

Ending Unnecessary Single-use Plastic Bottles

Policy

New York City government has already slashed its use of single-use plastic, cutting plastic straws and cutlery from every City location, from schools to hospitals. We will pursue an Executive Order to end the unnecessary purchase of single-use plastic bottles by City agencies and reduce the sale of single-use plastic bottles (21 fluid ounces or less) on City property.

Impact

Hundreds of millions of single-use plastic beverage bottles are consumed in NYC each year. The NYC Department of Sanitation estimates that New Yorkers discarded more than 742 million single-use plastic bottles last year alone--nearly 21 million pounds. City agencies contribute to this consumption, purchasing hundreds of thousands of dollars of plastic bottles each year. Single-use plastic beverage bottles can be replaced by the use of reusable bottles filled from a tap or water fountains, water from a tap in a glass or cup, or other container types like glass bottles or aluminum cans. Reducing the use of single-use plastic bottles reduces demand for fossil fuel-based plastics and reduces plastic litter on land and in water.

Implementation

- Agencies will be required to develop a plastic bottle reduction plan by June 30, 2020, and phase out all unnecessary use and purchase by January 1, 2021.
- Every City agency will be required to create a plan to phase-out unnecessary purchase or use of single-use bottles, regardless of beverage type.
- Plans will be developed with reasonable exceptions for plastic bottle use, such as when necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare; to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities; when required in a collective bargaining agreement; or to prepare for or respond to an emergency.