

Case Study

Orlando and Orange County, Florida:

Single Use Plastic Ban in City and County Contracts



KEY ELEMENTS

— APPROACH

- Bans on the use of specific single use plastics by city and county contractors

— POLLUTION TARGETED

- Plastic straws
- Plastic bags
- Plastic cutlery
- Styrofoam containers

For more Information, please see: [Orange County bans contractors from using plastic straws, other single-use products](#)

In April 2020, Orange County today banned single-use plastics and polystyrenes, including plastic straws and Styrofoam food containers, in county contracts. The new policy applies to the Orange County Convention Center, credited with attracting more than 1.5 million attendees to Central Florida annually. The Convention Center, the second-largest in the nation, built sustainability measures into its food and beverage contracts, estimated at \$50 million annually.

According to a document outlining the policy, “The effects of single-use products and plastic bags have become globally recognized as having lasting negative impacts on the environment. These products can pollute waterways and natural lands, are difficult to collect and contain, take significant time to degrade, and are potentially harmful to wildlife.”

In 2019, the City of Orlando prohibited the city or its contractors from selling or disbursing single-use plastic items including straws, bags and cutlery as well as Styrofoam food containers and cups at city parks and venues. Orlando claimed to be Florida’s first city to ban plastic bags, straws and polystyrene, though other cities have banned some of the products.

“Through this effort, our hosted events and food services will be creating less of an impact on our environment.”

Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings