



TOWN OF GROTON

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

JOHN BURT
TOWN MANAGER
JBURT@GROTON-CT.GOV

45 FORT HILL ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06340
TELEPHONE (860) 441-6630 FAX (860) 441-6632
WWW.GROTON-CT.GOV

For Immediate Release: June 11, 2020

The Town of Groton Single-Use Plastic and Polystyrene Ordinance becomes effective on July 7, 2020. However, due to the current hardship affecting all local businesses, the Groton Town Council has enacted the hardship clause in the Ordinance. This clause will automatically allow for a 90 day delay on enforcement of the Ordinance for all businesses within the Town of Groton without requiring the filing of related paperwork. The Ordinance will now be enforced beginning on October 5, 2020.

The Town Council would like to encourage businesses to enact the required changes by the original July 7, 2020 date if at all possible. Early enactment will help make a quicker positive change on the environment. The Ordinance does not allow for a further extension beyond October 5, 2020.

This Ordinance, which was passed by the Town Council on January 7, 2020, prohibits the distribution of single-use plastic bags, single use plastic straws (unless specifically requested by a patron) plastic stirrers, and polystyrene food service products that are comprised of blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams (like Styrofoam™). For full details of the Ordinance and a list of exemptions, business owners and managers are encouraged to review the full Ordinance found here www.groton-ct.gov.

To better prepare your business for compliance with the new law we suggest the following:

- Use up your existing inventory of single-use plastic food service containers before October 5, 2020. Going forward, choose compliant suitable substitutes to meet the requirements of the new Ordinance.
- Consider a long-term solution of using reusable products that can be cleaned in a dishwasher.

Single-use plastics pose a threat to Groton's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and the health of our residents. By prohibiting these items, Groton seeks to protect the environment and eliminate a major source of waste. The Town Council thanks you for your support in leading the way in a global change as we become more responsible for our waste and product utilization.

Together, we can improve the health of our environment by reducing single-use plastics and polystyrene.

If you have questions about the types of material that are prohibited, please feel free to contact Bruce Lofgren at blofgren@groton-ct.gov.