



**SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICE**

JULIE A. ROSENBACH
Sustainability Coordinator

January 19, 2016

Dear Business Owner or Manager,

On September 21, 2015 the City of South Portland adopted two ordinances affecting retail packaging: a ban on the use of polystyrene foam food packaging and beverage containers and a \$0.05 fee on shopping bags. **These ordinances will go into effect on March 1, 2016.** You are receiving this letter because your business may be covered under one or both of these ordinances. Here is a 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 enclosed two detailed Frequently Asked Questions fact sheets and about the ordinances for your reference and sample signs you may use to let your customers know about these changes. This information along with the ordinances is available for download at www.southportland.org/so. If you are uncertain about a product you now use or are considering, please contact my office for more information. Your existing vendors should also be able to provide you information about compliant products.

I will be publicizing this policy to South Portland community members through various methods including news channels, social media, school presentations, and outreach to business groups, however I encourage you to also let your customers know of the upcoming changes in advance of the March 1st implementation date.

The City of South Portland joins Portland and many other jurisdictions around the globe that have chosen to adopt packaging ordinances designed to reduce waste and litter in our community, and to promote the use of reusable packaging whenever possible. We look forward



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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.

We are ready 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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Sustainability Coordinator