



SECTION 3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

3.65 SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS POLICY ON COUNTY PROPERTY

A. PURPOSE. The effects of single-use products and plastic bags have become globally recognized as having lasting negative impacts on the environment. These products can pollute waterways and natural lands, are difficult to collect and contain, take significant time to degrade, and are potentially harmful to wildlife. The County wishes to establish a single-use products and plastic bags policy to reduce the use of these products and encourage the use of reusable, recyclable, biodegradable, or compostable materials.

B. POLICIES. It is the policy of the Board of County Commissioners that neither single-use products nor plastic bags may be sold or disbursed on County property by contracted vendors except as set forth in this Administrative Code.

C. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise specified, whenever the following terms are used, they have the meanings set forth below:

Biodegradable materials: Manufactured products made entirely of natural materials, such as paper or plant fibers, that will undergo a natural process of deterioration.

Compostable materials: Manufactured products made from uncoated paper, wood, or vegetable-derived plastics.

Contract: A written agreement between the County and a contracted vendor.

Contracted vendor: A product vendor, concessionaire, or lessee of the County.

County property: Includes land or facilities owned, operated, managed, or leased by the County.

Plastic: A human-made synthetic material commonly produced from petroleum and derived from carbon and other elements.

Plastic bags: Bags made of flexible plastic that are not biodegradable provided at the point of sale or distribution.

Plastic stirrers: Plastic tubes or sticks used for mixing a beverage in its container.

Plastic straws: Plastic tubes that are non-biodegradable and are intended for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker.

Polystyrene foam: A synthetic polymer made from the styrene monomer, commonly known by the name brand Styrofoam®.

Polystyrene foam products: Include containers, plates, bowls, cups, and trays.

Recyclable materials: Raw or processed materials that can be recovered or diverted from a non-hazardous waste stream to be reused or repurposed into another item, which may otherwise be produced using raw or virgin materials.



Reusable materials: Manufactured products that are durable and washable, can be used multiple times, and are not typically discarded.

Single-use products: Defined here as polystyrene foam products, plastic straws, and plastic stirrers.

D. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

(1) All County departments and divisions will work cooperatively to further the purpose of this policy and will comply with this Administrative Code as of the applicable effective date set forth below.

(2) Neither single-use products nor plastic bags may be sold or disbursed on County property by contracted vendors unless authorized by the County Manager, a Deputy County Manager, or a Department Director. The use of reusable, recyclable, biodegradable, or compostable materials is encouraged.

(3) County departments and divisions purchasing products intended for one-time use and then disposed of in waste streams must follow the product specifications.

(4) At the time of contract renewal or amendment, all contracts must incorporate this Administrative Code by reference and provide notice of this Administrative Code to the contracted vendor as applicable.

(5) Following contract renewal, if a contracted vendor fails to comply with this Administrative Code, the County may terminate the contract or pursue other appropriate contractual remedies set forth in the contract, or both. Additionally, the County may use past non-compliance by a contracted vendor as grounds for precluding the contracted vendor from future County contracts.

(6) Exemptions. The following are exempt from this Administrative Regulation:

(a) Single-use products disbursed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

(b) State of Emergency. This Administrative Code will not apply during a declared state of local emergency.

(c) Pre-packaged food that was filled and sealed prior to receipt by a contracted vendor or permittee; and

(d) Packaging of unwrapped raw meat, poultry, and seafood.

E. AUTHORITY. Resolution 2021-R-165 adopted November 9, 2021