

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Zero Waste Ordinance “Single-Use Plastic Food Accessories By Request Only” To Help Prevent Unwanted Waste

On June 6, 2022, the City Commission approved new Zero Waste Ordinances for the City of Gainesville. Among these ordinances passed is the new “**Single-Use Plastic Food Accessories By Request Only**” ordinance that will go into effect on September 2, 2022. During the next few months, the City of Gainesville will reach out to restaurants, bars, and other prepared food providers so they can begin educating employees and modifying operating procedures to comply with this ordinance.

This ordinance aims to reduce the wasteful practice of providing unwanted and unneeded extra single-use plastic items that can result in increased litter and harm our environment. Single-use plastic food accessory means any item made predominantly of plastic and provided for one-time use with prepared food and beverages used for dine-in, take-out, or delivery. Single-use plastic food accessories include items such as utensils, chopsticks, condiment packets, plastic portion cups, and other similar accessories.



After 9/2/2022, prepared food providers within the City shall not provide single-use plastic food accessories (such as plastic utensils, condiment packets, portion cups) for dine-in, take-out or delivery, unless the single-use food accessory is specifically requested by the customer or is provided at a customer self-serve station. Items provided to prevent spills and injuries, such as coffee spill plugs, splash sticks, cup lids, cup sleeves, and cup trays, are not considered single-use plastic food accessories under this ordinance.

For more information on this ordinance and other Zero Waste Ordinances adopted by the City of Gainesville, visit gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste.

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