

Guidance for Mason Purchasers and Vendors: Eliminating Single-Use Plastics for EO 77 Compliance

The Mason Sustainability Council launched the **Circular Economy and Zero Waste (CEZW) Task Force** to coordinate zero waste and resource responsibility efforts at Mason. The task force is coordinating the university's response to the **governor's Executive Order 77**, which mandates solid waste reduction and the elimination of single-use plastics and polystyrene at all state executive branch state agencies, including Mason. Through this task force, Mason will work with partners and vendors to **eliminate single-use plastic and polystyrene** . . .

- **BAGS** – shopping and grocery bags were eliminated in July 2021; all bin liners - *(extension requested for bin liners, 100% elimination by December 2022, pending regulatory approval.)*
- **STRAWS** – were eliminated in July 2021 (compostable alternatives will be available upon request)
- **BOTTLES** – water bottles were eliminated in July 2021; all plastic bottles will be eliminated by 2025 - *(with limited potential exemptions or extensions for products not currently offered in aluminum cans, pending regulatory approval).*
- **FOODSERVICE Items** (cups, flatware, clamshells, etc.) – were eliminated in July 2021
- **OTHER Plastics and Polystyrene** (balloons, glitter, coffee pods, packing material, etc.) – will be eliminated by 2025 on a phase-out timeline, which includes percentage benchmarks each year

The CEZW Task Force is working to identify, create, and pilot partnerships to support the adoption of better alternatives to single-use plastics and, wherever possible, replace single-use items with durable reusables, which are the best alternatives to single-use items. It will continue to share updates about its work with the Mason community.

If you are a Mason employee, member of a student group, vendor, or affiliated with the university and have questions about the pivot or need guidance, please attend the CEZW Task Force's virtual office hours held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Register for the CEZW Task Force's office hours by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Eliminate

Do not purchase or use at Mason or at its events, etc. (includes vendors, contractors, concessionaires, employees, departments, student groups, etc.)

100% by July 21, 2021

Specific Items (Single-Use and Disposable):

- *Can Liners (small - <23 gallon) – *(extension requested for bin liners, 100% elimination by December 2022, pending regulatory approval)*
- *Can Liners (large - \geq 23 gallon) – *(extension requested for bin liners, 100% elimination by December 2025, pending regulatory approval)*
- Plastic Bags (carry-out, shopping, grocery, convenience stores, etc.)
- Plastic Bags (sandwich or small storage bag)
- Polystyrene Cups and Bowls (any size)
- Polystyrene Food Trays and Plates
- Polystyrene Hinged Containers
- Plastic Hinged Containers
- Plastic Food Service Containers (take-out)
- Plastic Cups and Bowls (any size)
- Plastic Lids (any size)
- Plastic Cutlery
- Plastic Plates (any size)
- Plastic Stirrers and Stoppers
- Plastic Straws
- Plastic Water Bottles (any size)



Eliminate

Do not purchase or use at Mason or at its events, etc. (includes vendors, contractors, concessionaires, employees, departments, student groups, etc.)

| 25% by December 2022 | 50% by December 2023 | 75% by December 2024 | 100% by December 2025

Specific Items (Single-Use and Disposable):

- Plastic Fencing
- Cleaning Wipes
- Mop Supplies
- Plastic Soda and Drink Bottles
- Packaged Food Containers (those not covered by the cessation of use order)
- Coffee Pods
- Plastic Tablecloths
- Plastic Food Wrap
- Gloves (such as deli gloves)
- Zip and Cable Ties
- Balloons
- Confetti and Glitter
- Plastic Promotional Items
- Ribbon Containing Plastic
- Plastic Name Tags
- Plastic Disposable Tape
- Disposable Foam Packing Peanuts
- Mixed Plastic and Paper Packing Envelopes
- Packaging Air Bags
- Bubble Wrap
- Plastic Packing Envelopes
- Other items as identified



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Are you a Mason vendor, department, student group, etc. that needs guidance?

**Visit the CEZW Task Force's virtual office hours
on the first Wednesday of the month
from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Email: masonsc@gmu.edu

