

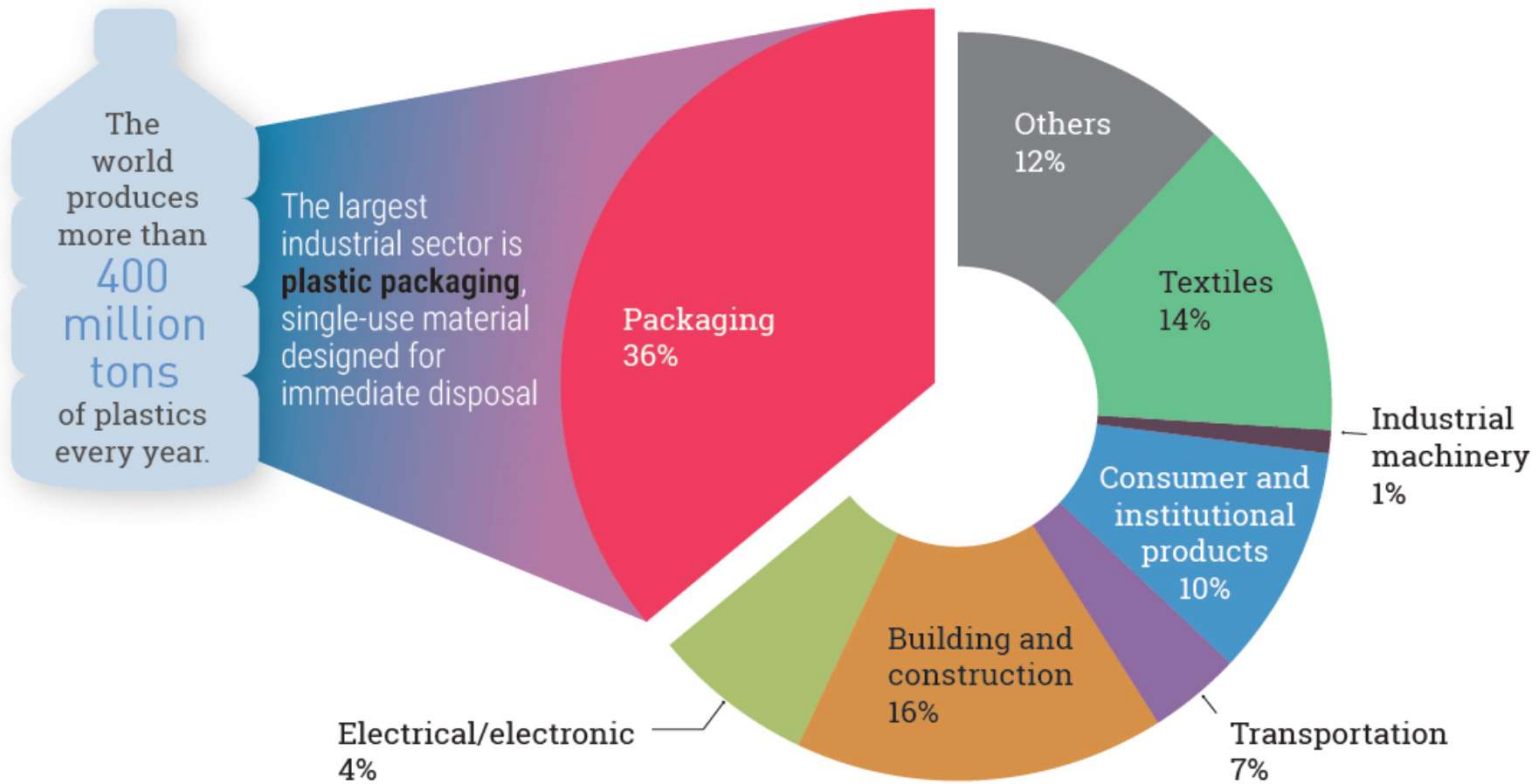
City of  
**Gainesville**

ID 200551A

Mike Heimbach  
Sustainability Manager  
Public Works Department

Zero Waste Subcommittee  
Single Use Plastics  
December, 2020

Figure 1.2. Global plastic production by industrial sector, 2015



Source: Adapted from Geyer, Jambeck, and Law, 2017

# Plastics in the Environment Create a Specifically Difficult Problem



# State Statute Polystyrene

## The 2020 Florida Statutes

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[Title XXXIII](#)  
REGULATION OF TRADE, COMMERCE, INVESTMENTS, AND  
SOLICITATIONS

[Chapter 500](#)  
FOOD  
PRODUCTS

[View Entire  
Chapter](#)

**500.90 Regulation of polystyrene products preempted to department.**— The regulation of the use or sale of polystyrene products by entities regulated under this chapter is preempted to the department. This preemption does not apply to local ordinances or provisions thereof enacted before January 1, 2016, and does not limit the authority of a local government to restrict the use of polystyrene 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, unless such use is otherwise preempted by law.

*History.—s. 7, ch. 2016-61.*



# Reduce Single Use Plastic on City Property

Zero Waste Plan will recommend a Green Purchasing Policy

Create an Interdepartmental Team to address Green Purchasing Policies including a reduction of single use plastics



**Utensils**



**Take Out**



**Cups**



**Bottles**



**Bags**

# Reduce Single Use Plastic on City Property



## Return to Review Single Use Plastic Use on City Property

Numerous cities have now banned single use plastics in public areas, such as

- Beaches
- Events
- Parks
- Facilities

# Reduction of Single Use Plastic in the Local Food Service Establishments

## Possible Strategies for Reduction:

- Require reusable (non-disposable) tableware when dining in
- Accessories on request only
- Require compostable "to-go" containers & accessories where legal
- Require vendors to charge for accessories

# Single Use Plastic Bottle Ban



## Emerging Policies:

- San Francisco eliminated plastic water bottles at their airport
- California to ban small plastic bottles at hotels
- Concord, MA in 2012 banned single use plastic bottles
- Martha's Vineyard, 3 communities passed a ban on single use carbonated drinks



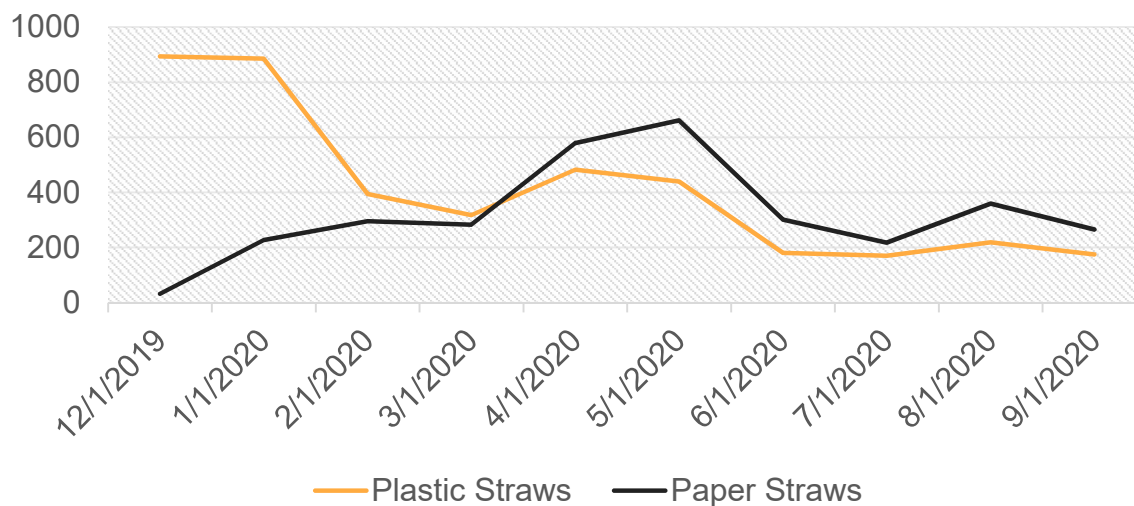
# Plastic Straw Ban Update



## City of Gainesville

- City banned bio-polymer straws as part of plastic straw ban
- Bio-polymer straws degrade same as plastic when litter
- Emerging technology has created bio-polymer straws that breakdown more quickly
- Many customers are not satisfied with paper straw experience

## Number of Straws Types in Litter Over Time (Dec. 2019 - Sept. 2020)



## Plastic Straw Ban Update



### Proposed Changes to Allow Bio-Polymer Straws that are Certified to Degrade Quickly

- Independently Tested for Degradation
- Certified by Independent Agencies as Biodegradable in the Environment
- Require signage where bio-polymer straws are used to educate customer

## Plastic Straw Ban Update



### Proposed Changes to Allow Bio-Polymer Straws that are Certified to Degrade Quickly

#### Options:

- Use distinct language as proposed and change with technology
- Allow staff to use appropriate criteria to approve straws

# Addressing Single Use Plastic Downstream

## Support Bottle Bill Legislation:

- Each year Bottle Bill Legislation is proposed.
- States with Bottle Bills have Higher Recycling Rates
- Reduces Litter on the Street

# Addressing Single Use Plastic Downstream



## Problematic Items Do Have Markets:

- Polystyrene-markets exist for densified material
- Plastic film-consumer bag infrastructure already exist
- Mixed plastics-markets are not good but may come back and could be part of curbside recycling

**Thank You.**