

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: April 26, 2022

Department: Office of Resilience

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Single-Use Plastic and Polystyrene Waste Reduction

Summary: At the June 8, 2021 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, the BCC requested staff to review the use of polystyrene (PS) and other plastic waste and present options for reducing its use in Palm Beach County (PBC) government. Following this direction by the BCC, the Office of Resilience (OOR) has worked with the Environmental Cross Departmental Team to research single-use plastic waste in general, and to document how other counties and municipalities in Florida have implemented restrictions on the use of these products. Staff also conducted a county-wide departmental survey to analyze how departments use different PS and single-use plastic products, and to assess potential burdens caused by reducing the use of these products. Staff will present research and a range of options for the BCC to consider on ways to reduce single-use plastic throughout County operations. Staff will seek BCC direction on how to proceed. Countywide (RM)

Background and Policy Issues: Single-use plastics are items that are used only once by the end-user before being thrown away or recycled. They include plastic straws, utensils, balloons, confetti, and PS food containers. PBC and the Solid Waste Authority have an exceptional recycling program, with only 8% of recycled plastics ending up as waste in the landfill. However, many single-use plastics and PS containers are not recyclable and do not make it into this recycling stream. These discarded products can have negative impacts on the environment, human health, and the local economy. Single-use plastics make up six of the top ten items found in beach trash during coastal cleanups, which poses a threat to local wildlife and tourism.

Section 500.90, Florida Statutes, preempts regulation of PS products but *“does not limit the authority of a local government to restrict the use of PS by individuals on public property, temporary vendors on public property, or entities engaged in a contractual relationship with the local government for the provision of goods or services.”* Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes, preempts municipalities from banning or charging fees on plastic bags. Many Florida communities, including Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, and Orange County, have adopted policies and ordinances to limit the use of single-use plastic items within local government operations.

Attachments: None

Recommended by: Max S/Houck 3-8-22
Department Director Date

Approved by: Pat 3/15/22
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	0	0	0	0	0
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes _____ No X

Does this Item include the use of Federal Funds? Yes _____ No X

Budget Account No.:

Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____ Program _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Department Fiscal Review:

S. Neay

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Johnny Packard 2/28/22
Lin Mat 3/1/22
OFMB

Ann L. Jarchul 3/9/22
Contract Development and Control
 3-9-22 TW

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature]
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director