rule, if it's a state rule then everyone affected evenly. Local rule only hurts Pinole businesses. Why are you trying to hurt Pinole? People will just go to Hercules, Richmond, unincorporated, San Pablo... too many other options. It will only hurt us!
- Could contaminate
- Sanitary issues
- Might have food contamination and establishment blamed
- If someone brings a container that was not properly cleaned and sanitized, they could claim that a business gave them food poisoning because their container was not clean and not that the food business mishandled the food. I think this can present liability or problem.
- Sanitation issue
- Absolutely not, folks have pets. Some folks like myself are allergic.
- that's ridiculous to ask a customer
- I just think it's weird but I guess it's ok
- Does not apply to our service
- Cross contaminating
- contamination due to bacteria
- too unsanitary. unless they have dishwasher in the car.

- contamination of main food from customers Tupperware
- Not applicable
- Cups ok, not food
- Sanitation concerns
- Health reasons
- Not all the customers will bring in clean food ware, it will cause cross contamination.
- ?
- My business doesn't sell food.
- Sanitary issue
- I don't think that is sanitary

QUESTION 16

What concern(s) do you have regarding regulations that require food businesses to only use compostable or reusable foodware?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 36



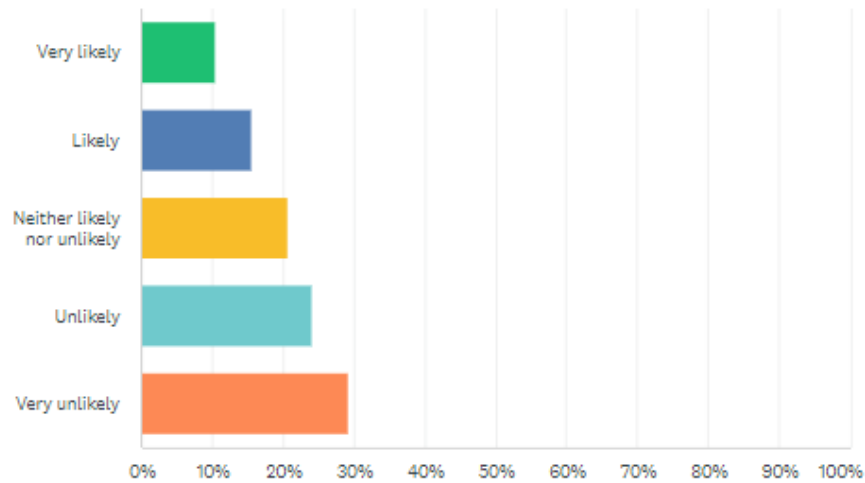
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ I don't have concerns	32.79%	20
▼ Inconvenient for businesses	26.23%	16
▼ Inconvenient for customers	27.87%	17
▼ Functionality of compostable foodware	24.59%	15
▼ Lack of facilities at business to clean reusable foodware	22.95%	14
▼ Cost of transitioning	26.23%	16
▼ Customer satisfaction	18.03%	11
▼ Ability to maintain hygiene/cleanliness	34.43%	21
▼ Unclear on alternatives/regulations	19.67%	12
Total Respondents: 61		

STAFF OBSERVATION: No answer option received a majority. The main concerns are cost, functionality, and hygiene/cleanliness.

QUESTION 17

How likely would your business participate in a low-cost program where customers could return take out containers to you or other participating locations so they can be reused? A diagram of such a program is below.

Answered: 58 Skipped: 39

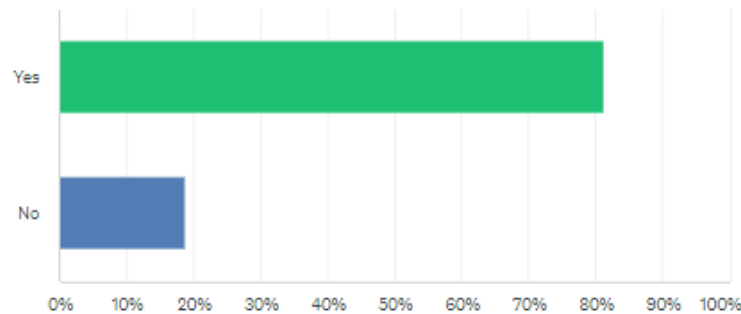


STAFF OBSERVATION: About half of respondents are either open or willing to participate in the returnable, reusable loop.

QUESTION 28

Do you have the ability to wash dishes at your business?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 81



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	81.25%	13
No	18.75%	3
Total Respondents: 16		

STAFF OBSERVATION: This question was only asked of food service businesses. More than 80% of the 16 respondents have the ability to wash dishes at their business, which means they also have the ability to accommodate reusables.

RESIDENT/VISITOR SURVEYS

SNAPSHOT OF RESPONDENTS

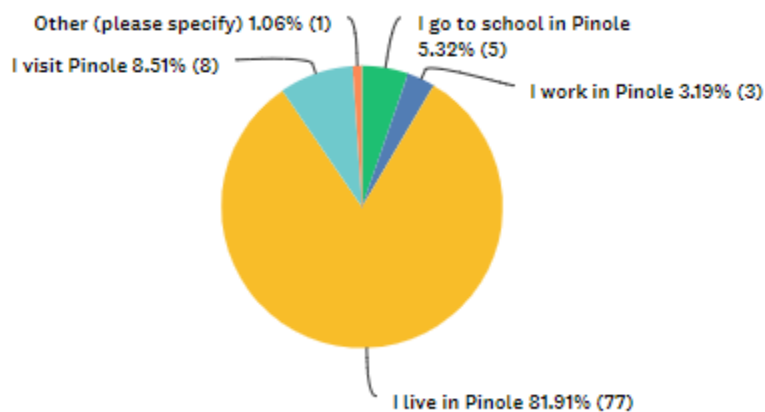
Table 3 below shows the number of responses received from the resident/visitor community by method of survey distribution.

Table 3: Resident/Visitor Survey Respondents by Survey Method

Email invitations	48 responses
Website	32 responses
Flyer posting/distribution	15 responses
Social Media	8 responses
Total Responses	103 responses

94 respondents shared how they are associated with the City of Pinole. Most respondents (over 80%) live in Pinole (see **Chart 6**).

Chart 6: Resident/Visitor Respondent Association with City



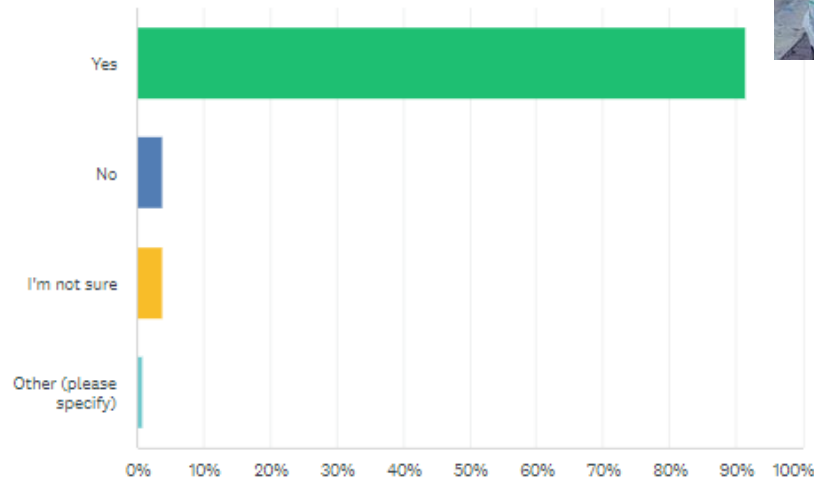
KEY FINDINGS

The following provides key findings from the survey. Full results are in Appendix B.

QUESTION 1

This is photo of single-use plastics in an overflowing garbage can. Single-use plastics include such items like plastic bags, takeout containers, cups, straws and utensils made for a one-time use only and typically end up in landfills, waterbodies and as litter in our communities. Do you worry about the amount of waste created by single-use plastic bags, to-go cups, containers, and other disposable foodware accessories?

Answered: 105 Skipped: 0

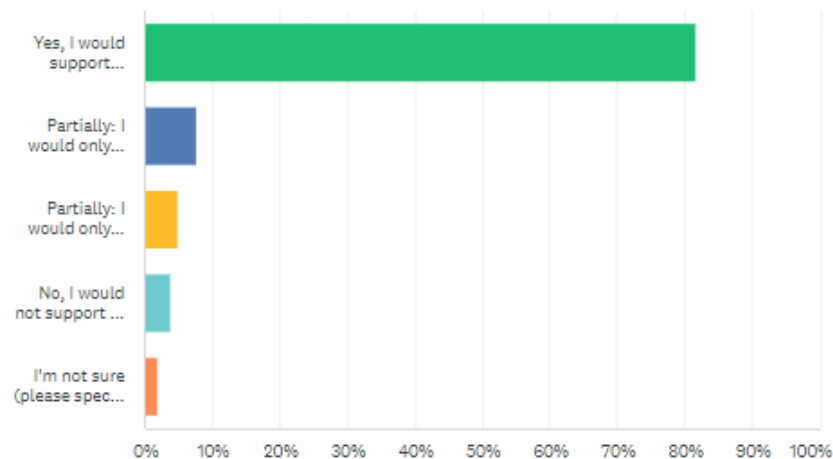


STAFF OBSERVATION: Respondents overwhelmingly answered they are concerned with the number of single-use plastic items disposed.

QUESTION 4

Would you support new regulations in Pinole that would regulate and restrict single-use plastics in the City? For example, reusable bags and food containers would be highly encouraged, all disposable to-go bags and containers would be compostable and all single-use plastics would be banned.

Answered: 104 Skipped: 1



STAFF OBSERVATION: More than 80% of 104 respondents would support regulation on single-use plastic bags and foodware.

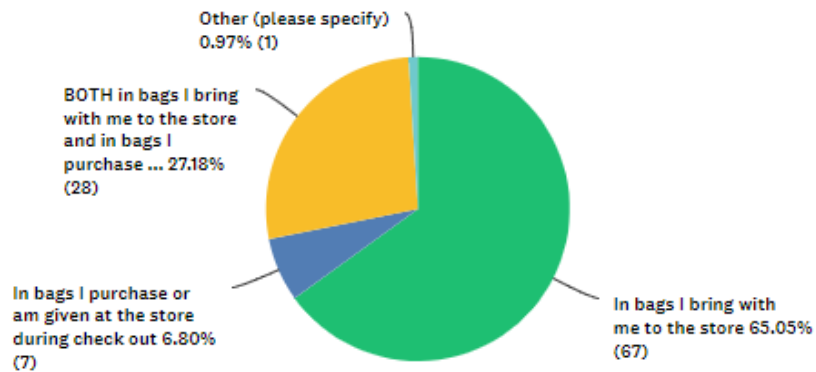
RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- There is increased cost for the business and it force many small businesses to participate who may not be able to afford this change. Some of my favorite restaurants are small business owners. I would feel better if their needs were also taken into consideration.
- The added costs to struggling businesses is the problem
- Because we the consumer will have to pay for all of this, as retailers will raise their prices to buy the special products

QUESTION 7

How do you typically bring your groceries home? If you order or have groceries delivered, please respond with how you receive your groceries.

Answered: 103 Skipped: 2

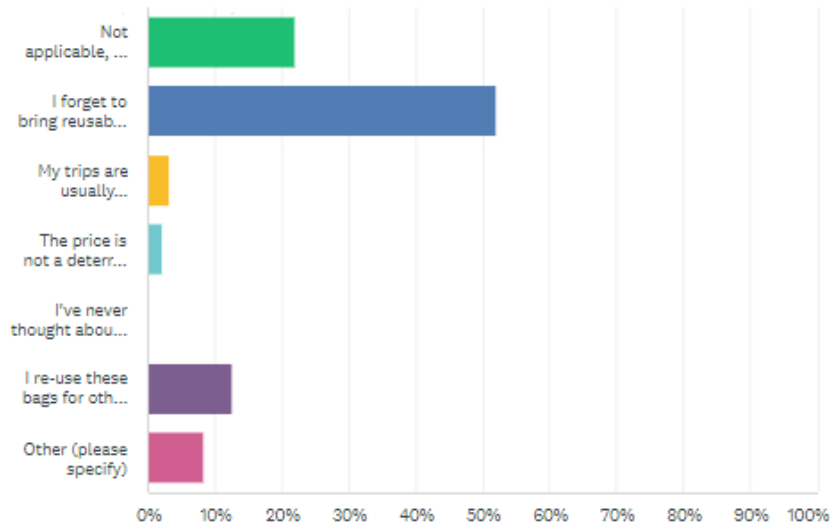


STAFF OBSERVATION: 65% of respondents bring their own bags for groceries

QUESTION 10

If you ever get thicker plastic bags at the grocery store, what's usually the typical reason why you buy them?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Not applicable, I don't buy these bags	21.88%	21
▼ I forget to bring reusable bags	52.08%	50
▼ My trips are usually spontaneous	3.13%	3
▼ The price is not a deterrent and the bags are convenient	2.08%	2
▼ I've never thought about it	0.00%	0
▼ I re-use these bags for other trips or things	12.50%	12
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 8.33%	8
TOTAL		96

STAFF OBSERVATION: A majority of respondents are only purchasing the thicker film plastic bags because they forgot to bring their own bag. From the comments, it seems online grocery shopping does not have an option to pre-select “bringing my own bag” as online orders are packed in plastic bags.

RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

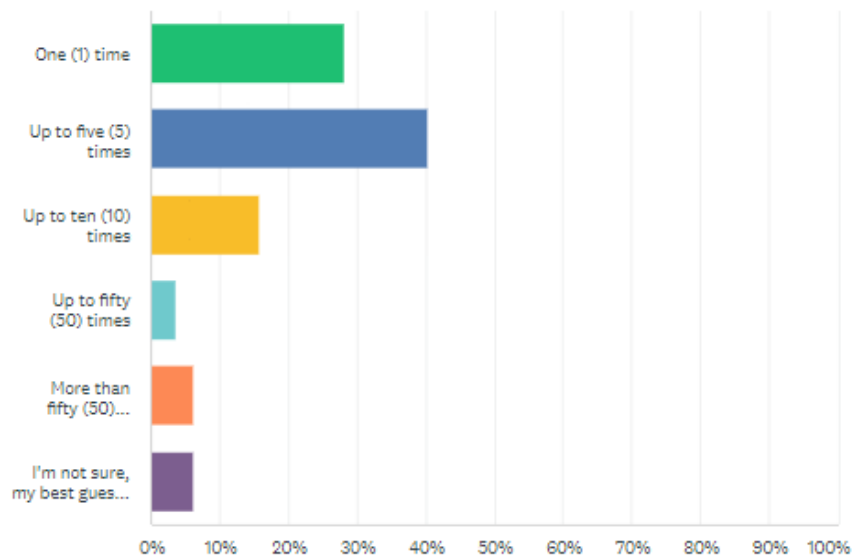
- Its what is available
- I am forced to by your regulations
- I forgot to bring bags and paper bags are not available or I'm not given a choice.

- when I shop online for store pickup, the items are packed in plastic bags
- Drive up, forced upon one
- when using store pick up (someone else has bagged the groceries I purchase ahead of time)
- I don't buy them. Charge way more than to purchase these bags and people will stop using them. Ban them all together.
- It's a drive up order and the bags are automatically loaded with my order with no way to opt out.

QUESTION 13

How many times would you estimate you reuse these thicker reusable bags before you recycle them?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 23

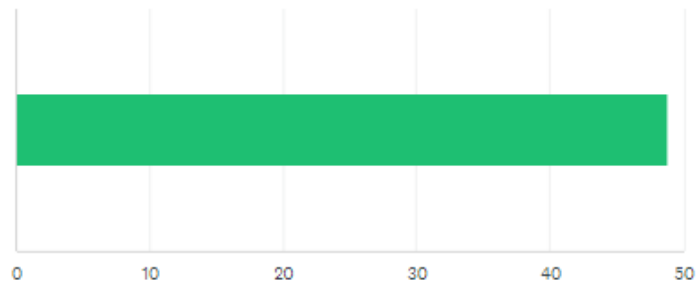


STAFF OBSERVATION: The majority of respondents are reusing thicker plastic bags for only about 1-10 times.

QUESTION 14

The slider below shows the current price of the thicker reusable plastic bags (10 cents) at grocery checkout. Using the slider below select what price (in cents) per bag would deter or stop you from buying thicker plastic bags at grocery checkout?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 28

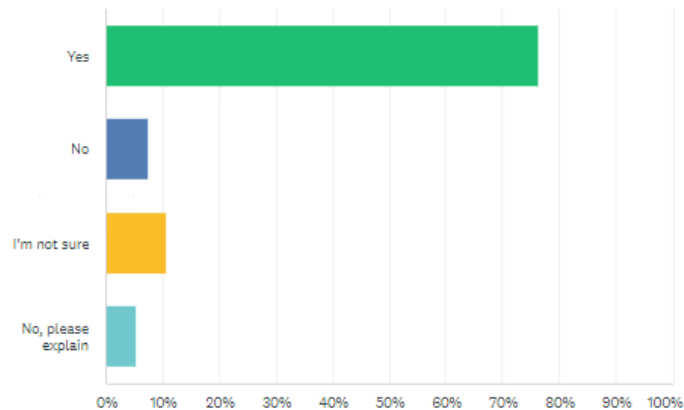


STAFF OBSERVATION: The average of 77 responses led to a result of 49 cents being a price that would deter the purchase of thicker plastic bags

QUESTION 16

Would you be supportive of new regulations in Pinole that may require customers at food businesses to bring their own reusable bag or pay for a paper or reusable bag at checkout in order to carry away to-go items?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 12



STAFF OBSERVATION: About 75% of 93 respondents would support legislation that requires customers to bring their own reusable bag or pay for a paper bag at food businesses.

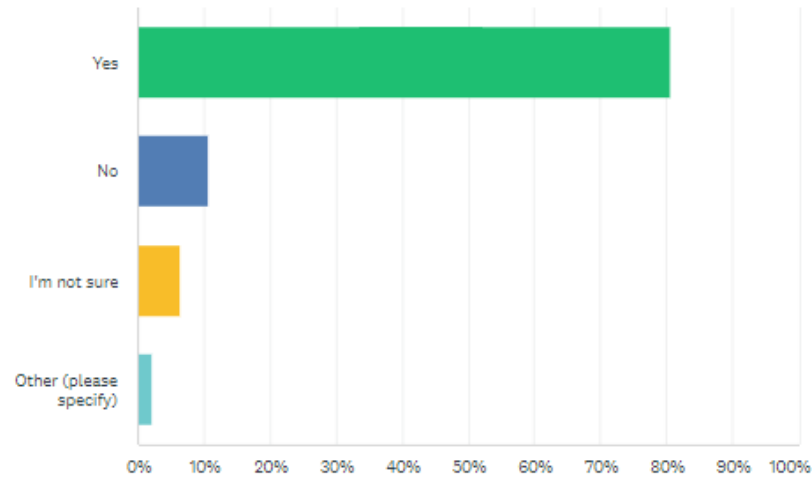
RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- I will shop in another town if you force your beliefs on customers
- Most to all retailers in Pinole already charge for plastic or paper.
- I will only support this if the funds help support actual recycling programs. Otherwise, it just cost consumer more and we don't know where the extra money is going.
- I can't afford their charges and I bet they'd be ridiculous where they would try to make money off of the consumer, instead of charging what it cost them.
- free paper bag only

QUESTION 17

Would you be supportive of new regulations in Pinole that may require customers at all retail businesses to bring their own reusable bag or pay for a paper or reusable bag for purchased items?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 12

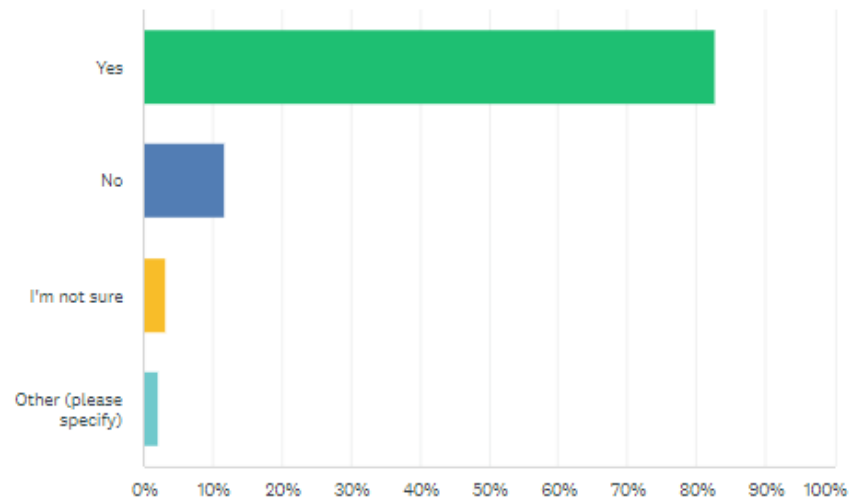


STAFF OBSERVATION: 80% of 93 respondents would support requiring customers to bring their own reusable bag or purchasing a paper bag at all retail businesses.

QUESTION 18

Would you be willing to pay 10 cents for a paper bag if you forgot to bring your own reusable bag to pick up takeout, good, or takeaway items?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 12

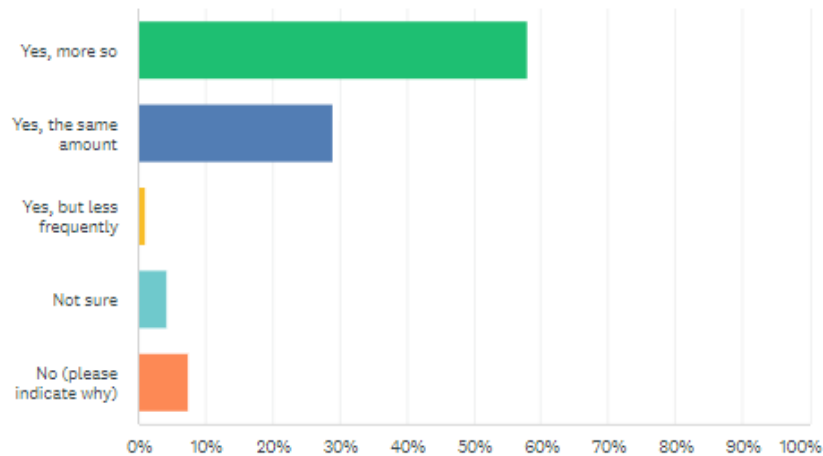


STAFF OBSERVATION: More than 80% of respondents are okay with being charged 10 cents for a paper bag at any food or retail location

QUESTION 19

Would you still eat at eating establishments in Pinole if they replaced their plastic foodware with either reusable (washed and sanitized) or compostable foodware?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 12



STAFF OBSERVATION: More than 80% of 93 respondents would still eat at eating establishments if they switched to compostable or reusable foodware. More than 50% of respondents state reusable or compostable foodware would increase their support of that business.

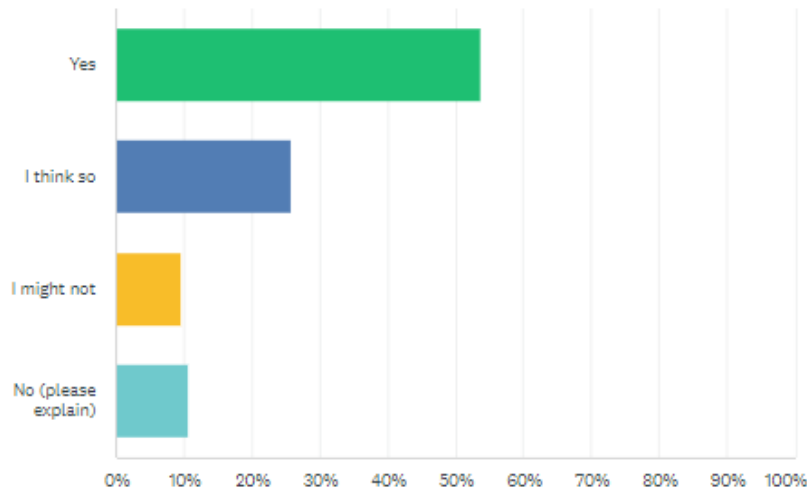
RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- You are virtue signaling
- I would not eat in the establishment if served on compostable foodware
- not clear, is this for take out or in-house eating. I would not eat at a restaurant without real utensils.
- NA - I don't eat out
- Compostable straws do not work and are not disabled friendly
- Compostable yes, used and sanitized no
- You can't guarantee they are washed or sanitized at an acceptable level

QUESTION 20

Would you still eat at restaurants in Pinole if the price of a meal was slightly increased to help businesses transition from plastic to compostable and/or reusable foodware?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 12



STAFF OBSERVATION: More than 50% of respondents are okay with a slightly increased price of a meal to help businesses switch to reusable or compostable foodware.

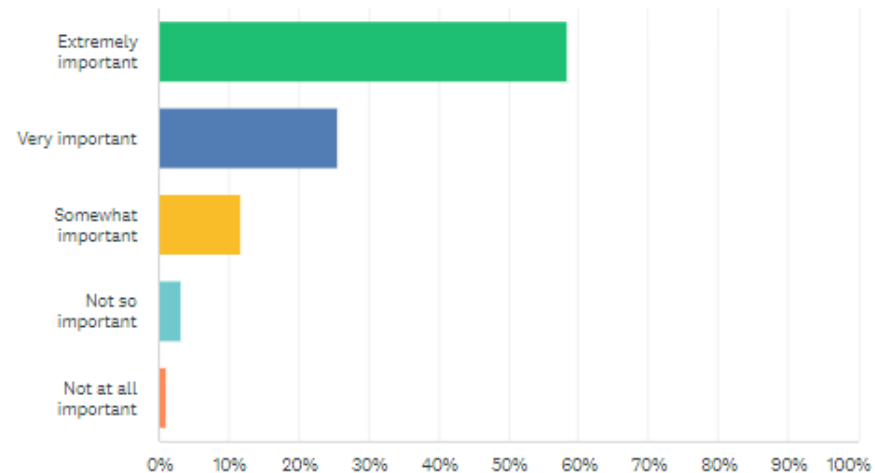
RESIDENT/VISTOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- The cost of reusable eating utensils
- Too many increases already, in so many areas.
- Inflation already has eating out too expensive.
- You are penalizing customers for your agenda
- Why should we pay for a healthier environment
- Food is already high, timing for this is not inline with current inflation
- they'd over charge to make a profit knowing these businesses.
- NA - I don't eat out
- Not a fan of subsidizing these costs
- This is confusing. I'd pay more for take out to help transition or subsidize compostable, but not more for dine in

QUESTION 22

How important is it to you that businesses in Pinole use environmentally friendly practices?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 12

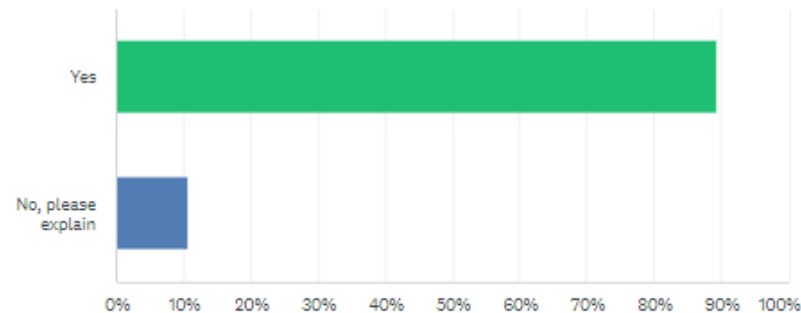


STAFF OBSERVATION: More than 80% of 94 respondents feel it is extremely or very important for Pinole businesses to use environmentally friendly practices

QUESTION 23

Would you be comfortable if you and other customers were allowed to bring their own to-go cup or tupperware for leftovers at food establishments?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 12



STAFF OBSERVATION: About 90% of 93 respondents are okay with other customers bringing their own reusable Tupperware for leftovers. Comments raised sanitation concerns and liability issues for businesses.

RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Not sure of cleanliness of foodware that will be brought by resident, potential for liability for business for not using store-supplied containers.
- unsanitary and could open up lawsuits for bad food caused by dirty containers
- I'm happy with the business providing recyclable to go containers
- Inconvenience
- Is this a joke. I think health dept and lawyers would nix this silly idea
- Hygiene issues
- Seems a bit unsanitary and it would be fine in some establishments but not others, like high-end restaurants.
- Sanitary
- not sanitary; too much liability for business
- Sanitary concerns abound

QUESTION 24

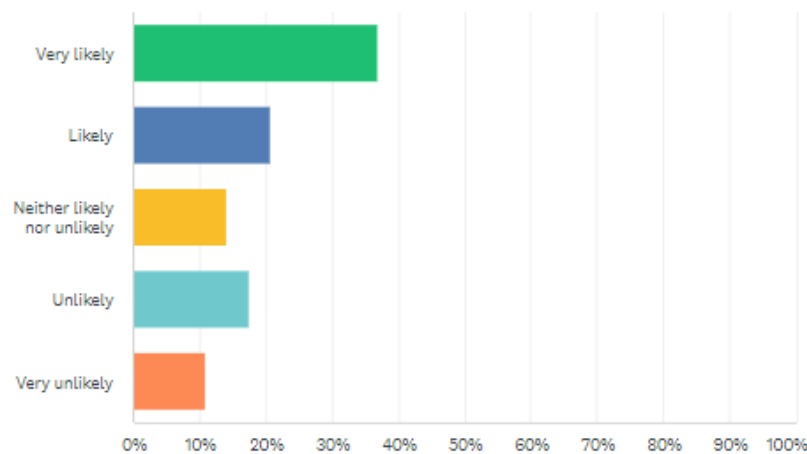
Please list any concerns you may have with the usability or functionality of compostable foodware

STAFF OBSERVATION: A majority of comments raised no concerns with compostable foodware.

QUESTION 25

Imagine you're taking out food from a business in Pinole. How likely would you be to participate in a program where you could return your take out containers to participating locations in or near Pinole so they can be reused?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 13



STAFF OBSERVATION: More than 50% of 92 respondents are likely to participate in a system of returning and exchanging reusable to-go containers.

ALTERNATIVES TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS EXPO

An Alternatives to Single-use Plastics Expo was fittingly scheduled on April 6, 2023 at the Youth Center in Pinole from 9am - 1pm. This event coincided with Water Week of Earth Month to additionally bring awareness to pollution of water bodies from plastics. The date and time was selected for the expo as the best window of time from a poll that was sent to food businesses.

The expo was open to all – businesses, residents and visitors. The goal of the expo was to provide information regarding the cost and functionality of alternatives to plastic. The expo showcased viable, cost-effective products and systems that can supplant single-use plastic foodware. Three compostable companies, Hay!Straws, Eco Products, and World Centric, as well as a compostable distributor were present. Four reusables companies, Foodware, Sparkl, Encora, and Huskee, were also present. Rethink Disposable, a consulting group, provided a presentation and flyers of case studies of cost savings by providing reusables for dine-in. Republic Services was in attendance to provide education and public information related to recycling and waste disposal.

Pricing for reusables and compostables was made available. Attendees were given the opportunity to test the products with the food and drink at the event. The provided food/beverage was intentionally selected to test the expo products against variables such as heat and liquids. A raffle with reusable prizes was also organized to encourage more attendance at the expo. Two physical exit surveys (one for businesses and one for resident/visitors) were available for guests to complete on their way out. Publicity for the expo was conducted similar to the survey – using social media, emails through community partners, emails to food businesses, flyers, and flyer posting. Additionally, a Facebook event page was created, and a press release was generated. For businesses and residents that could not attend the expo, a mini-interactive expo was set up at City Hall for about 6 weeks. All information about the expo was posted on the PlasticWise Pinole webpage.



SNAPSHOT OF ATTENDEES

The expo was attended by approximately 30 residents/visitors, three food businesses, and the WCCUSD cafeteria manager.

EXPO EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

EXIT SURVEY RESULTS - BUSINESSES

QUESTION 4



STAFF OBSERVATION: Food business attendees are split on the functionality of compostable foodware

BUSINESS WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Quality and price not on par
- Utensil quality poor with bamboo
- Compostable items are a great way we can help save the environments

QUESTION 6

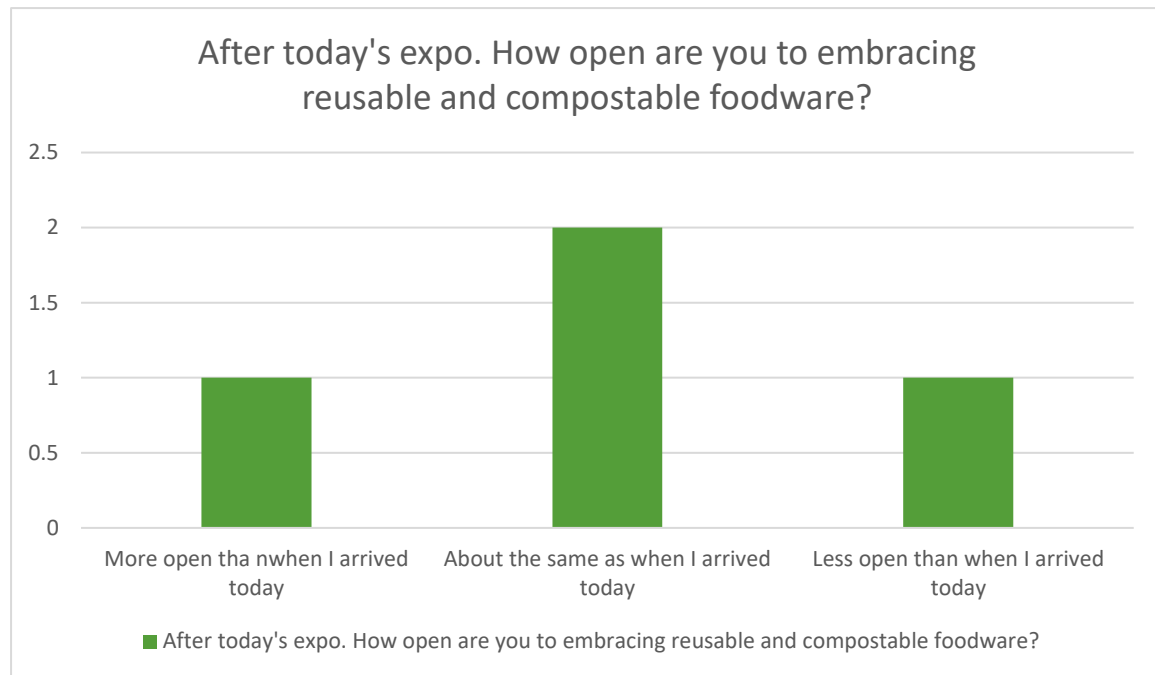


STAFF OBSERVATION: Most food business attendees were not satisfied with the price of compostable foodware.

BUSINESS WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

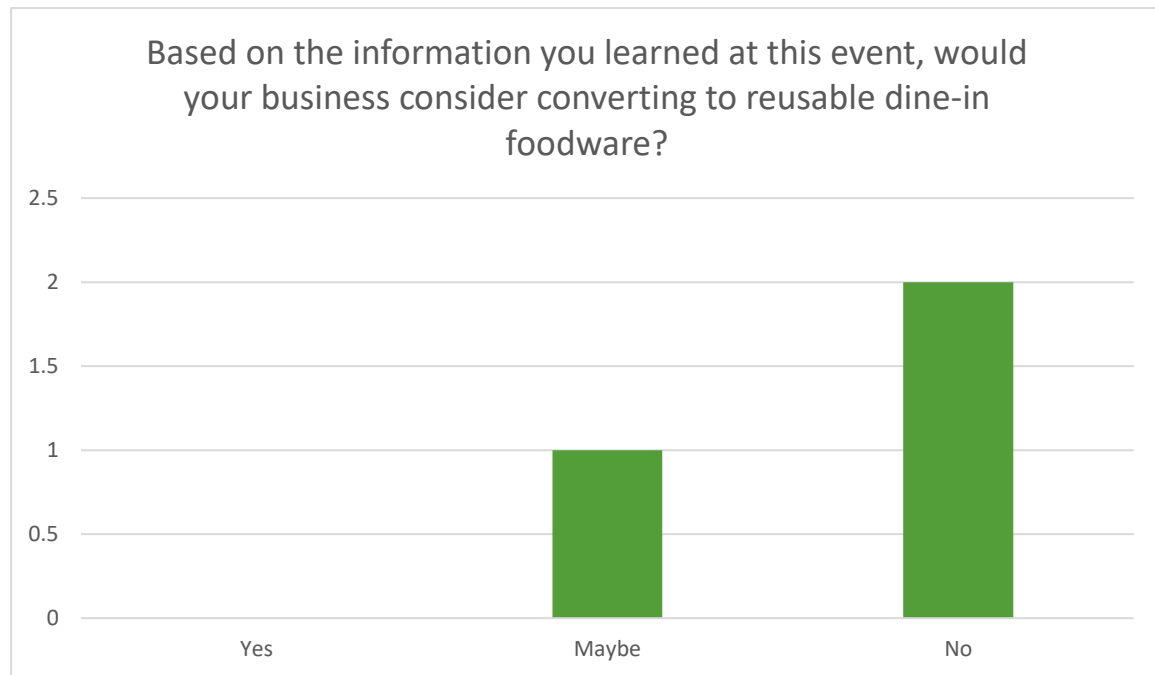
- Too expensive
- Price is a big consideration as it is an addition to the food and labor costs

QUESTION 8



STAFF OBSERVATION: Half of food business attendees were unchanged after the expo on embracing compostable/reusable foodware while one was more open and one was less open.

QUESTION 9



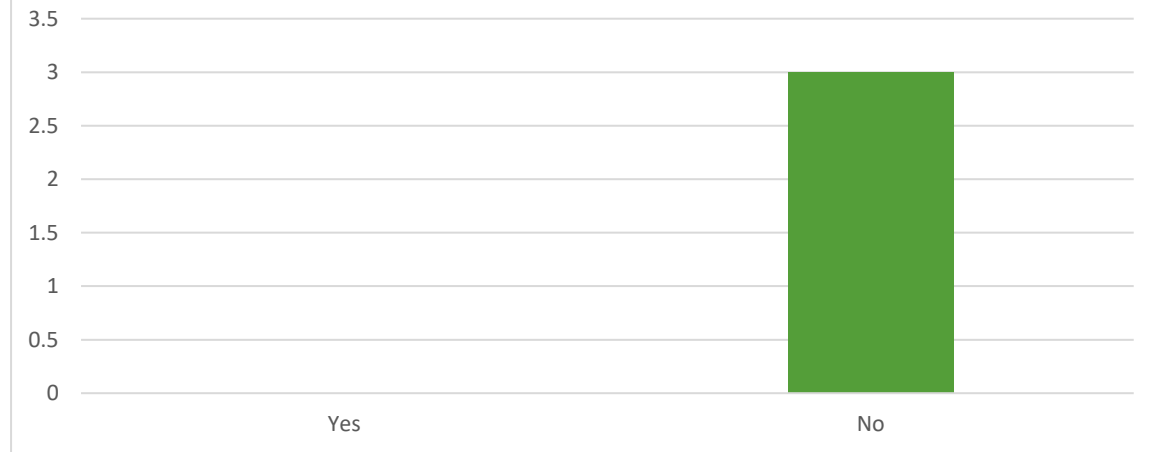
STAFF OBSERVATION: Food business attendees were mainly not open to converting to reusable dine-in foodware.

BUSINESS WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Our schools are not equipped currently with an infrastructure for reusable items
- Not sure- complicated. We have our own reusables

QUESTION 10

Based on the the information you learned about trackable, returnable, and reusable to-go foodware at this event, would your business try out subscribing to a trackable, returnable to-go foodware service?



STAFF OBSERVATION: Food business attendees were not open to a trackable, returnable to-go foodware system

BUSINESS WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

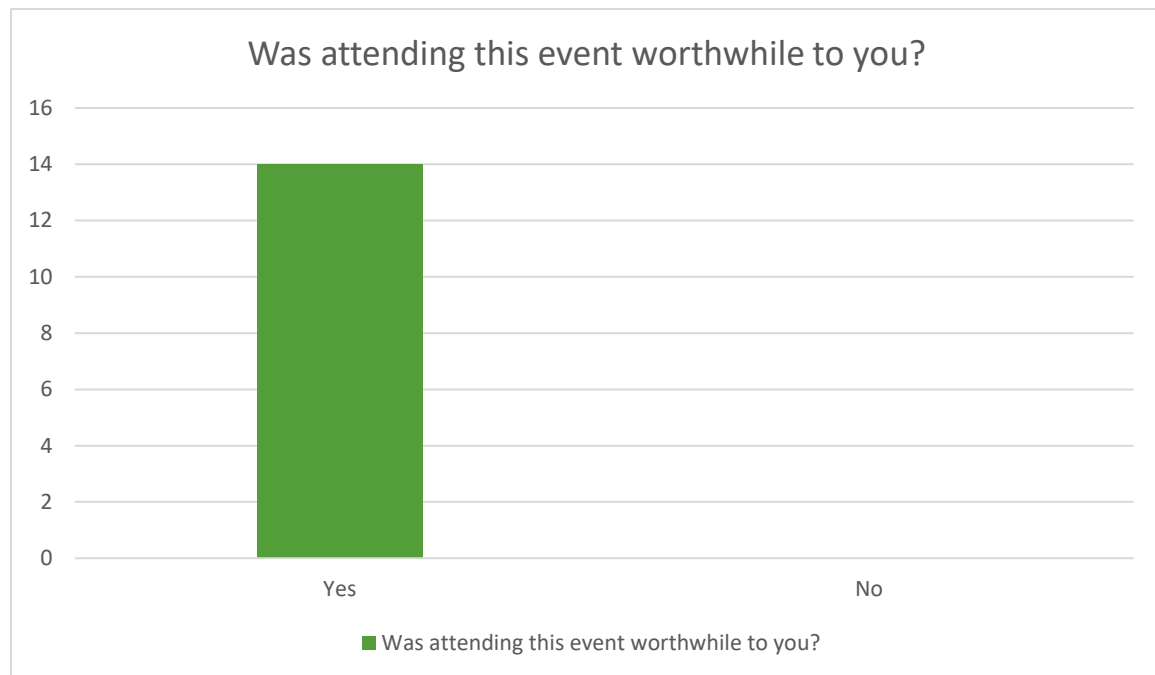
- I did not receive any info and do not want any additional costs
- With students we cannot charge a deposit or fee for lost items
- Most likely not- complicated process for a business of our size

QUESTION 13

Please share any additional thoughts or comments you have related to alternatives to single-use plastics

BUSINESS WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Looking for education versus legislation
- Involve the public and businesses prior to deciding

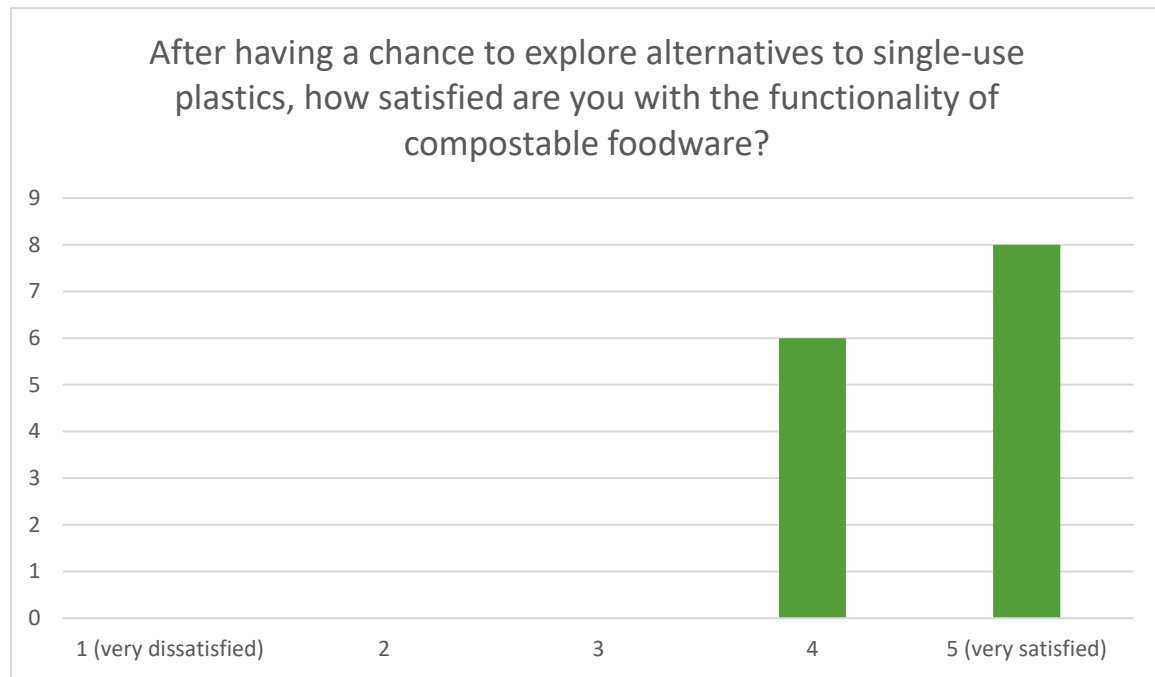
EXIT SURVEY RESULTS - VISITOR/RESIDENTS**QUESTION 2**

STAFF OBSERVATION: All resident/visitor attendees that took the survey found the expo worthwhile

RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Learned about new things being implemented to reduce plastic waste

QUESTION 3

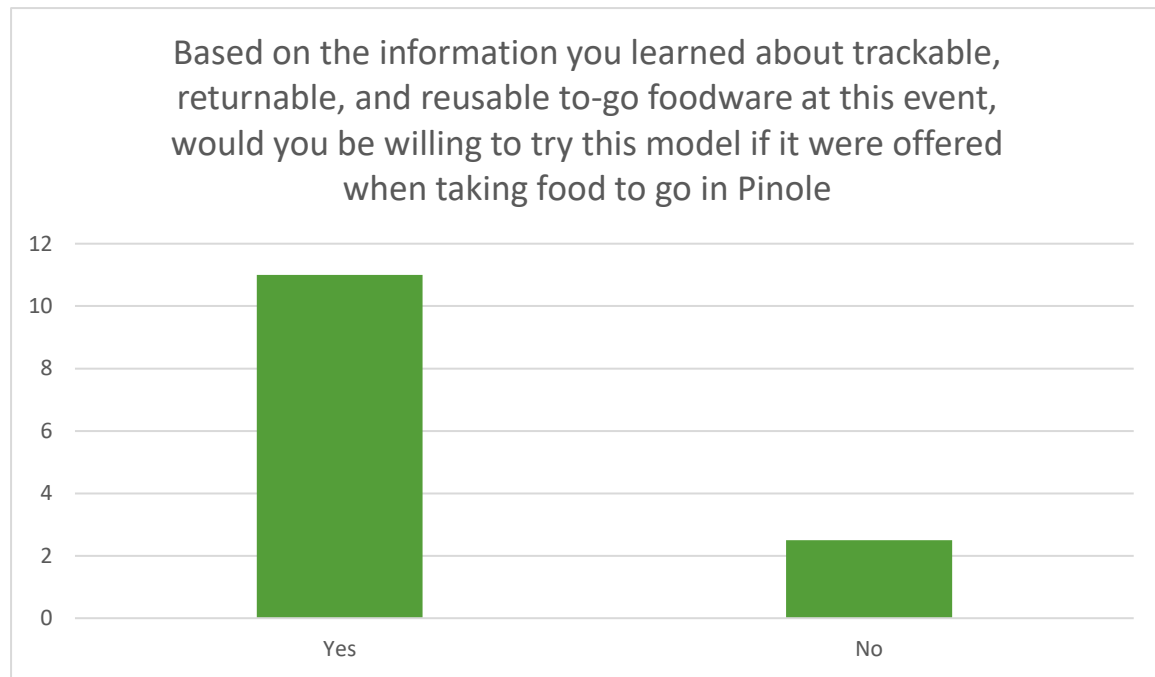


STAFF OBSERVATION: All resident/visitor attendees that took the survey were satisfied or extremely satisfied with compostable foodware.

RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Fiber sources- we need to find ways to not destroy new trees; bioplastics still produce micro and nano plastics
- Decrease single-use plastics!!
- Paper straws tend to fall apart
- Vegans like me, want to help save the environment. Recycling and composting helps
- I hope we see more restaurants using recyclable containers
- Best for environment
- I love how everything is to help the earth.

QUESTION 5



STAFF OBSERVATION: About 90% resident/visitor attendees that took the survey were open to trying a returnable reusables foodware program.

RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- No need...I have compostables and reusable containers at home
- Don't do takeout
- Maybe reusable coffee cups

QUESTION 9

Please share any additional thoughts or comments you have related to alternatives to single-use plastics.

RESIDENT/VISITOR WRITTEN RESPONSES/COMMENTS:

- Requirement to bring your own containers for your leftovers at restaurants
- I find some hard to open since I have arthritis
- Get the restaurants and vendors here; Get that ordinance on the books; We don't want to keep cleaning up plastic Thanks!
- I would like our grocery stores to stock more items in returnable containers milk, juice etc.

- Encourage more food purveyors to use dishes of ceramic and metal utensils and glass glasses
- You guys doing great keep it up!
- I already receive the City Manager report thank you!

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

FOODWARE/FIREWINGS PILOT

A reusable, returnable foodware pilot in partnership with Foodware and Fire Wings Pinole was launched in June. Reusable to-go containers are currently available at Fire Wings Pinole. Customers can download the Foodware app and can checkout a container for a small deposit, credited back once it is returned. Publicity for this pilot was done through social media, tabling at the Pinole Car Show, posting flyers along the Pinole Creek trail, email communications to businesses, interested parties and community partners, and a press release.

To date, there have been two participants in in the Foodware/Firewings Pilot.

OUTREACH TO PINOLE GROCERS

Outreach to Pinole grocers to gather their feedback on single-use plastics was also conducted. Grocers were hand delivered a letter to request a meeting to discuss single-use plastics and food insecurity issues in Pinole. One-on-one meetings with grocers began in July. Four meetings with grocers have been conducted so far. Staff will continue to meet with the 12 remaining Pinole business that sell grocery products, including CVS, Target, Lucky, Dollar Tree, Sprouts Farmers Market, Walgreens, 7-Eleven and Valley Produce Market.

See **Table 4** for a summary of the conversations to-date related to single-use plastics.

Table 4: Summary of Pinole Grocer's Feedback on Single-Use Plastics

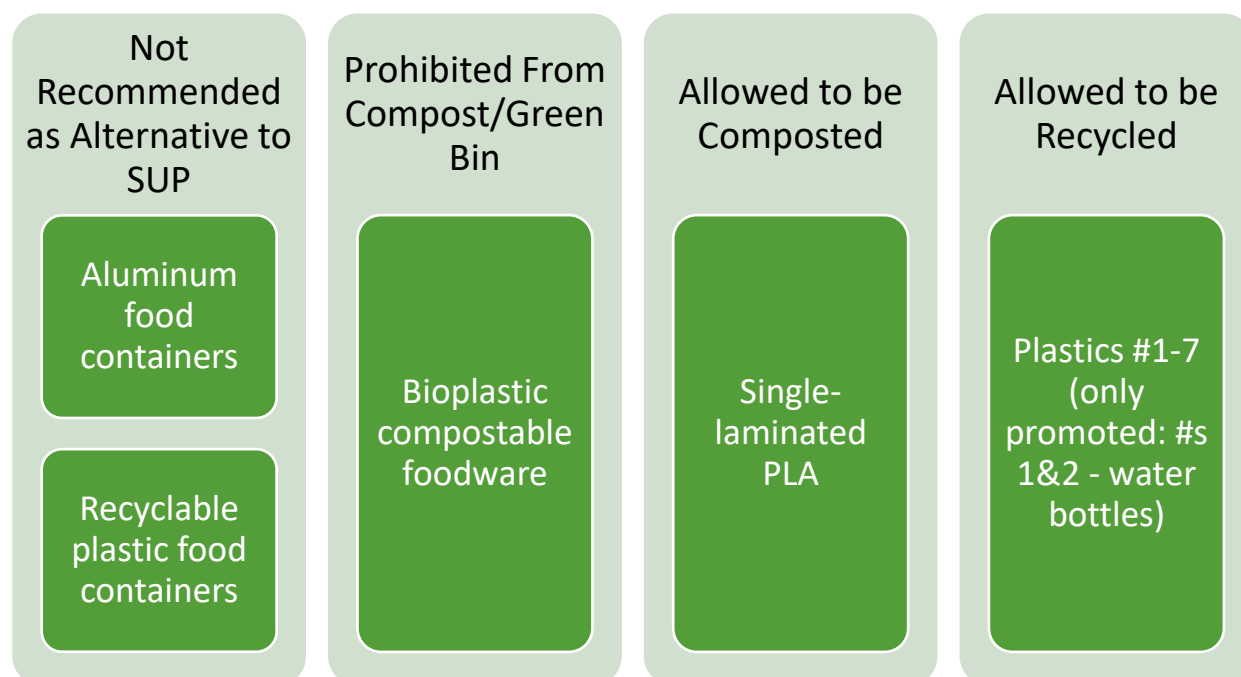
Grocer	Information/Thoughts Shared
Trader Joe's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 30% of customers brings their own reusable bags • Does not supply plastic bags • Supportive of not supplying thicker plastic grocery bags
Grocery Outlet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 40% of customers bring their own reusable bags • Is willing to increase the price of thicker plastic bags • A price point of 50 cents would deter the purchase of thicker plastic bags

Grocer	Information/Thoughts Shared
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is willing to participate in a discount program for customers bringing in their own reusable bag if cost-effective
Safeway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 25% of customers bring their own bags Currently has a plastic bag recycling program Would need to go through corporate and legal to stop the sale of or increase the price of thicker film bags
FoodMaxx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 15-20% of customers bring their own reusable bag There is no store sustainability goal to increase that percentage Corporate office decides if the Pinole location will no longer provide reusable plastic bags Corporate decides if the price of reusable bag in the Pinole location can be increased The store manager feels a price point of 50 cents will deter the purchase of thicker film plastic bags

REPUBLIC SERVICES WASTE HAULER INFORMATION

Republic Services (the City's waste hauler) has provided key information and recommendations with respect to developing policy related to single-use plastics. See **Figure 9** for a graphic representation of the guidance.

Figure 9: Republic Services' Guidance on Single-Use Plastic Foodware Policy Development



NOT RECOMMENDED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

- Aluminum food containers are not recommended because although they can be incinerated and recycled with food residue, the food residue contaminates other recyclables in a mixed recycle bin
- Recyclable plastic food containers are not recommended because they usually get sent to the landfill



PROHIBITED FROM COMPOST/GREEN BIN

- Republic Services does not allow bioplastic compostable foodware at its compost processing facility.
- Bioplastics also increase the risk of contamination of organic waste collection as bioplastics are difficult to differentiate from regular plastics



ALLOWED TO BE COMPOSTED

- Single-laminated PLA is allowed and can be processed at the compost facility

ALLOWED TO BE RECYCLED



- Plastics #1-7 are accepted by Republic Services, although Republic Services promotes only plastics #1 and #2 (water bottles) since they have the most reliable markets

BAG PRICING

Table 5 provides information from online bag retailers on average bag pricing.

Table 5: Comparative Bag Pricing

Bag type		Unit Price
		8 cents
Thin .55 mil plastic bag		

Bag type	Unit Price
 <p>Thick 2.25 mil plastic bag</p>	24 cents
 <p>100% recycled paper bag</p>	25 cents

FOODWARE (APP-BASED RETURNABLE REUSABLES COMPANY) PRICING

The Foodware program allows for businesses serving to-go food to participate in a reusable program. The program ran via an App. To-go customers receive their take-out in reusable containers which are then brought back to restaurants for collection and cleaning after customer use. The program involves a one-time \$150 fee for set-up, signage and staff training. Containers, labor, water and detergent are additional costs to the business for a monthly fee (see **Table 6** for program pricing by number of containers).

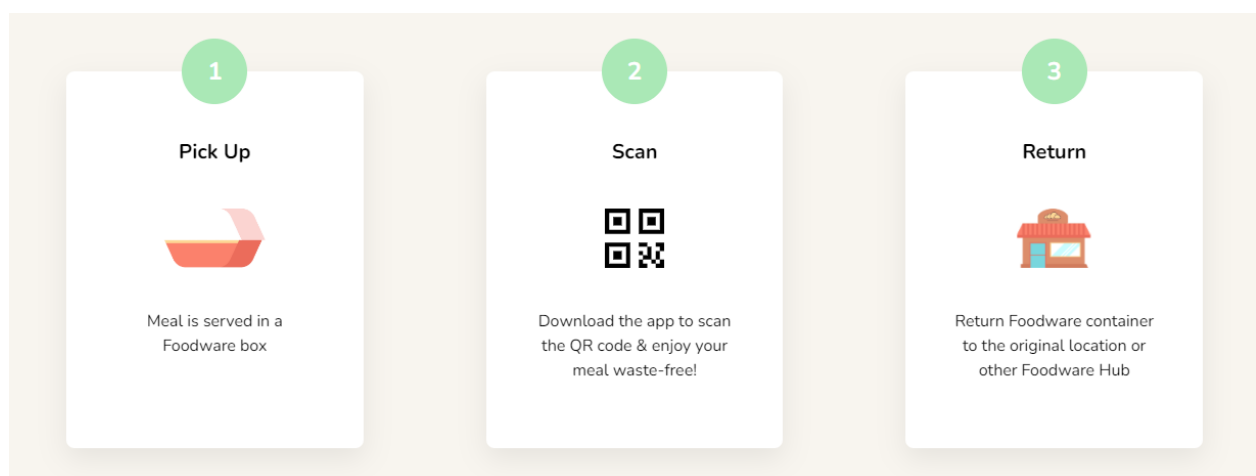



Table 6: Foodware Program Pricing

Number of Containers	Monthly Business Cost
Up to 35	\$35
50	\$45
100	\$88
150	\$128
200	\$168
250	\$208
300	\$246
500	\$400
1000	\$750

CASE STUDY: UNCLE CHUNG'S SZECHUAN (2550 APPIAN WAY)

Tables 7-8 provides information from a case study conducted by Sustainability Fellow, Kapil Amin, in July 2023 at Uncle Chung's Szechuan. The restaurant owners provided the quantity of their current non-compostable foodware, which was then used to be cost compared if the current inventory was replaced with compostables. The study found a 10% increase in foodware cost for the business from \$33,932.34 to \$37,395.02. An interesting finding from this study is the main entrée packaging in a compostable version is 7 cents/unit cheaper given its construction from sustainable bamboo, a natural material that regenerates quickly, and its sleek design.

Table 7: Uncle Chung's Szechuan Case Study: Cost Comparison of Foodware Products

Container type	Unit Price
	30 cents
Plastic 24 oz	

Container type		Unit Price
Plastic	fork	7 cents
		
Plastic	spoon	7 cents
		
32 oz	container	16 cents
		
26 oz	container	14 cents
		
		23 cents
Compostable 26 oz		

Container type		Unit Price
Compostable	fork	3.5 cents
		
Compostable	spoon	3 cents
		
Compostable container	32 oz	20 cents
		
Compostable container	26 oz	18 cents
		

Table 8: Uncle Chung's Szechuan Case Study: Annual Cost Burden to Shift to Compostables

Item and Quantity (annual)	Non-Compostable Price	Compostable Price	Cost Comparison
39,000 containers	24oz \$10,025.60	\$8,969.22	+\$1,056.38

70,200 containers	32 oz	\$11,232.00	\$13,884	-\$2,652.00
70,200 containers	26 oz	\$9,828.00	\$12,948	-\$3,120.00
26,000 spoons		\$1,884.74	\$686.40	+\$1,198
26,000 forks		\$962.00	\$907.40	+54.60
Total Annual Added Cost				\$3,463.02

TOWN OF TRUCKEE GREEN BOX PROGRAM PRICING (NON-APP RETURNABLE, REUSABLE PROGRAM)

The Town of Truckee's Green Box Program seeks to reduce plastic waste with a reusable to-go container program. Participating business receive 100 free boxes with additional boxes costing \$2/each.

Boxes are sold to customers for \$5 to enter the exchange loop. After enjoying their meal, the customer rinses the box and brings it back to any participating restaurant to trade for a clean one with their next order. Currently nine restaurants participate in Truckee's reusables system.



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

COST SCENARIOS

If a foodware ordinance were adopted, the ideal, cost-effective scenario is feasible for food businesses. Most food businesses have dishwashing capacity. With educational and technical assistance to businesses, making the switch to reusables can be cost-effective proven by countless cases studies by Rethink Disposable. The market is also providing various cost-effective, compliant compostable foodware as seen by the unit price column in San Mateo County's Foodware Aware Purchasing Guide⁸. Although it may upset customers, a takeout fee can additionally offset costs for businesses.

Using the case study of Uncle Chung's Szechuan, if a weekly average of 150 customers were charged a flat takeout fee of 25 cents regardless of the number of containers they take away, the restaurant will offset their annual additional cost of approximately \$3,500 to about \$1,500. Uncle Chung's were to participate in a City-wide reusables program and 30 of their weekly customers participate in the program, they can offset their annual cost by about \$1,100 in purchasing compostables and reduce that cost to only the price of water and detergent. With remaining 120 customers being charged a takeout fee, their total offset would come to about \$2,700, reducing the additional annual cost to about \$800 plus the cost of additional water and detergent to wash takeout containers. Compostable trash bags will also be an additional cost for businesses if offering compostables for dine-in, but they are comparable in price to plastic trash bags.

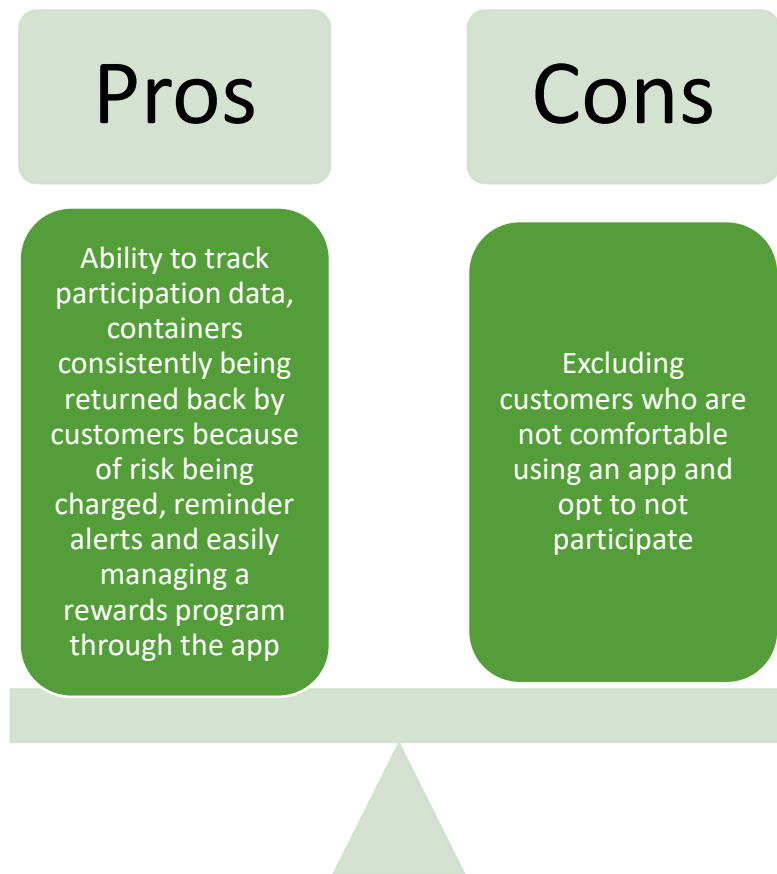
CITY-WIDE REUSABLES PROGRAM

The City could consider a City-wide reusables cup and foodware program, either through a non-app based program such as Town of Truckee's model or an universal app-based reusables program, such as Foodware. The reusables cup design should cater to boba customers as well. Reusables are more sustainable than compostables because they do not rely on constant resource consumption. There are pros and cons to each model type.

For an app-based model, depending on the app customers would need to deposit a small fee to checkout containers or have a credit card on file. The fee is deposited back to customers once the container is returned. **Figure 10** below shows the pros and cons of an app-based model.

⁸ [FOODWARE AWARE PURCHASING GUIDE - County of San Mateo \(updated 2023\) - Google Sheets](#)

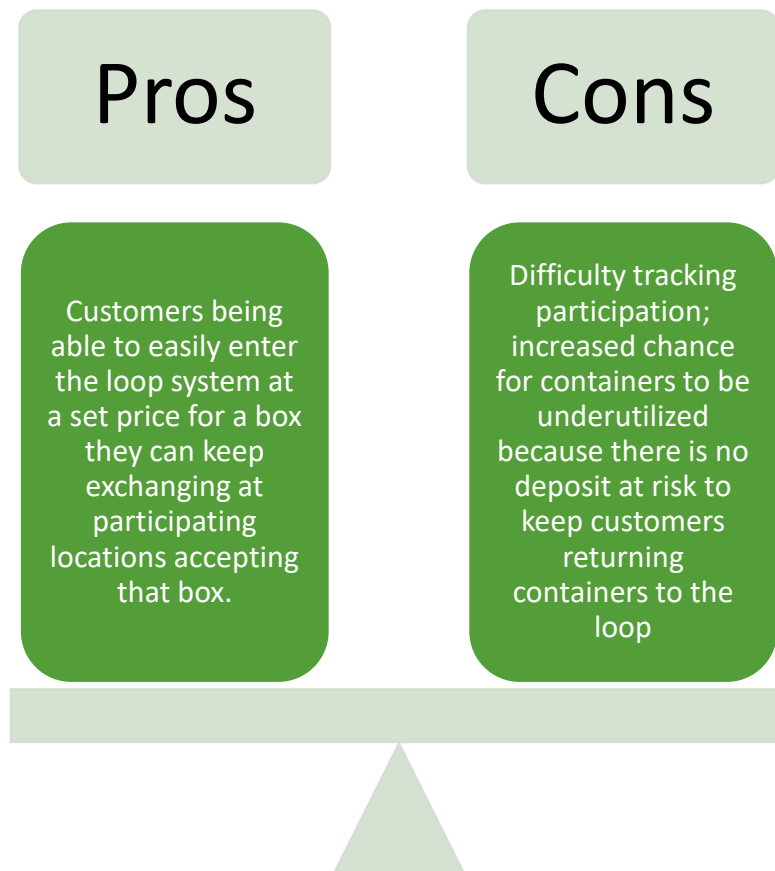
Figure 10: Pros/Cons of App-Based Reusable Foodware Model



As seen by the low participation in the Fire Wings pilot with Foodware, the initial steps of downloading an app and setting up payment may hinder customers to participate, especially if there is no incentive. Depending on the app system in addition to the attentiveness of restaurant staff, customers can also easily evade (unintentionally or intentionally) scanning their container's QR code when returning the container. These unscanned containers will not be accounted for, which can disrupt the loop system.

Figure 11 below shows the pros and cons of a non-app-based model.

Figure 11: Pros/Cons of Non-App-Based Reusable Foodware Model



Considering the persuasive pros and cons in **Figure 11** above, a hybrid program can possibly be negotiated with a reusables company to capture as much participation possible. To get businesses on board, the City may need to act as the catalyst for the reusables program to gain traction. A successful reusables programs means many restaurants are accepting exchanges, which creates a win-win situation for businesses and customers with more containers in circulation.

As an example of cost, the Town of Truckee has spent \$8,500 to date providing 100 free boxes to 9 participating restaurants that can then sell them to customers for \$5 each. For an app-based program, the City can offer interested restaurants a number of free-months to test the system, supported by a robust social media campaign.

Some businesses are leading the reusables loop initiative without regulation. Beginning this month, Starbucks locations in Napa and Petaluma will prepare drinks in either a customer-brought cup or their own “Borrow A Cup”. Customers who borrow a cup, scan and return to the

store. This program will help Starbucks reach its sustainability targets of reducing single-use cups by 2025 and cut its landfill waste in half by 2030.⁹

“TAKEOUT FEE” VERSUS “REWARDS” PROGRAM

A community reusables program will streamline the process for customers to easily return container to multiple locations and minimize the number of purchased containers. As seen by low participation in the Foodware pilot with Fire Wings, when there is no incentive to download an app, most people will forego that option. This is why it is important to consider either a takeout fee or a rewards program to develop and encourage a reusables program.

TAKEOUT FEE

A takeout fee would be an additional fee, collected and retained by the business, applied to takeout orders. A takeout fee can serve two purposes: (1) helping businesses subsidize the cost of compostables and (2) encouraging customers to participate in the reusables program. The City of Richmond allows an optional takeout fee at the businesses’ discretion. The staff at Town of Truckee have weighed both a takeout fee and a rewards program, and found that a mandatory takeout fee of 25 cents per needed container, a heavy mandate, imposed on customers will be more effective in increasing more participation in the reusables program. Although Truckee businesses have shared they would not be comfortable charging that amount per container and cautioned the rise in negative interactions with customers, the Town is hoping offering the \$5 reusable box as an alternative will increase more participation and help businesses mitigate negative interactions with customers.

As fee of per container may ultimately negatively impact business, the City could consider a flat takeout fee regardless of the number of containers. In deliberating whether or not to set a fee, considerations should be given to the right balance between encouraging customers to join the reusable program with an undue burden on customers and/or negative impacts to business. An education campaign could provide some information regarding if the program is “worth it”. For example, it would take 20 meals of paying a 25 cent take out fee to break even on the reusable container. An aforementioned con of the non-app reusables program was people not bringing back containers at an ideal rate. A 25 cent take out fee will remedy this by reminding customers to bring back containers.

From an equity perspective, requiring all businesses to charge a takeout fee means larger businesses also benefitting from the subsidization by customers when these businesses may not be as in need of these subsidies compared to smaller businesses. At the same token, only allowing

⁹ [Starbucks cups: No more disposable cups at select North Bay locations \(kron4.com\)](https://www.kron4.com/story/news/2022/08/18/starbucks-cups-no-more-disposable-cups-at-select-north-bay-locations/7005557002/)

small businesses to benefit from a takeout fee can drive customers away from already fragile businesses and cause them to avoid those businesses.

Another variable around a takeout fee that needs to be considered is making a takeout fee optional. This allows a business to make their own decision on how this imposition might affect customers. Not requiring a takeout fee may hurt participation if the City wants a successful reusables program, which can also help other businesses mitigate costs. It can also drive business away from charging businesses to non-charging businesses.

Since this regulation will result in a shared community benefit, it is important to make a community effort to support businesses with the transition. A takeout fee can allow the public to contribute to the shared benefit of a cleaner City, especially when there is a blurred line of responsibility between businesses and consumers. Another stakeholder that can contribute to the mitigation of costs is the landlord if the food business is leasing. The City can possibly offer to send a letter of support to a landlord to offer a slight relief on the lease amount for the business given the business is contributing to a shared community benefit. The City can also continue to explore grants to mitigate costs for businesses and offer technical/educational assistance.

REWARDS PROGRAM

A takeout fee can be supplanted or enhanced with a rewards program. The rewards system can take any desired form. A rewards system has the potential to encourage more use of reusables, a more sustainable alternative, as well as reduce costs for businesses. An example of a rewards systems for reusables could be a stamp card for every time a reusable container is used. A filled stamp card can be redeemed for a treat or discount at a participating location. An in-app rewards system can also fulfill the same purpose.

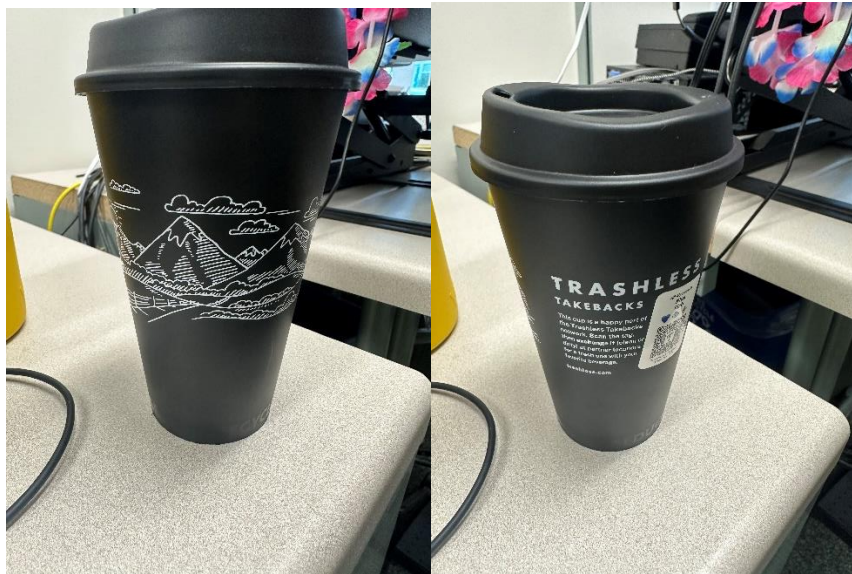
Although a little more complex, the rewards system can be more inclusive of other encouraged behaviors that are assigned a certain number of points. Some behaviors that can be rewarded are opting to dine-in versus taking out at a restaurant with reusables for dine-in, bringing your own container for leftovers rather than asking for compostable containers, and/or bringing your own to-go cups and containers where businesses are following the health department guidelines set in AB 619 for such a system. A certain number of collected points can be redeemed for a treat or discount at a participating location. Taking inspiration from Santa Cruz's policy, a 25 cent discount can be given to customers that bring a City-wide reusables box or their own foodware.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PLASTIC REDUCTION PROJECT

A Pinole local and advocate for single-use plastic reduction, John Bromage, is currently working to bring and build a chapter of Plastic Reduction Project, [Restaurant Rescue \(plasticreductionproject.org\)](https://plasticreductionproject.org), to the Bay Area. The non-profit offers free education, cost analysis and consultation to businesses to help them transition away from single-use plastics.

Once a group of volunteers is assembled, technical assistance can be provided to food businesses without a cost to food businesses or the City. However, the organization strongly suggests a donation for their efforts.

Mr. Bromage works closely with a reusables company Brite Hoods, <https://britehoods.com/adopt-a-city> , which offers customizable City-wide reusables (pictured below). The Plastic Reduction Project volunteers can also potentially introduce restaurants to reusables program and assist with a rewards program, if that route is selected.



POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

This section provides some key considerations following the outreach efforts related to single-use plastics.

BAGS

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider pros/cons of the Berkeley approach to post SB 270 ordinance development including environmental review
- Consider concerns with sanitation when allowing customers' reusable bags for picking up takeout at food businesses (can possibly be addressed with a designated pickup station for less concerned patrons with reusable bags)
- Explore a focus on paper bags, which may include the following, pending legal counsel:
 - Requiring paper bags at public eating establishments and retail stores to meet the same requirements as SB 270 (40% or 20% postconsumer recycled material and the ability to be accepted in curbside recycling)

- Requiring paper bags at retail stores to be mandatorily charged to encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags; balance this consideration with encouragement of purchase of thicker plastic bags
- Raising the minimum price of paper bag to be no less than 25 cents, since 10 cents will not be as deterring. A 25-cent fee is also the cost of a 100% recycled content paper bag, which will not financially harm businesses and will encourage customers to bring their own reusable bag.

PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Explore developing and funding a reusable bag share program at all grocery or retail stores in Pinole
- Consider developing a campaign encouraging customer-brought reusable bags at any retail stores without prepared food
- Consider developing and funding a reusable bag loyalty program where customers get points for using their reusable bags in Pinole (points could equate to dollars redeemed in local stores)
- Consider providing reusable bags as swag at outreach events
- Consider developing a SUP reduction campaign centered around Pinole Creek. Metrics could include annual creek clean up data to demonstrate progress in SUP reduction
- For businesses regulated under SB 270, such as grocers, where additional bag regulations cannot be imposed in Pinole due to State preemption, consider asking businesses to agree to raise the 10 cent minimum to at least 25 cents or ban the sale of thicker film plastic bags, which is currently the same cost of a sturdy paper grocery bag

FOODWARE

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

- Only allow single-laminated PLA foodware; bioplastic, full PLA foodware should be prohibited (as it is not accepted at the Richmond compost facility)
- Consider allowing only unbleached paper products
- Do not allow PFAS
- Do not restrict products to only BPI certified because a large number of products can compost without that certification (refer to El Cerrito Product Guide: [Foodware Ordinance Product Guide \(el-cerrito.org\)](https://www.elcerrito.org/foodware-ordinance-product-guide))
- Consider developing and funding a reusables program
 - Consider a single-provider for a reusable system (for example, Truckee's program) to ensure that the system is streamlined and successful

- Consider a takeout fee as a (stick-approach) alternative to the resusables program. This takeout fee could be mandatory or optional. Another point of consideration is to consider allowing small businesses (only) to charge a “going-green takeout fee” to help offset costs.
- Consider a rewards program (carrot-approach) to encourage participation in a resusables program.

PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Allocate staffing or contract to provide monthly training opportunities for businesses at varied days/times
- Build public awareness by funding and launching a city-wide educational campaign (using social media, banners, information in *The Pulse*, on the City’s website, through press releases, etc)
- Funding, producing and delivering a resource packet to all existing impacted businesses and future businesses (as a part of the business license process) which would include a factsheet, a Compliant Disposable Foodware guide, and sample signage to impacted businesses in January 2023.
- Consider funding and providing a series of educational opportunities for the food-business community to learn about the functionality and costing of alternatives to single-use plastics, build relationships with providers, and receive information from local waste haulers.
- Consider developing and funding a Close the Loop Pinole (1) reusable program (similar to the Truckee model), (2) a City-loyalty program (similar to the San Ramon model) and/or (3) a rewards program to encourage reusables for takeout.
- Consider equity with DBE and small businesses versus big business in enforcement and transition period
- Consider exemptions for products where the market has not caught up (such as boba cups)
- Consider unique alternative programs such as San Ramon’s reusable tumbler program (e.g., a city-wide boba cup program)

TRANSITION PERIOD

A transition period is essential for any single-use plastic reduction regulation. This is to ensure businesses have time to digest the new regulations, develop new relationships with suppliers, test products and eliminate existing inventory. El Cerrito gave more than six months from adoption of ordinance to the effective date of the ordinance. Additionally, enforcement in El Cerrito does not begin until after about 15 months of the effective date to give time for offering free technical assistance and education to businesses.

APPENDIX A: FULL RESULTS OF BUSINESS SURVEY

APPENDIX B: FULL RESULTS OF RESIDENT/VISITOR SURVEY