

Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 19-6

Title: Single-use Plastic Straws and Expanded Polystyrene Products

Date Adopted: September 24, 2019

Effective Date: October 7, 2019

Reference: None

Policy Superseded: None

It shall be policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida that a new policy entitled “Single-use Plastic Straws and Expanded Polystyrene Products” is hereby adopted, to wit:

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the use and distribution of single-use plastic straws and eliminate the use and distribution of expanded polystyrene in County operations and events. Additionally, the policy is to provide standards for which the restrictions will apply or allowable exemptions. A detailed internal protocol is to be developed and overseen by the Office of Sustainability.

II. Scope

The policy applies to the employees and operations of the Leon County Government in the provision of food or beverages. Private vendors selling food or beverages in County-owned government function buildings shall abide by the standards of this policy. Intergovernmental agencies for which Leon County is a party are encouraged but not required to eliminate usage. The Policy does not apply to tenants within County owned facilities including Constitutional Offices, and private lease tenants.

III. Definitions

- A. Expanded Polystyrene or “Styrofoam”: a synthetic polymer made from the styrene monomer for use as disposable food service ware that include items such as containers, plates, and cups.
- B. Plastic: a synthetic material derived from petroleum or a biologically-based polymer.
- C. Single-use: food service-related products that are designed to be used only once in the same form and then disposed of or destroyed.
- D. Straw: a tube intended for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker, or stirrer for mixing a beverage in its container or to plug such container.

IV. Operations

Single-use plastic straws shall be eliminated from the operations and service of Leon County Government. An exception shall be made should a straw be requested by a patron or participant. Upon request, a single-use plastic straw shall be provided. Expanded polystyrene shall be eliminated from the operations and service of Leon County Government. The policy is not intended to restrict personal use by individual citizens and employees.

Restrictions shall include daily operations in performing County business such as but not limited to: citizen committee meetings, Board meetings, and the gathering of County employees for trainings and celebrations. The restriction shall apply to all County owned or operated facilities including: meeting rooms, breakrooms, kitchens and outdoor spaces.

V. Events

Single-use plastic straws shall be eliminated from events hosted by Leon County Government. An exception shall be made should a straw be requested by a patron or participant. Upon request, a single-use plastic straw shall be provided. Expanded polystyrene shall be eliminated from the events hosted by Leon County Government. County-hosted events shall include events in which Leon County is the primary host or collaborator. In Leon County Parks, events shall include permitted fundraising events or gatherings. Events which have authorized use of concession stands are encouraged but not required to eliminate usage. The policy does not apply to reservations of Community Centers or meeting rooms, unless the nature of such a gathering is for purposes of fundraising event permitted by Leon County Parks and Recreation.