



Single Use Plastic Prohibition 4 Month Plan

**Sustainability Program Manager
September 7th, 2022**

Background

- **The Prohibition on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) goes into effect on Jan 1st, 2023**
- **This policy seeks to address equity concerns of plastic production, use, and pollution**
- **Lake County is working towards a waste diversion goal of 60% by 2030 and 90% by 2040**



Fig 1. Pile of Single Use Plastics from: E. (2021, August 22). *Are Compostable Products the Best*

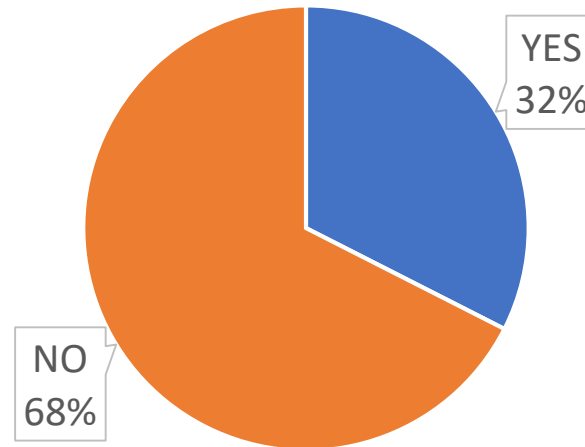
Choice? Earth911. <https://earth911.com/business-policy/are-compostable-products-best-choice/>

Background

- **Correctly processing non-plastic waste is commonly difficult**
- **Prioritizing plastic elimination over waste diversion**
- **Meeting future waste diversion goals will involve reassessing suitability of some non-accepted compostable items**
 - **Composting program**
 - **Switching to materials accepted by organics processing facilities**
 - **Education efforts to build habits**
 - **Official Waste Plan**

Department Usage

- In July 2022, a Single Use Plastic survey was distributed to all departments and returned to the Sustainability Program Manager



- 7982 SUPs were recorded to be used each week across all departments
- 2593 SUPs were labeled as having existing alternatives

Department Usage

- Sustainability Program Manager will work with Departments for additional replacements and alternatives
- Additionally work with Departments to budget for replacing SUPs



Fig 2. Pile of Compostable Products from: Borg, K., Curtis, J., & Lindsay, J. (2020, June 23). *Avoiding single-use plastic was becoming normal, until coronavirus. Here's how we can return to good habits.* The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/avoiding-single-use-plastic-was-becoming-normal-until-coronavirus-heres-how-we-can-return-to-good-habits-140555>

Vending Machines

- Canteen currently operated 40 food vending machines for Lake County
- All plastic items in bottle beverage machines are replaceable by November 1st
- Canteen has expressed inability to eliminate plastic options from other machines
- Discussion over elimination of machines

| Type of Machine | Number of Machines |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Bottle Beverage | 16 |
| Candy | 3 |
| General Merchandise | 6 |
| Ice Cream Machine | 1 |
| Hot Beverage | 4 |
| Snacks | 10 |

- Cafeteria and Coffee Kiosk are operated through Aramark Corp and serve made-to-order and to-go meals, Starbucks brand coffee and other beverages, and additional snacks and pastries
- Of the 68 products analyzed by Aramark
 - 4 can be eliminated
 - 29 can be transitioned to nonplastic compostables
 - 12 can be switched to nonplastic noncompostables
 - 12 do not need to be swapped
- Aramark has already replaced plastic items in advance of the prohibition.

Food Service

- Can eliminate 23 plastic products for approximately \$20,470.30/yr
- This comes out to 674,855 SUPs every year
- Potentially diverting or eliminating 2497lbs of SUPs every year
- This transition can be completed by end of year
- Discussion over elimination of remaining items or services

| Product Changes: | Action: |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Plastic Bags | Eliminate |
| Plastic stirrers | Transition to wooden |
| Splash Sticks | Eliminate |
| Foil Laminated Sandwich | Transition to paper wrap |
| Filters? | Transition to paper wrap |
| Hinged clam shells | Transition to Paper Wrap and Fiber clamshells |
| PC Creamers | Transition to Bulk |
| Straws | Eliminate |
| Cutlery | Transition to compostable |
| Soup cups (8 and 12 oz) | Transition to compostable |
| Soup cup lids (8 and 12 oz) | Transition to compostable |

- **Coffee Kiosk is operated through Aramark Corp and serves Starbucks brand coffee and other beverages in addition to snacks and pastries**
- **Starbucks branding is currently on every distributed plastic cup**
- **Aramark is working to get replacement options for the 4 types of cups with Corporate Starbucks**
- **Discussion over elimination of remaining items (e.g., snacks with wrappers)**

Reusables

- To decrease the reliance on any single-use utensils, office kitchenettes can be equipped with reusable cutlery
- One-time cost to stock 8 floors with reusable cutlery (1500 sets total)
 - Metal \$930-\$1500
 - Bamboo \$1300-2500
 - Wheat \$1000-\$2500



Expansion of Composting

- Currently only Corrections is equipped for waste haulers to pick up food scraps and compostable materials
- Currently evaluating options for expanding program to Administration Complex in the form of a post-consumer collection of compostable materials in cafeteria

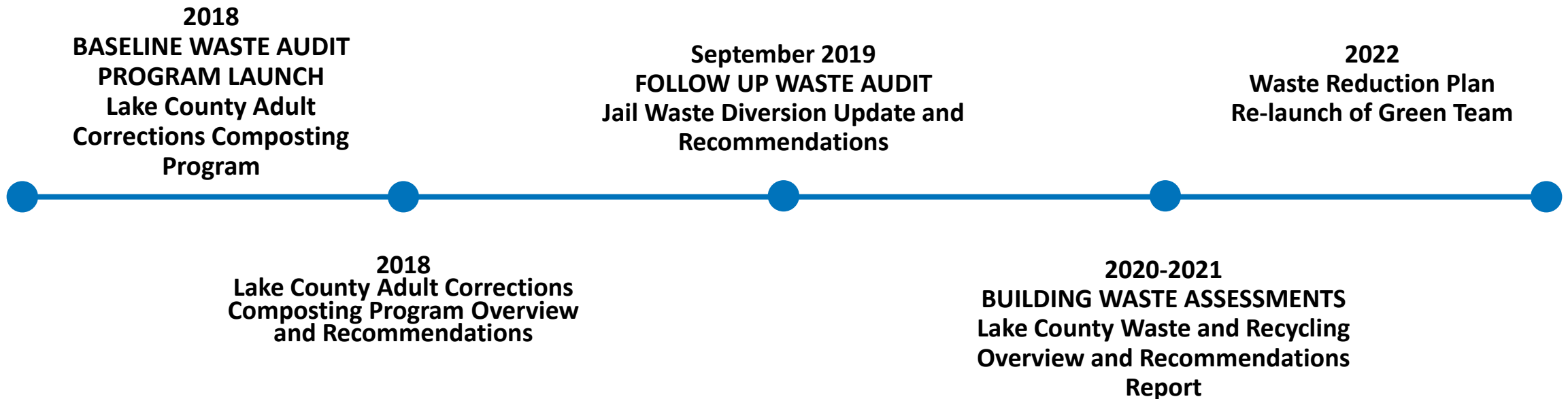


Fig 3. Size comparison of waste bins from: A. (2022, March 18). *Residential*.

Waste Planning



- **Seven Generations Ahead is working with the Sustainability Program Manager on developing a Waste Reduction Plan for Lake County with the express purpose of achieving the stated reduction goals**



SGA Update Sep 2022



- **Reviewed current and former Lake County plans and programs related to sustainability and waste.**
- **Researched model plans** that have had success in meeting similar waste reduction goals to identify best practices, policies and positions to engage in this discussion.
- **Obtained and reviewed the current waste hauler bid and contract** for Lake County buildings - Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.

SGA Update Sep 2022



- **Obtained and reviewed the current food service provider bid and contract for the Jail, Cafe and Coffee Kiosk - Aramark Correctional Services, LLC**
- **Drafted a framework/outline for a Lake County Waste Reduction Plan** to give direction to the Lake County project core team meetings.
- **Drafted a list of key individuals/departments** to engage in the core team guiding development of the waste reduction plan. Key Contacts for Waste Reduction Planning.
- **Met with Robin Grooms** to update, coordinate and collaborate on project.

SGA and Lake County Next Steps



SEPTEMBER 2022

- Meet with Lake County Green Team to identify key interests and goals.
- Continued research and developing structure of plan

OCTOBER 2022

- Workshop with Lake County Green Team to present research and seek input on goals and priorities for Lake County Waste Reduction Plan.

NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2022

- Obtain baseline waste measures for all county buildings (service levels and tonnage based on hauler reports and invoices)
- Work with Lake County Green Team to solidify objectives, activities and milestones for Lake County Waste Reduction Plan.

SGA and Lake County Next Steps



JANUARY 2023

- Present draft plan and tools to Energy & Environment Committee for review and comment

FEBRUARY 2023

- Education and engagement of all departments through Lake County Green Team

Ongoing meetings with Robin Grooms to update, coordinate and collaborate on project.



Questions