

FEBRUARY 2019

Question #5 – single use plastics

Dear Trash Talking Trish & Tabitha:

I'm curious about all this talk I'm hearing about straws and plastic bags. A lot of restaurants don't even provide straws anymore. Are they going to be banned? Should I stop using them?

Sincerely,
J.L., Selkirk

Dear J.L.:

As convenient as plastic straws and plastic bags may be, they're BRUTAL for the environment! We seriously need to reconsider the importance of our convenience. One estimate suggests 500 million straws are used every single day. One study published earlier this year estimated as many as 8.3 billion plastic straws pollute the world's beaches.

J.L., single use plastic is not going anywhere anytime soon, but if each of us were to start using cloth bags or paper bags (we know – old school, right?) and perhaps tip that Caesar back instead of drinking it through a straw (I mean, who doesn't like the celery salt rim?) then it would be a step in the right direction! You can even buy reusable metal and glass straws to keep on hand if you really prefer that sort of sipping. Straws and plastic bags are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to single use plastics BUT we have to start somewhere!

Thanks again for the question! Please download the Recycle Coach App for recycling and garbage information (like schedule disruptions, special drop off days, etc). And for others, if you have any burning trash questions, please feel free to send them to our NEW email address: waste@haldimandcounty.on.ca!

Sincerely,

Trash Talking Trish & Tabitha