



# **Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program**

## **DRAFT Toolkit for Communities**

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## Purpose of Toolkit and How to Use It

This toolkit was created to serve as a guide and resource for communities who are interested in collaborating with restaurants and restaurant patrons on a certification or recognition program for restaurants to voluntarily reduce the use of single-use plastic. For the purposes of this toolkit, single-use plastic refers mainly to plastic straws and plastic utensils but can include more items if the community chooses. For cities that want to encourage single-use plastic reduction in their community and promote the local restaurants that are working toward this goal, certification or recognition programs can be an effective strategy. A community-run restaurant certification program adds a level of community engagement and support, and allows each community to determine what strategies, levels, and benefits would be best for them.

This toolkit does not dictate the type of certification or recognition program that a community creates. It merely provides resources and templates for a community to use when creating such a program, while

also connecting the messaging to the Trash Free Texas website, where communities may already have adoptable litter clean-up sites on the Trash Free Texas map. To that end, this toolkit also includes templates that can be modified, as needed, based on your community's particular needs when creating a community-run single-use plastic reduction program. The templates have various effort levels of participation for restaurants, which helps with initial implementation of the program while simultaneously setting goals as well. Most importantly, in recognition of the importance of input and support needed from all parties involved in such an effort as to reduce the use of single-use plastic, the Trash Free Texas team gathered input from communities, restaurateurs, and consumers in the development of this toolkit.

In tandem with this toolkit for communities, a toolkit for restaurants was also created (the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program Toolkit for Restaurants) and can be found on the Trash Free Texas website [here \(To be posted\)](#). This toolkit has specific resources, suggestions, and case studies aimed to assist restaurants in reducing the use of single-use plastics.

Finally, the Trash Free Texas team recognizes that implementing these strategies will not be easy and there will be challenges, but the rewards of committing to the measures in the long-term will show in cost-savings to restaurants, appreciation and support by customers, and a reduction in trash and litter. Perfection isn't the immediate goal, but a willingness to try and learn lessons along the way is.

## Naming of the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program for Your Community

The Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program is a term used to help the Trash Free Texas team identify the toolkit for reporting and discussion purposes. Communities who develop programs with these resources can choose to use this name or come up with their own name. Or, some communities may want to incorporate the components of this toolkit into pre-existing sustainability programs as well.

## Resources for Community-Run Certification or Recognition Program

### Restaurant Commitment Form

The template for the Restaurant Commitment Form, found in Appendix A, serves as the first stage of agreement and participation between the restaurant and the community in a community-run certification or recognition program. It clearly outlines the basic information needed, such as the contact information for all parties and the date. It also outlines other useful information for both the community and restaurant at this initial stage, such as the strategies the restaurants plan to implement and timing, and baseline data on current costs or single-use plastic usage.

For your awareness, the right side of the Restaurant Commitment Form can be edited to suit your community's needs and adding your own logo and/or text. The left side, however, cannot be edited.

### Program Certificate

The Program Certificate template, found in Appendix B, can be proudly displayed in a participating restaurant. The certificate is a way to communicate to customers about the restaurant's participation in the certification or recognition program.

## Annual Recommitment Form and Schedule

The Trash Free Texas team recommends checking back in with participating restaurants (via phone call or email) once a year. The purpose of this annual recommitment is to assess how the restaurant is doing and make any needed adjustments. The template for this recommitment form, found in Appendix C, is intended to help communities keep track of how restaurants are doing and gather performance metrics on the effectiveness of the program.

## Resident/Customer Feedback Form

The template for the Resident/Customer Feedback Form can be found in Appendix D. The template provides example questions that communities can use to ask residents and customers for feedback on how restaurants are doing and their perceptions of the program. This also is a helpful tool to use for gathering performance metrics on the program as a whole and for recognizing restaurants that are doing well through social media or other outreach.

## Leave Behind Cards

Leave Behind Cards can be distributed to residents to leave at restaurants throughout the community to encourage their participation in the community's single-use plastic reduction program. These cards serve a dual purpose in that they encourage restaurants to participate from the perspective of the customers themselves, and they serve as an outreach tool to residents and restaurants alike. There are two templates of Leave Behind Cards in Appendix E. Both contain QR codes on the back, which will be linked to the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program Toolkit for Restaurants. Or, communities can insert their own QR code and link it to their single-use plastic reduction program.

## Advertising the Program

Listed below are ideas for the avenues that can be used to advertise a community-run certification or recognition program with restaurants.

### **In-person**

- Flyer given via restaurant inspectors (The flyer in Appendix F can be used for this purpose)
- Professional restaurant associations, such as the local chapters of the Texas Restaurant Association
- Farmer's Markets or other events that promote local sustainability
- Promoted in conjunction with collaborative restaurant events, such as DFW Restaurant Week.
- Community sustainability events

### **In-print**

- Newsletters sent with utility bills
- Letters mailed to restaurant owners
- City Hall/Chamber of Commerce Bulletins
- Program packets shared with vendors at community events
- Flyers shared with growers at Farmer's Markets

### **Virtually**

- Social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

- City websites
- Through partnerships with organizations that promote green businesses, such as Green Source DFW
- In conjunction with existing Plastic Reduction campaigns, such as [Plastic Free July](#)

## Measuring Success

Below are ideas for measuring the performance of the community-run certification or recognition program with restaurants.

### **Community Measures**

- Number of restaurants participating in program
- Number of restaurants implementing a measure(s)
- Surveys measuring resident’s buy-in to program and positive reception, ask about website changes restaurants have made
- Reduction in litter near the restaurant or adjacent property
- Number of hits on toolkit webpage and/or community webpage that discusses program
- Number of leave-behind cards left at restaurant.

### **Restaurant Measures**

- Number of signs used for program
- Reduction in straws distributed/Reduction in costs for straws
- Reduction in plastic utensils distributed/Reduction in costs for plastic utensils
- Proportion of positive feedback compared to negative feedback received from patrons
- Increased use of alternatives to single-use plastics
- Feedback from customers
- Text about participation in program on website

## Incentives to Offer Restaurants for Participation

One of the main goals of the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program is to assist communities and restaurants in creating a program that is mutually beneficial. This is also the best way to ensure that the program is sustainable over time. Below is a list of ideas of incentives that communities can consider offering to help maintain the partnership between the community and restaurants and motivate participation.

1. Adopt a City Council Resolution encouraging restaurants to reduce plastic use. The City of Galveston passed a resolution on plastic straws and stirrers at its city council meeting on February 28, 2019. The full resolution can be found in Appendix G.
  - a. Distribute the resolution to local restaurant associations and the Chamber of Commerce.
  - b. Provide resources to assist restaurants in making the transition to more sustainable material options.
    - i. Cities and restaurants can use the educational resources in the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program’s Toolkit for Restaurants as is or as a template for the purpose of educating patrons. “The Final Straw Galveston” campaign also offers educational resources for restaurants to inform patrons. <https://seaturtles.org/campaigns/the-final-straw-galveston/>

- ii. Plastic Free Restaurants provides cash subsidies and discounts to restaurants for the purchase of eco-friendly materials.
        - i. <https://www.plasticfreerestaurants.org/resources-for-restaurants>
    - c. Resolution may include an ordinance implementing a levy on single-use plastics or other provisions requiring restaurants to take actions like providing disposal straws or utensils only upon request, or charging customers a small fee for use of disposal cups.
      - i. <https://plasticsmartcities.org/collections/financial-instruments/products/single-use-reduction-ordinance>
      - ii. Ex, Berkeley, CA:
        - <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2019/1/24/berkeley-ca-passes-groundbreaking-policy-to-reduce-single-use-foodware>
2. Create a working group of local restaurants to support each other and share resources, supplier information, best practices, and lessons learned in making this transition.
  3. Promote restaurants and businesses on social media and other city-run platforms, highlighting their plastics reduction initiatives and alternative packaging usage. During this promotion, the public should be encouraged to ask individual restaurants for permission to bring reusable cups and containers prior to visiting.
  4. Give restaurants utilizing plastic reduction measures preferential procurement for city-hosted events such as catered lunches, conferences, festivals, etc.
    - a. Include a plastics reduction clause in procurement documentation for city food service procurement.
      - i. Example of plastic reduction requirements for consideration:
        - <https://www.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-restaurants>
          - Only reusable foodware is used for onsite dining.\*
          - Paper straws are provided only upon request.\*\*
          - No expanded polystyrene use (aka Styrofoam).
          - No plastic bags are used for takeout or to-go orders.
          - Single-use utensils, straws, condiments, and other accessory items are provided only upon request.
          - Beverages are not sold in plastic bottles.
          - Proper recycling practices are followed.
  5. For cities who operate their own solid waste hauling services, vouchers for reduced trash disposal fees may be granted to businesses committed to plastic reduction efforts.
    - a. <https://plasticsmartcities.org/collections/financial-instruments/products/recycling-incentive-scheme>
  6. Cities may set up Green Zones, also known as “ecodistricts”, as areas with a focus on reducing environmental impacts and implementing sustainability measures. These areas are typically in neighborhoods that have historically faced adverse social and environmental impacts like increased pollution, food deserts, and outdated infrastructure.
    - a. Cities can zone specific areas as Green Zones, or neighborhoods can petition to adopt a Green Zone ordinance.

- b. One provision of the Green Zone(s) may be for businesses within it to adopt plastic reduction measures. A Green Zone may be designated specifically in a commercial area with high restaurant density.
- c. Green Zones can serve as pilot areas to test new sustainable strategies.
  - i. <https://sustainablecitycode.org/brief/creating-green-zones/>
  - ii. Example:  
<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/coordinator/sustainability/policies/green-zones-initiative/>

## Examples of Certification Programs or Other Initiatives Already Implemented

### In Texas

1. [City of Plano’s Green Business Program](#) – recognizes businesses that “commit to reducing their environmental impact.”
2. City of Galveston, [The Final Straw Galveston](#) – encourages a “straw by request” policy, provides educational resources to restaurants to participate, and recognition to restaurants on social media, websites, and other publications.
3. Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFWIA) – “Proud to Be Plastic Straw Free” Campaign. See below for more details.

### “Proud to Be Plastic Straw Free” Campaign – Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFWIA)

Contact for more information: [sustainability@dfwairport.com](mailto:sustainability@dfwairport.com)

#### Program Details

- Since 2019, DFWIA has required vendors to stop using plastic straws and switch to more environmentally friendly alternatives
  - Mandate was communicated to all 200+ vendors within the airport, who had 60 days to comply.
- Allowed vendors to purchase materials of their choice from an approved list of plastic alternatives: paper, food items (i.e. seaweed-based or noodle straws), compostables, bioplastics only if the vendor had their own proper disposal method
  - Most chose paper straws
  - Allowing them to choose and source their own supplies helped soften resistance
- Vendors, especially chain restaurants, were concerned about branding (i.e. McDonald’s-branded straws) and bulk purchasing across locations
- DFWIA has significant leverage in their contracts with vendors, so they are able to require compliance with plastic reduction mandates
  - Cities would need to implement a different type of incentive program, for example, by providing composting services at a reduced rate for businesses in the program

#### Successes

- Target locations that are likely to be “early adopters,” or already interested in sustainability, low waste, or eco-friendly messaging
  - Some were already using paper straws, so were easy wins and advocates for the program
- Now implementing voluntary composting
  - 27 of 200 vendors are participating so far

- Publicize that consumers think positively about plastic reduction
  - Good marketing for vendors to use in campaigns, on signage

### **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

- Airport sustainability staff are not frequently spot-checking for compliance; vendors have realized this and some have returned to using plastic straws.
  - Need for regular oversight from airport staff
  - Potential for a public reporting mechanism from customers?
- Important to create a comprehensive program from the ground up
  - Need composting services in place for all vendors, or else material is still going to landfill
- Make the program as easy as possible to adopt; package it up as a “plug and play” model
  - Provide signage and language for advertising the program, list of approved/suggested suppliers for plastic alternatives, information on composting services
- Before mandating adoption, show vendors why the program is beneficial to the triple bottom line: economic, environmental, and social.
  - Show vendors where the waste is going; educate them on the problem with plastic and the benefits to alternatives and composting
- Cities may couple this with their existing Green Business Program to capitalize on pre-existing relationships and campaign awareness.

### **Outside of Texas**

1. Beyond Plastics, a project based out of Bennington College in Bennington, Vermont released a toolkit for restaurants called [“Hold the Plastic, Please, A Restaurant’s Guide to Reducing Plastic”](#) on July 25, 2022. Provides resources and case studies for restaurants. Also provides information for patrons who want to engage restaurants in this effort.
2. National Reuse Network’s #SkipTheStuff Campaign  
<https://upstreamolutions.org/skip-the-stuff>

#SkipTheStuff is a national policy campaign organized through the [National Reuse Network](#). The goal is to enact policies in local and state government that require restaurants to “ask first” before adding all the unnecessary stuff to your order. Working together to get city, county and state legislatures to take action and enact a policy that:

- Requires every restaurant to ask the customer first before providing accessories.
  - Requires meal delivery and online apps (like Uber Eats, GrubHub, Door Dash and Yelp) to post a menu of accessories (e.g. cutlery, napkins, straws, condiments, etc.) whereby a customer has to “opt-in” or select each item and quantity they want.
3. ReThink Disposables:  
<https://www.rethinkdisposable.org/businesses>  
ReThink Disposable is a technical assistance program to help food business operators reduce waste and cut costs by minimizing disposable packaging items. Whether you are a caterer, a mobile food vendor, or run a restaurant, café or institutional kitchen, minimizing the use of disposable food ware products can help you:
    - Reduce disposable food service ware costs (see calculator tool)
    - Improve customers’ dining experience
    - Prevent litter near your business
    - Keep local waterways clean
    - Be a greener business and reduce waste



- Lower waste collection service costs

ReThink has case studies and video testimonials from business owners on how the changes they implemented saved them money and were successful. Even covers the potential objection on extra dishwashing and water usage.

ReThink also has a [Rethinking Disposable Foodware Guide](#) that provides examples of reusable foodware substitutes for disposable products along with the estimated costs for those items.

4. Product Stewardship Institute's, "[3 Steps to Reduce Plastic & Benefit Your Business: A Guide for Restaurants and Eateries.](#)"
5. [Surfrider Foundation: Ocean Friendly Restaurants](#)
  - Provides examples of reusable foodware substitutes for disposable products along with the estimated costs for those items.
  - 7 criteria of an "ocean-friendly" restaurant
    - Only reusable foodware is used for onsite dining.
    - Paper straws are provided only upon request.
    - No Styrofoam
    - No plastic bags are used for takeout or to-go orders
    - Single-use utensils, straws, condiments, and other accessory items are provided only upon request,
    - Beverages are not sold in plastic bottles
    - Proper recycling practices are followed.

## Resources to Assist Restaurants with Starting and Implementing Plastic Reduction Measures

Please note that templates promoting the program to patrons have been developed by the Trash Free Texas team and can be found in the appendix of the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program - Toolkit for Restaurants. [\(to link here\)](#) Those resources can be used, as is, by just filling in the needed text, or as a starting point for your own materials.

## Appendix A – Template for Initial Commitment Form

## Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program – Initial Commitment Form



Thank you for participating in the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program and working to reduce the use of single-use plastics at your restaurant. Your efforts are appreciated by your community and patrons alike. The purpose of this form is to select which measures your restaurant will work to implement over the next year. After one year, you will be able to recommit to the program. When recommitting, you will be asked to assess how you did and whether you wish to implement any more measures.

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>Restaurant Name:</b>	
<b>Restaurant Address:</b>	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Contact Phone:</b>
<b>Best Time to Contact:</b>	
<b>Contact Email:</b>	
<b>Program Join Date:</b>	<b>Program Recommitment Date:</b>

**Establishing Your Restaurant’s Baseline:**

- How many straws do you purchase for your inventory? (Please provide the approximate number and how often the purchases are made) \_\_\_\_\_
- How many plastic utensils do you purchase for your inventory? (Please provide the number and how often the purchases are made) \_\_\_\_\_
- How much do you spend on purchasing plastic utensils, disposable cups, disposable plates, and plastic straws? \_\_\_\_\_

**Plastic Reduction Measures That This Restaurant Plans to Implement:** (Please check all that apply.)

- Not automatically offer plastic straws for drinks
- Offer alternatives to plastic straws
- Offer reusable cups instead of plastic or Styrofoam
- Offer reusable plates, bowls, and/or utensils instead of plastic or Styrofoam
- Offer alternatives to plastic packaging and/or containers, such as compostable or biodegradable packaging
- Not automatically put plastic utensils in takeout bags (See next page for more options. )

- Let customers opt-in or opt-out of plastic utensils for takeout orders
- Use paper or other alternatives to plastic bags for takeout
- Offer discount or other reward to customers who bring their own mug/cup
- Provide option for customers to pack-up takeout in their own reusable containers
- Offer reusable containers or a “return the container” program
- Use signage templates created through the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program or other signage to display your restaurant’s participation in the program or advertise your participation on social media
- Research the potential to use paper straws or biodegradable utensils, i.e. develop a list of items and vendors, calculate cost differences, or survey customer desire for these items
- Update staff training procedures so that chosen plastic reduction measures are implemented properly and consistently
- Other

Please describe “Other” option here:

---



---



---

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Representative and Date

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Restaurant Representative and Date

## Appendix B – Template for Program Certificate



**City of Mesquite's Green Business Program  
Certificate Of Participation**

This certificate is presented to

**Dickey's BBQ #123**

for participation in the City of Mesquite's  
Green Business Program for Restaurants in  
2023.

Program Contact  
**Kathy Fonville**

Phone and/or email

## Appendix C – Template for Annual Recommitment Form and Tracking Sheet

## Annual Recommitment Form

Thank you for continuing to participate in the City of \_\_\_\_\_'s Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program to help reduce the use of single-use plastics at restaurants! Your restaurant's commitment is appreciated by your community and patrons.

The purpose of this form is to re-establish your commitment to the program, to celebrate your successes, and to understand lessons learned.

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>Restaurant Name:</b>	
<b>Restaurant Address:</b>	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Contact Phone:</b>
<b>Best Time to Contact:</b>	
<b>Contact Email:</b>	
<b>Program Join Date:</b>	<b>Program Recommitment Date:</b>

**Measuring Reductions in Single-Use Plastics** (Please fill in as completely as possible. If not measuring the reduction in a certain category, please use N/A.)

	<b>Number of Straws Purchased</b>	<b>Number of Plastic Utensils Purchased</b>	<b>Number of Other Single-Use Plastics Purchased (Please name:_____)</b>	<b>Costs Spent on Straws</b>	<b>Costs Spent on Plastic Utensils</b>	<b>Costs Spent on Other Single-Use Plastics (Please name:_____)</b>
<b>Program Join Date:</b>						
<b>Current Date:</b>						

<b>Strategies for Reducing Plastics</b>	<b>Already Doing (Mark with an "X")</b>	<b>Plan to Do in Upcoming Year (Mark with an "X")</b>
Not automatically offer plastic straws for drinks		
Offer alternatives to plastic straws		
Offer reusable cups instead of plastic or Styrofoam		
Offer reusable plates, bowls, and/or utensils instead of plastic or Styrofoam		
Offer alternatives to plastic packaging and/or containers, such as compostable or biodegradable packaging		
Do not automatically put plastic utensils in takeout bags		



Let customers opt-in or opt-out of plastic utensils for takeout orders		
Use paper or other alternatives to plastic bags for takeout		
Offer discount or other reward to customers who bring their own mug/cup		
Provide option for customers to pack-up takeout in their own reusable containers		
Offer reusable containers or a "return the container" program		
Use signage templates created through the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program or other signage to display your restaurant's participation in the program or advertise your participation on social media		
Research the potential to use paper straws or biodegradable utensils, i.e. develop a list of items and vendors, calculate cost differences, or survey customer desire for these items		
Update staff training procedures so that chosen plastic reduction measures are implemented properly and consistently		
Other: (Please describe here _____)		

**Any Lessons Learned?**

**Additional Measures that Restaurant Will Aim to Implement:**

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Representative and Date

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Restaurant Representative and Date

## Annual Recommitment Tracking Sheet for Community Staff

**Note to program staff:** It is recommended that restaurants participating in the program are re-verified on an annual basis. That can happen annually from the date they joined the program or at an annual time period designated by the program staff. This form can be used by community staff to keep track of an individual restaurant’s participation history and simplify reporting efforts and record retention.

<b>Restaurant Name:</b>	
<b>Restaurant Address:</b>	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Contact Phone:</b>
<b>Best Time to Contact:</b>	
<b>Contact Email:</b>	
<b>Program Join Date:</b>	<b>Program Recommitment Date:</b>

Restaurant Contacted (Date)	Recommitment Form (Date)	Completed Recommitment Form Received (Y/N)	Continuing Participation ? (Y/N)	Follow-up Notes:

## Appendix D – Example Resident/Customer Feedback Form

## Resident/Customer Feedback Form

The City of <BLANK'S> Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program is an initiative to help curb the use of single-use plastics and thereby reducing the amount of trash entering our landfills and the potential for litter to enter our environment. We would like to hear from you, our residents, what you think about this program. Please fill out the relevant sections below based on the type of feedback you would like to provide. Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required.

**Contact Info:** In case we have any follow-up questions we would like to ask you.

\*Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) How did you learn about the Green Restaurant Program?
  - a. Signs at Restaurant
  - b. Social Media
  - c. Community Website or Bulletin
  - d. Word of Mouth
  - e. Community Event
  - f. Other (fill in)
- 2) How long have you been aware of the Green Restaurant Program?
  - a. 0-6 months
  - b. 6-12 months
  - c. 1-2 years
  - d. 2+ years
- 3) Have you visited any restaurants that are participating in the Program?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 4) If you answered yes to above, which one(s)?
  - a. Text box
- 5) What single-use plastic reduction measures did you observe?
  - a. Did not automatically offer plastic straws for drinks
  - b. Offered alternatives to plastic straws
  - c. Offered reusable cups instead of plastic or Styrofoam
  - d. Offered reusable plates, bowls, and/or utensils instead of plastic or Styrofoam
  - e. Offered alternatives to plastic packaging and/or containers, such as compostable or biodegradable
  - f. Did not automatically put plastic utensils in takeout bags
  - g. Let customers opt-in or opt-out of plastic utensils on takeout orders
  - h. Used paper or other alternatives to plastic bags for takeout
  - i. Offered discount to customers who bring their own mug/cup
  - j. Provided option for customers to pack up takeout in their own reusable containers
  - k. Offer reusable containers or a return the container program
- 6) Did the staff seem to be aware of the single-use plastic reduction measures?

- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Uncertain
- 7) What single-use plastic reduction measures did you participate in? Example: Did not use a plastic straw, used a reusable dinnerware or utensils instead of disposable ones, did not use a plastic bag for takeout items.
- a. Did not automatically offer plastic straws for drinks
  - b. Offered alternatives to plastic straws
  - c. Offered reusable cups instead of plastic or Styrofoam
  - d. Offered reusable plates, bowls, and/or utensils instead of plastic or Styrofoam
  - e. Offered alternatives to plastic packaging and/or containers, such as compostable or biodegradable
  - f. Did not automatically put plastic utensils in takeout bags
  - g. Let customers to opt-in or opt-out of plastic utensils on takeout orders
  - h. Used paper or other alternatives to plastic bags for takeout
  - i. Offered discount to customers who bring their own mug/cup
  - j. Provided option for customers to pack up takeout in their own reusable containers
  - k. Offer reusable containers or a return the container program
- 8) How did the measures taken by the restaurant impact your dining experience?
- a. Positively
  - b. Negatively
  - c. Neutral
- 9) Can you explain why you chose the response you did to question above?
- 10) Do you have a suggestion on any restaurants that we should reach out and invite them to join the program?
- a. Text box
- 11) Overall, what do you think about the Green Restaurant Program?
- a. Text box
- 12) Has your awareness of the Program and patronage at participating restaurants changed your habits when it comes to using single-use plastics?
- a. Yes, it has
  - b. No, it has not
  - c. Possibly
- 13) If you frequently visit a restaurant participating in the Program, have you noticed any observable changes to visible litter near or around the restaurant?
- a. Not certain/not applicable
  - b. No change
  - c. Some change
  - d. Moderate change
  - e. Significant change

## Appendix E – Leave Behind Cards



**city  
logo  
here**



# **We're eating clean!**

**Help keep single use  
plastic out of the  
environment. Visit  
[trashfreetexas.org](http://trashfreetexas.org) to  
learn how.**



**TRASH  
FREE  
TEXAS**



# TRASH FREE TEXAS

**As a proud patron of this restaurant, I support reducing single-use plastic in my dining experience and accept the changes and inconveniences that may come with that. When you join the City of \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_ program, you commit to protecting our environment for future diners. Please scan the QR code below to see available resources for participating restaurants or contact the City of \_\_\_\_\_ to get involved.**





**Reduce single-use plastic to  
protect our waters**



**City  
logo**

**TRASH  
FREE  
TEXAS**

Leave Behind Card, Example 3 of 3, Front



Leave Behind Cards, Back for Examples 2 and 3



As a proud patron of this restaurant, I support reducing single-use plastic in my dining experience and accept the changes and inconveniences that may come with that. When you join the City of \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_ program, you commit to protecting our environment for future diners. Please scan the QR code below to see the resources available to participating restaurants or contact the City of \_\_\_\_\_ to get involved.



Appendix F – Flyer to Provide to Restaurants for Promoting  
Plastic Reduction Program





# TRASH FREE WATERS LITTER PREVENTION PROJECT

*More than 100 million pieces of plastic utensils and 500 million plastic straws are used and thrown away by consumers in the United States each day.*

*The **Trash Free Waters - Litter Prevention Project** seeks to change that.*

## SOLVING THE PROBLEM TOGETHER

The **Trash Free Waters - Litter Prevention Project** team is looking to work with Texas-based restaurants, third-party delivery services, communities, and consumers to identify win-win strategies to reduce the use of single-use plastic, and help **save money, reduce litter, and clean up our communities.**

Want to be a part of the solution? There are ways to get involved.



### ▶ TAKE ACTION

Consider piloting resources from the Trash Free Texas Restaurant Program, which has resources and strategies aimed at reducing the use of plastic straws and plastic utensils in restaurants. These strategies have resulted in lower costs in other restaurants across the country. Also included in the program are resources for promoting these strategies to patrons, an equally important component of any effort to reduce the use of these items. To find out more and request assistance in this effort, email the North Central Texas Council of Governments at [EandD@nctcog.org](mailto:EandD@nctcog.org), or call 817-695-9210.

### ▶ EXPLORE THE PLASTIC REDUCTION TOOLKITS

These free toolkits highlight stories of success and lessons learned, tips for reducing the use of single-use plastics in restaurants, free program templates, and ideas for communities to support these efforts. The draft toolkits can be found at [www.nctcog.org/trashfreewaters](http://www.nctcog.org/trashfreewaters).

## ▶ LEARN MORE

Visit [www.TrashFreeTexas.org](http://www.TrashFreeTexas.org)  
Email [EandD@nctcog.org](mailto:EandD@nctcog.org)



Appendix G – Example Resolution of Local Government  
Commitment to Plastic Reduction (from City of Galveston)

RESOLUTION NO. 19- \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS, ENCOURAGING FOOD AND BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF GALVESTON TO REFRAIN FROM PROVIDING PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS TO THEIR CUSTOMERS EXCEPT ON SPECIFIC REQUEST, ENCOURAGING THE USE OF PAPER, PLANTS AND OTHER NATURAL MATERIALS IN LIEU OF PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS, DIRECTING THE CITY SECRETARY TO SEND CERTIFIED COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GALVESTON RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION AND THE GALVESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR DISSEMINATION TO THEIR MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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**WHEREAS**, on a yearly basis millions of tons of plastic pollution flows into the oceans and this amount is expected to increase unless positive steps are taken to prevent plastics from entering the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, while plastics are ubiquitous in our society, plastic waste is neither compostable nor biodegradable, but instead photodegrades into smaller pieces which are then ingested by terrestrial and marine life and can eventually make its way into the human food chain and water supply; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent on all citizens of Galveston to lend their assistance to the reduction of plastics into the natural environment which is so critical to the livelihood of so many in this area; and

**WHEREAS**, the threat posed to the environment and humans by plastics can be diminished incrementally through behavioral changes which are easily made; and

**WHEREAS**, plastic straws and stirrers are not essential to most people but instead are convenience items whose use can be lessened by encouraging food and beverage establishments and other facilities to refrain from providing them except on request of their customer; and

**WHEREAS**, straws and stirrers made of paper, plants and other natural materials are available and are more environmentally friendly than plastic straws and stirrers, and food and related establishments are encouraged to utilize them in lieu of plastic straws and stirrers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Galveston, Texas, deems it in the public interest to adopt this Resolution and encourage voluntary compliance by all food and beverage establishments in the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Resolution are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the City Council and made a part hereof for all purposes.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council of the City of Galveston gives its strongest recommendation to all those entities in the food and beverage industry to refrain from providing plastic straws and/or stirrers to their customers except on their specific request.

**SECTION 3.** The City Council of the City of Galveston further recommends to all those entities in the food and beverage industry abandon the use of plastic straws and stirrers in favor of products made of more environmentally friendly paper, plants and other natural materials.

**SECTION 4.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption by the City Council of the City of Galveston.

**SECTION 5.** The City Secretary is directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Galveston Restaurant Association and the Galveston Chamber of Commerce for dissemination among their members.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD S. GLYWASKY  
CITY ATTORNEY

I, Janelle Williams, Secretary of the City Council of the City of Galveston, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Galveston at its regular meeting held on the 28th day of February 2019, as the same appears in records of this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I subscribe my name hereto officially under the corporate seal of the City of Galveston this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary for the City Council  
of the City of Galveston