

DRAFT

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2018, 8 AM – 9:30 AM

City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Council Chambers

Minutes taken by Rob Gogan

Members Present: Ilana Bebchick, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley (by phone), Matthew St. Onge, Quinten Steenhuis, Kristen Watkins

Members Absent: Laura Nichols, Michael Papas, Meera Singh, Mary Verhage

Staff Present: Camilla Elvis, DPW Commissioner Owen O’Riordan, Michael Orr, Pardis Saffari (CDD)

Members of the Public Present: Helen Snively

Housekeeping Item:

- Minutes of June 12, 2019 meeting were approved

Senior Economic Development Manager Pardis Saffari discussed her department’s perspectives on regulations of single-use serviceware. She emphasized that the RAC should work closely with restaurants, retailers, bakeries and cafés in the City to design policy that will succeed both environmentally and economically. Key element of Single Use Bag Ban was the option of a reusable alternative. Business Associations can serve as good meeting grounds for these discussions. Regarding the possibility of a Berkeley-style requirement that all in-house dining be served on washable ware, Pardis said that could be difficult or impossible given store infrastructure (some lack dishwashers). CDD would consider a grant program to help smaller independent stores facing the biggest obstacles to buying and washing reusable ware. What can RAC do to educate consumers as well as business owners?

Report from Single Use Plastics Study Committee:

- Survey results (attached)
- Litter barrel audit (attached)
- Comparison with Brookline, other municipalities banning SUP

Commissioner Owen O’Riordan expressed his interest in this issue and stated that he wanted to be sensitive both to environmental and retailer needs of the City. He thought vendors of alternative serviceware might play a useful role, as reusable bag vendors did with the Single Use Bag Ban. Owen also wants City to pursue mitigation options as in Berkeley.

Questions/comments:

Phasing in rather than outright ban might be option.

Life cycle impacts important. Compostable item might have larger footprint than plastic one.

Street compost bins, while desirable, would likely get contaminated.

Consumers can be educated, as with reusable bags.

Good models in City: Violette, Cleenland which are trying to promote standard reusable containers.

RAC recommendations requested by City Council by 12-11-19. Recycling and trash audit at Casella this fall: include "Single Use Serviceware" as a category. Mike to send Doodle for next call for SUP Subcommittee.

City Updates:

- Mattresses way more than expected, but going well.
- Trash is considerably down from last year.
- DPW ramping up to fall kick-off of 13+ curbside compost.
- "Get Rid of it Right" mailer draft with new graphics. Final version will include mattress recycling.
- Contamination at Casella has dropped well below 10%; close to 7% which is excellent and way better than Boston

Action Items:

- Fill out Doodle for SUP call.
- Mike to invite Brookline representative to talk about their Single Use Plastic ordinance.

Announcements: Harvard Habitat for Humanity Stuff Sale to run Tuesday, 8-27-19 through Sunday, 9-1-19 from 9 A.M.-5 P.M. each day at the Harvard Science Center, 1 Oxford Street.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 A.M.

Summer RAC Research

Summer 2019

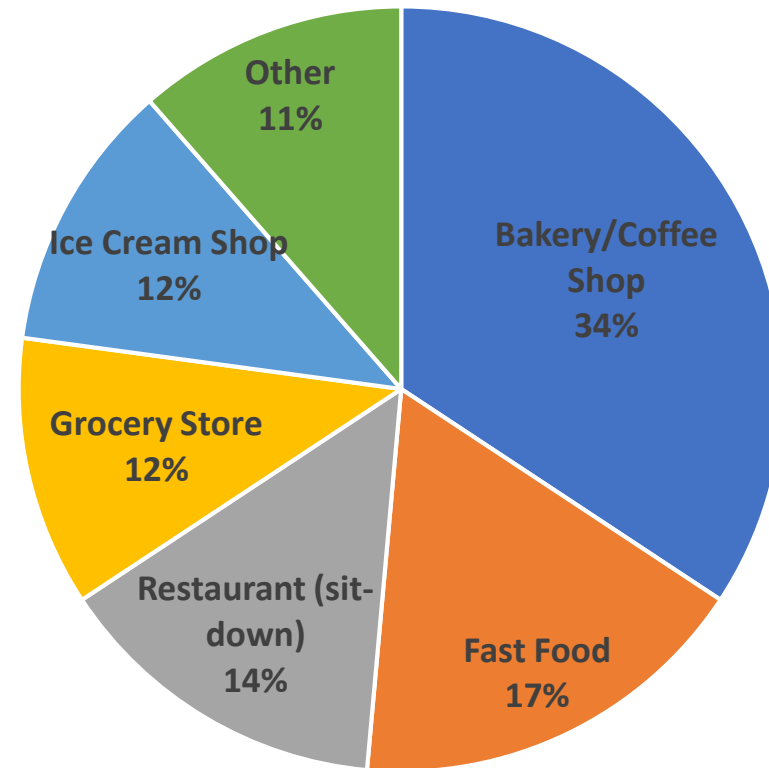
August 14, 2019 RAC Meeting



RAC Observational Retail Survey

- **35 businesses surveyed total**
- 12 bakeries/coffee shops
- 6 fast food
- 5 restaurant (sit-down)
- 77% of businesses with dine-in option did not provide reusable serviceware

Type of business surveyed



RAC Observational Retail Survey

Most businesses use

Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• beverage lids• food container lids (93%)• straws (96%)• sauce cups (80%)• utensils (92%)
Both paper and plastic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• takeout containers• cups
Paper:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stir sticks (80%)• plates and bowls (65%)

Compostables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plates and bowls (35%)• Take out containers (31%)
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Cambridge Litter Barrel Audit

- **Goals of Audit:**

- Determine what percent of Cambridge litter is comprised of single-use food and beverage ware.
- Inventory the types of single-use ware currently dispensed and discarded in the City.
- Establish how much food and beverage residue is discarded.
- Determine how much household trash is in litter barrels.

Cambridge Litter Barrel Audit

Auditors weighed each commodity and recorded these proportions:

	Liquids	Single use	Street Trash	Household Trash	Trash total	Compost	Recyc	Bag total
Trash barrels	8%	23%	14%	21%	66%	17%	17%	100%
Recycling barrels	8%	23%	0%	0%	32%	0%	68%	100%

Takeaways:

- The heaviest component of both trash and recycling was single-use items.
- In trash, there were hot and cold cups and napkins.
- In recycling, clear cold cups with lids and straws were most prominent

Model Ordinance Research

Food Service Ware Regulations

Municipality	Status of Regulation	By-Law Location	Materials Included	Establishments Affected	Regulation	Language of Interest	Effective Date	Specific Exemptions	General Exemptions	Intended Effect of Regulation	Enforcement Penalty
Brookline	Final	https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13635/Brookline-Town-By-Laws-PDF?bidId=	Foam polystyrene (foam PS)	Food establishments	Bans providing prepared food in PS or PVC containers		January 1, 2020	Caterers			
			Any food service ware that is not biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable	Food establishments	Requires disposable food service ware to be biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable	"All food establishments are strongly encouraged to use reusable food service ware in place of using disposable food service ware for all food served on premises."	January 1, 2020	Caterers	a) For food prepared outside municipalities b) If Dept. of Health finds there is no suitable biodegradable, compostable, or reusable alternative is available for a specific application c) For hardship, with annual application for extension	Focus is on ban of non-biodegradable plastic packaging to address potential negative human health and ecosystem impacts. While the by-law encourages reusable food service ware, there is no disincentive to switching to paper or compostable single-use packaging and containers.	
			Foam polystyrene (foam PS)	Retail establishments & caterers	Bans selling or distributing foam PS food service ware to customers		January 1, 2019				
		Article 8.32 Sustainable Containers and Packaging	Foam polystyrene (foam PS)	Retail establishments & caterers	Bans selling or distributing foam PS packing material to customers		January 1, 2019				
			Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)	Food establishments	Bans providing prepared food in PET containers		January 1, 2020	Caterers			\$50 for first offense; \$100 for second and all subsequent offenses