

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Why Ban Plastic Straws?

In 2020, The City of Gainesville became a Zero Waste leader in the state of Florida by **banning the use of single-use plastic straws and stirrers by food service providers and retail establishments (Sec. 27-90)**. Let's take a look at the current benefits of this ordinance and the great potential for the future.

- **What's the benefit of avoiding plastic straws and stirrers?**

The extraction, processing, packaging, shipping, and ultimate disposal of plastic is an ecological debit. The environmental cost is even steeper when the items are only intended to be used once and quickly replaced, requiring the harmful process to start all over again.



**By skipping single-use straws and stirrers, you are working toward a world with healthier forests, cleaner air, and oceans free from plastic pollution.**

And even though one straw will not immediately reverse the global plastic pollution problem, it makes us consider the unthinkable long and environmentally taxing journey a straw takes to get to your cup, only to be used for several minutes, before getting sent to the landfill to be locked away forever and very slowly leach harmful plastic into our groundwater.

- **What's next?**

The **single-use plastic straws and stirrers** ban lets us join with the countless other cities, states, and even countries that are fighting to move us away from dependence on the fossil fuel industry and toward a healthier, more sustainable way of life.

The path toward a world free from wasteful plastic, requires industry leaders, such as statewide and national grocery chains, to set the tone by **removing single-use plastic bags, single-use plastic cups, and single-use takeaway boxes from production** and giving the consumers better options, such as **materials that can be safely reused, economically recycled, or locally composted**.

To learn more about the Zero Waste ordinances and the bright future ahead, please visit [gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste](https://gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste), or follow us on social media – @ZeroWasteGNV on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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