

**Eliminating Single-Use Disposables in Food Establishments:
Lessons from Berkeley, California and Toronto, Canada.
A January 27, 2022 Webinar**

Sponsors:

Zero Waste Ithaca

Contact Yayoi Koizumi at Zero Waste Ithaca at zerowasteithaca@gmail.com
Their website will go on line toward the end of February. The domain name is zerowasteithaca.org Please check back. It will have a section about the Ithaca Reduces program.

Follow their social media: [Instagram](#), [facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), all at @zerowasteithaca.
Their YouTube channel youtube.com/channel/UC1P_FUpdyqiaahXIJLYs00Q

Zero Waste Warren County

Contact Tracy Frisch at tracy.frisch@gmail.com

Their website is zerowastewarrenco.org

Their [facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) are both at @zerowastewarrenco.

Their parent organization, Clean Air Action Network (CAAN) of Glens Falls, has some Zero Waste content on its website. cleanairactionnetwork.org

Their Youtube channel youtube.com/channel/UCVtkcLa5o1VJ5xWH5FBiH_A

Technical hosting was provided by GreenEducation.US

Presenters:

Martin Bourque, Executive Director, Berkeley Ecology Center

Learn more about Ecology Center's work at ecologycenter.org/

Contact the Help Desk if you have unanswered questions about the Berkeley single-use foodware ordinance or related matters, or any sustainable living questions "from ants to ozone." at help@ecologycenter.org or call 510-548-2220 x233.

Follow Ecology Center on social media: [facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).

Tina Soldovieri, Founder, Roncy Reduce & Founder, Canada Reduces

Learn more about her work at the Canada Reduces website. canadareduces.ca

Contact Tina and website co-creator Beth Szurpicki at canada.reduces@gmail.com

Tina's local group is Roncy Reduces. Contact her at roncy.reduces@gmail.com

Roncy Reduces' [facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) are both at @RoncyReduces

Special Guest:

Anne-Marie Bonneau, the Zero Waste Chef

Read her blog at zerowastechef.com and follow her on social media @zerowastechef on [Instagram](#), [facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Answers to a few webinar questions from Tina Soldovieri of Canada Reduces

Can anyone suggest an alternative to plastic freezer containers? I hate to use glass as I

frequently drop them. Any ideas?

We use mason jars for freezing and they work well. Just make sure to never fill them to the top - for example when filling them with soup or sauce - because liquid expands. Many have a freeze fill line for that reason. We also use some reusable plastic containers but never heat them up to thaw.

Is there a handout for introducing a reusable program?

The main reason why we created the Canada Reduces website was that we wanted to make our experience with starting local initiatives accessible. While it can be tiring to read through webpages, we hope that it will make it fairly easy to understand how to bring a Reduces Program or a similar initiative to your neighbourhood. Please see “Start and grow a Reduces group” on our website.

If you stumble over something or have a question you are always welcome to email us at canada.reduces@gmail.com. Some people have also collected a few questions and emailed us to request a phone chat and we are open to that, too!

Resources from Berkeley and Alameda County

- Berkeley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, effective March 27, 2019
https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Public_Works/Zero_Waste/Berkeley_Single_Use_Foodware_and_Litter_Reduction_Ordinance.aspx
- Alameda County allows bring-your-own reusable foodware at restaurants and stores. City of Hayward - Official website (The city of Berkeley is in Alameda County. This link is from a government website of the city of Hayward, also in Alameda County.)
<https://www.hayward-ca.gov/discover/news/sep21/alameda-county-allows-bring-your-own-reusable-food-ware-restaurants-and-stores>
 - Reusable Food Ware During Covid-19 | StopWaste - Home, Work, School (from Alameda County website). <https://www.stopwaste.org/at-work/reduce-and-reuse/reducing-disposable-food-ware/reusable-food-ware-during-covid-19>
- California’s state law encouraging reusables from 2019: Bill Text - AB-619 Retail food: reusable containers: multiuse utensils.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB619
- New York City also has a similar law. § 81.46 Refillable, Returnable Containers.
<https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/newyorkcity/latest/NYCrules/0-0-0-97076>

Resources from Canada Reduces and Toronto

- Visit the Health section of Canada Reduces website for links to supportive policies on reusables during the pandemic in two Ontario Province cities of Toronto and Ottawa, as well as to the articles by Greenpeace, Break Free From Plastics, and Upstream about the

health and safety of reusables. canadareduces.ca/health

- Toronto's Single Use & Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy, Phase 2 is being considered by the Toronto City Council, which will vote on it in ~March 2022. See the City of Toronto's Reducing Single-Use & Takeaway Items for more details. The Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) may be looking at Berkeley's ordinance for inspiration. https://www.torontoenvironment.org/reuse_not_single_use
<http://toronto.ca/single-use/>
- See the blog post by Zero Waste Chef, Anne-Marie Bonneau. "How to Launch a Bring-Your Own-Container Program in Any Community." <https://zerowastechef.com/2021/08/02/launch-bring-your-own-container-program/>

Plastics as Climate Change Accelerator and Public Health and Ecosystem Hazard

- The New Coal: Plastics and Climate Change, October 2021 report from Beyond Plastics, shows plastics will trump coal in climate impact by 2030. <https://www.beyondplastics.org/press-releases/report-plastics-is-the-new-coal>
- 'Disastrous' Plastic Use in Farming Threatens Food Safety – UN, *The Guardian*, Dec. 7, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/dec/07/disastrous-plastic-use-in-farming-threatens-food-safety-un>
- Chemical Pollution has Passed Safe Limit for Humanity, Say Scientists, *The Guardian*, Jan. 18, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jan/18/chemical-pollution-has-passed-safe-limit-for-humanity-say-scientists>
- New Research Finds Bioplastics Are Just As Toxic as Ordinary Plastics, *SciTech Daily*, October 2020. <https://scitechdaily.com/new-research-finds-bioplastics-are-just-as-toxic-as-ordinary-plastics/>
- EPA finds persistent chemical contaminants in food waste compost. "Emerging Issues in Food Waste Management: Persistent Chemical Contaminants." EPA, August 2021. <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/emerging-issues-in-food-waste-management-persistent-chemical-contaminants.pdf>
- "Microplastics are in the Air We Breathe and in Earth's Atmosphere, and They Affect the Climate," *The Conversation*, October 2021. <https://theconversation.com/microplastics-are-in-the-air-we-breathe-and-in-earths-atmosphere-and-they-affect-the-climate-170093> 95% of US tap water contains microplastics. "Plastic Fibres Found in Tap Water around the World, Study Reveals," *The Guardian*, September 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/06/plastic-fibres-found-tap-water-around-world-study-reveals>
- "Food Packaging is Full of Toxic Chemicals – Here's How it Could Affect Your Health," *The Guardian*, May 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/may/28/plastics-toxic-america-chemicals-packaging>

The webinar attendees and presenters shared many other resources.

- Terracycle sued for failing to provide evidence that it actually recycles hard-to-recycle packaging, for which consumers pay the company. "This Company Claims to Help the World's Largest Companies Recycle. Activists Say It's Greenwashing." *Vox*, August 4, 2021. <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/22598748/terracycle-greenwashing-recycling-lawsuit>
- "Stop Buying Stuff: A Virtual Workshop" by System Change, Not Climate Change. January 2022 webinar featuring Diane Cohen of Finger Lakes Reuse. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJkHFPk_hqg

- Zero Waste organizing guide. “The Zero Waste Master Plan: Companion Guide for Organizers,” by the Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA).
https://zerowasteworld.org/wp-content/uploads/GAIA_ZWMP_companion-guide_final_10.13.2020.pdf
- Connecticut residents are welcome to join Bring Your Own CT. www.byoct.org
- 7 Days of Garbage. This exhibit was reproduced in a few cities, including Toronto with locals.
<https://phmuseum.com/greggsegal/story/7-days-of-garbage-e86b724df6>
- Over 125 Health Experts Defend Safety of Reusables during COVID-19 Pandemic. Greenpeace International, June 2020.
<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/pressrelease/43730/reusables-safety-covid-19-health-experts-statement/>
- Upstream has a good resource on how businesses can save money through reuse. “Reuse vs. Single-use: Economics.” <https://upstreamolutions.org/reuse-vs-single-use-economics>
- *The Story of Plastic* documentary is now being streamed on various platforms.
 - o <https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/the-story-of-plastic-documentary-film/>
 - o You can sign up to host a virtual screening of *The Story of Plastic* in your community.
 - o <https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/the-story-of-plastic-documentary-film/how-to-watch/host-a-screening/>
- “Oil Companies are Ploughing Money into Fossil-Fuelled Plastics Production at a Record Rate – New Research.” Greenpeace, November 2021. <https://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/story/oil-companies-are-ploughing-money-into-fossil-fuelled-plastics-production-at-a-record-rate-new-research/>
- “Chemical pollution has passed safe limit for humanity, say scientists: Study calls for cap on production and release as pollution threatens global ecosystems upon which life depends.” *The Guardian*, Jan 18, 2022: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jan/18/chemical-pollution-has-passed-safe-limit-for-humanity-say-scientists>
- Reusable Foodware Service Guide from Clean Water Action and ReThink Disposable. Includes a cost-benefit calculator and suggested alternatives for single-use bowls, trays, cups, etc.
<https://www.cleanwateraction.org/files/publications/Reusable%20Foodware%20Service%20Guide.pdf>
- ReThink Disposable. <http://www.rethinkdisposable.org/>
- “Over 100 cities in California have banned expanded polystyrene, but we've had a hard time banning it at the state level.” CA Local Polystyrene Ordinances.
<https://www.cawrecycles.org/polystyrene-local-ordinances>
- NYS plastic bag ban. Bag Waste Reduction Law. NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/117781.html>
- NYS expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) ban. “DEC Reminds New Yorkers: Statewide Ban on Polystyrene Foam Containers and Loose Fill Starts Jan. 1.” NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/124479.html>