Proposed San Francisco Reusable Foodware Ordinance

Tackling San Francisco's Throw-Away Culture

The Reusable Foodware Ordinance proposes to mandate reusable food and beverage ware for on-site dining. It will reduce waste and address San Francisco's throw-away culture by transitioning food businesses away from single-use disposables towards reusable beverage cups, containers, and plates. Non-reusable items like paper or plastic cups, clamshells, and to-go boxes, too often wind up as litter on San Francisco streets and in the San Francisco bay.

The ordinance promotes reusable foodware in four distinct ways:

1 **Require reusables for on-site dining.**
All food service vendors (January 1, 2024)

- Individual serving condiment packets prohibited
- Does not apply to paper and aluminum food wrappers, paper napkins, straws, paper trays or plate liners, non-plastic stirrers, cocktail sticks and toothpicks, or pre-packaged food packaged outside the food facility
- Exemptions for undue hardship
- Waivers granting time extensions for those who need it
- Financial and technical support offered by the San Francisco Environment Department

2 **Require food service operators to accept customer's clean, refillable cups and mugs.**
All food service vendors (January 1, 2024)

- Must adhere to San Francisco Department of Public Health and California Health Code
- Specific guidelines will be established in coordination with San Francisco Department of Public Health
- Business can refuse customer BYO if unfit or unclean
- Encourages (not required) businesses to provide a 25-cent discount for customers who bring their own cups, mugs, or containers

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SAN FRANCISCO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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3 Require reusable and returnable cups at stadiums and large venues.

Contingent upon scale for stadiums and large venues (July 1, 2024)

- Phase in reusable foodware upon determination by the Environment Department that adequate services are available
- Possible exemption for hot drink cups

4 Require third-party food delivery apps to give vendors an option to itemize types and quantities of single-use disposable accessories.

Third-party food delivery apps and all food service vendors using food delivery platforms (January 1, 2024)

- Strengthens requirement of AB 1276 for online food delivery services to provide customizable menu options for food vendors to list itemized single-use foodware accessories on their platforms
- Food vendors using online take-out food delivery services must provide itemized options for customers to request each type and quantity of accessory (e.g., fork, straw, napkins, etc.) and condiment (e.g., ketchup, sugar, etc.) to avoid unwanted single-use disposable accessories

Provisions listed in the proposed ordinance are contingent upon scale, availability of alternatives, and prolonged timeline for implementation.