

**The City of El Cerrito is proposing changes to the 2013 Foodware Ordinance that prohibited Expanded Polystyrene Foam (“Styrofoam”) containers and required foodware to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable. The changes being proposed would phase out single-use plastic foodware items in the City of El Cerrito.**

If approved, this will apply to all food providers\* in the city and to products such as non-compostable and non-reusable straws, eating utensils, and food containers. The City will assist food providers by providing training and build public awareness to support a smooth transition.

This ordinance would support the City’s goals to reduce the community’s environmental impact, to reduce recycling contamination and costs, and to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the City’s Climate Action Plan and Strategic Plan goals. By eliminating the use of single-use plastic foodware, El Cerrito can help protect waterways, promote environmental sustainability, and reduce waste.

*\*If approved, this will apply to all food providers in the City. Food providers are defined as any vendor, business, organization, entity, group, or individual, including any restaurant or retail food establishment, and any provider of prepared food at organized or special events, in the City of El Cerrito.*

For those who rely on durable, plastic straws for drinking due to disabilities or medical needs, the ordinance would require food providers that provide compostable or reusable straws to keep plastic straws in stock for customers to use by request.



**Reusable foodware preferred.**  
It is better for the environment and saves money for you.



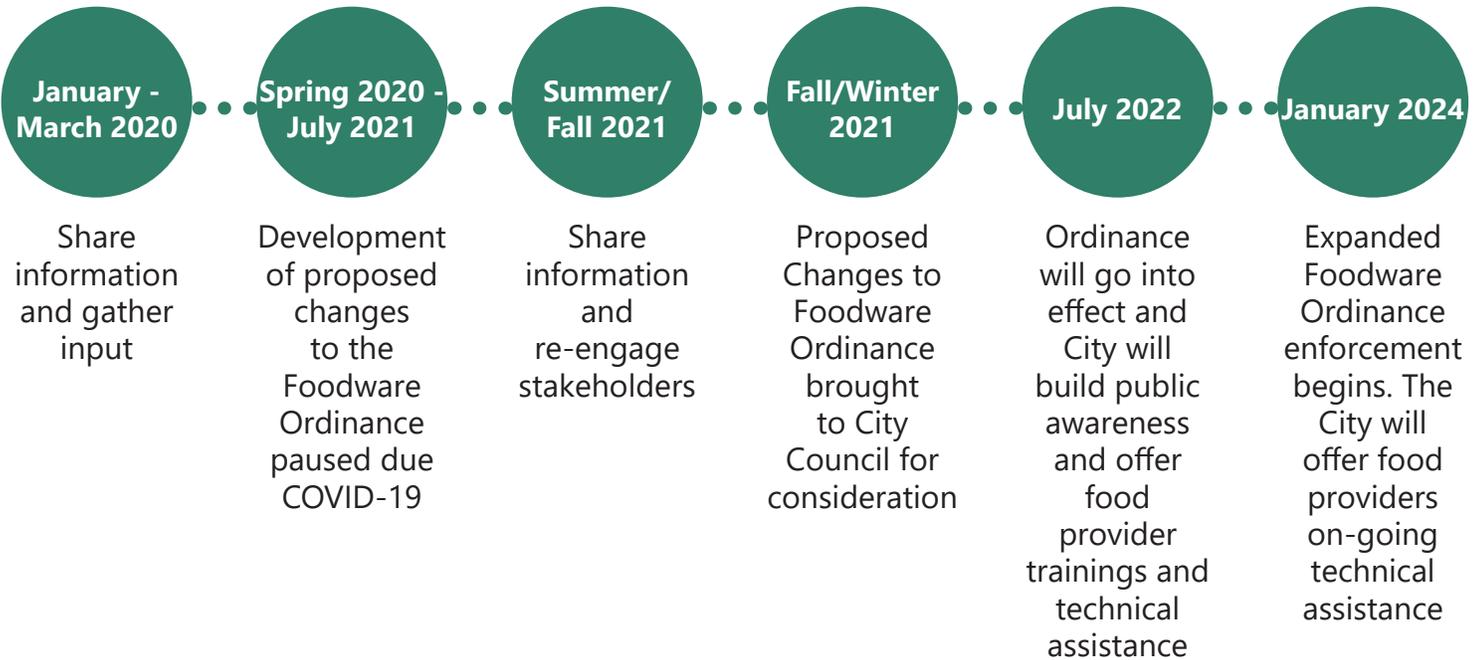
**Compostable foodware is compliant.**  
It breaks down better than alternatives and can go in the green waste bin.



**Plastic foodware would be prohibited** in the City of El Cerrito through these proposed changes to the foodware ordinance.



## Timeline for transition



## How can I give feedback or learn more about the transition?

City Staff are currently sharing information, listening to concerns, answering questions, and gathering input as we continue to develop the ordinance.

**1**

Visit the city's website:  
[el-cerrito.org/foodware](https://el-cerrito.org/foodware)

**2**

Attend a virtual public committee meeting to provide input and learn more.

**Public Meeting hosted by the City's Environmental Quality Committee**

**September 14, 2021  
7 p.m.**

**Join via Zoom:**

<https://el-cerrito.org/PublicMeetingZoomLink>

**Meeting ID: 915 6341 5388**

**Password: 2154350 or**

**Dial in: 1-408-638-0968**

**3**

Food establishments are invited to schedule a visit or consultation with the City to receive information, ask questions to know how you will be affected, or share your thoughts.

## CONTACT

Questions about the Ordinance? Want to provide input?

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(510) 559-7684

[el-cerrito.org/foodware](https://el-cerrito.org/foodware)

