



*SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICE*

JULIE A. ROSENBACH
Sustainability Coordinator

January 20, 2016

Dear Community Business Partner,

As you may know, on September 21, 2015 the City of South Portland adopted two ordinances that will affect local businesses. The first is a ban on the use of polystyrene foam (commonly known as styrofoam) food packaging and beverage containers. The second is a \$0.05 fee on single use paper and plastic shopping bags. **These ordinances will go into effect on March 1, 2016.**

You are receiving this letter because I am hoping your organization can help me spread the word about these upcoming changes. Here is a brief summary:

Polystyrene Ban

- The use of polystyrene foam is prohibited for all food service materials such as cups, plates, bowls, clamshell take-out boxes and other items used to contain prepared food.
- The ban applies to all restaurants, convenience stores, food trucks, cafeterias, pubs, caterers, coffee shops, grocery stores and other businesses preparing or packaging food for retail sale.

Single Use Plastic & Paper Bag Fee

- Retailers must charge a minimum of \$0.05 for single-use carry out bags.
- The fee applies to drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, food marts, or other entities whose food sales comprise at least 2% of overall sales. Restaurants are not required to charge this fee.

I have attached two Frequently Asked Questions fact sheets for more detailed reference. This information along with the ordinances and sample signs for businesses is also available for download at www.southportland.org/so.

I will be publicizing these policies to South Portland community members through various methods including news channels, social media, school presentations, and direct outreach to businesses. I am hoping you can also help spread the word through your members in advance of the March 1st implementation date.

With these ordinances the City of South Portland joins Portland and many other jurisdictions around the globe who have chosen to adopt packaging ordinances designed to reduce waste and litter in our community, and to promote reusable packaging whenever possible. We look forward to working with you achieve these goals that will enhance the appearance of our city and protect the health of wildlife and the environment, including our waterways and Casco Bay.



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I am happy to answer any questions you may have. For more information, please feel free to contact me at jrosenbach@southportland.org or (207) 347-4148.

Sincerely,

Julie Rosenbach

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