



January 26, 2025

The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Glendale CA  
633 E. Broadway  
Glendale CA 91206

RE: Agenda Item 8d: Management Services, re: Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Glendale Municipal Code, 1995, Title 8 Chapter 8.42 To Amend and Restate the City's Adopted Prohibitions on the Use of Polystyrene Products and Single Use Plastics.

Dear Mayor and City Council:

We ask for your support of the amended ordinance and both motions. Moving from disposable to compostable and reusable foodware will reduce trash and support local restaurants.

The Glendale Environmental Coalition (GEC) would like to thank Glendale staff for developing an excellent report on polystyrene products and single-use plastics. The proposed phased-in approach, combined with the financial and other assistance that is described, will facilitate businesses moving to a more sustainable business model predicated upon reuse versus disposal. This, in turn, should result in savings to businesses and reduce pressure upon landfills.

We commend staff for the extensive outreach undertaken upon Council direction, with local restaurants of all sizes. The quantity of establishments involved, the repeated connections and the depth of feedback and information shared is notable.

GEC offers comments on the following elements of the proposed amendment:

➤ Disposable Foodware Standards

1. Effective January 1, 2026, no to-go or delivery food or beverage facility may distribute disposable foodware that is not compostable or recyclable. 2. Effective January 1, 2027, no to-go or delivery food or beverage facility may distribute disposable foodware that is not compostable. **"Recyclable" foodware made of plastics is banned effective on the same date.**

GEC recommends adding the highlighted text: Plastic containers that are clean (empty) and dry are recycled - but this is almost never the case, so these containers are typically disposed as trash. When taken home, these containers add to the waste stream that is managed by the City.

2. Reusable Foodware: This program may focus on providing financial assistance to help dine-in restaurants and cafes buy reusable foodware and utensils to replace single-use disposable items. Staff recommends allocating up to \$50,000 per year for the incentive program with up to \$500 available for 50 establishments per year for two

years after adopting the proposed regulations. Staff recommends that 80% of these funds be directed to purchasing reusable items for dine-in.

GEC recommends that the City investigate the feasibility of offering its assistance to establish a reusable foodware “purchasing cooperative” open to participation of restaurants/food vendors headquartered in Glendale. Each participant would be treated as one customer, but would benefit from the larger-volume or purchases made by all participants. Office Depot has offered a similar program to nonprofit organizations for many years. Multiple Great Lake states established a cooperative purchasing for products made in the region, including motor oil and paper goods.

➤ Incentive Programs Options – Capital Improvement:

1. This program may focus on those businesses classified as small food and beverage providers to assist with the capital improvements to accommodate dishwashers. The program shall be open to food and beverage providers with less than 26 employees who are not chains located in Glendale.
2. The City may develop a dishwasher rebate program modeled on the California Foodservice Instant Rebate program. In this program, customers can get valuable instant rebates on qualifying energy-efficient dishwashers for their businesses. The program may provide businesses \$750 to help them comply with this new ordinance. The program shall be open to food and beverage providers with less than 26 employees who are not chains located in the City of Glendale.

GEC recommends that the City examine codes pertaining to space and other requirements for buildings. Unless restaurants use third-party services for their reusable foodware, they need space and connections for dishwashers or multi-compartment sinks. In malls, common dishwashing areas could be considered. And space for on-site equipment that processes or pre-processes food waste (to significantly reduce the volume and weight of the food waste, and trash and organics service and bills), would be financially beneficial to the businesses. The equipment could be shared by multiple restaurants; this is especially relevant for malls and airports. By providing reusable foodware, restaurants can brand themselves as “green.”

➤ Compliant Product Lists: The City will post a list of compliant disposable foodware on the City's Office of Sustainability website. City staff shall update the list as frequently as necessary to include compliant foodware; however, the list shall be updated at least annually. For 2 years, the City may hire an expert consultant to help businesses evaluate their processes, provide reuse recommendations, and assist in identifying appropriate foodware alternatives or equipment recommendations.

GEC appreciates the benefits of aligning compliance dates with Burbank’s. GEC suggests that Glendale utilize the [City of Los Angeles’ Product Alternatives Guide for Single-Use Expanded Polystyrene-EPS](#) rather than developing its own. This would avoid the expenditure of funds for a consultant and allow more staff time for direct assistance.

➤ **NEW: AB 619 (Chiu) as a cost-savings mechanism for restaurants.**

AB 619 makes it clear to restaurants that they may serve beverages and food in reusable, clean containers provided by their customers; it’s the restaurant's choice. This also applies to temporary food facilities at community events. AB 619 is one of the simplest methods for restaurants to save money by *not* providing every container. GEC believes that outreach and assistance to restaurants should always include [AB 619](#).

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments and for your consideration of this important ordinance amendment.

Sincerely,

Glendale Environmental Coalition Board

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: in SUPPORT of Motions to reduce single use plastics  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:21:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:21 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: in SUPPORT of Motions to reduce single use plastics



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**From:** Corden, Mark <[mcorden@chla.usc.edu](mailto:mcorden@chla.usc.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 10:47 AM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** in SUPPORT of Motions to reduce single use plastics

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Dear Mayor Asatryan and Council Members,

I am writing in support of proposed amendments to the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance, agenda item 8D, to be reviewed at the City Council meeting on January 28.

I believe that the measures included in an updated ordinance will help make our Jewel City a more beautiful, sustainable, and environmental place to live.

Kind regards,

Mark H. Corden, MD, CM  
Attending Physician, Division of Hospital Medicine  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Clinician Educator)  
Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California  
(o) 323-361-6177 | (c) 301-385-4144

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**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please support the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:23:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:23 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Please support the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance



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From: Till Nowak <[tn@framebox.com](mailto:tn@framebox.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 4:41 PM  
To: City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
Subject: Please support the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance

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Dear Mayor Asatryan and dear Council Members,

as a Citizen of Glendale I am writing to you to strongly emphasize the importance of supporting the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance. The excessive use of single-use plastic has

long been a depressing reality and is one of the worst examples of a wasteful lifestyle, especially because most of the time using single-use plastic is not a necessity or something difficult to replace, it's simply about convenience, laziness or pure negligence. To produce and discard plastic the way it's done everywhere around us is a harmful absurdity, so I am thankful and amazed to see the Ordinance as a chance to change that. I can't urge you enough to support it! Let's make Glendale once more an example for a sustainable and intelligent lifestyle. It would make me proud as a Citizen of Glendale!

Thank you,

Till Nowak  
from Adams Hill  
+1 - 310 - 804.0540

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please vote "yes" on agenda item 8d  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:23:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:22 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov>; Adjemian, Aram <AAadjemian@Glendaleca.gov>; Cortes, Karen <KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Please vote "yes" on agenda item 8d



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To: City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
Subject: Please vote "yes" on agenda item 8d

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Dear Mayor & Council,

Please vote "yes" on agenda item 8d, which promotes reusable, recyclable & compostable

foodware. I actively look for restaurants which use such foodware.

I live in your sister area of Los Feliz.

William King Reilly

2227 Observatory Ave., Los Feliz, CA 90027

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Vote YES on Item 8D, 1/28/25  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:22:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:21 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Vote YES on Item 8D, 1/28/25



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From: diana matsushima <[diana.matsushima@gmail.com](mailto:diana.matsushima@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 8:47 PM  
To: City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
Subject: Vote YES on Item 8D, 1/28/25

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Dear Mayor Asatryan and City Council members and staff,

I urge you to vote Yes on Item 8D, that amends and restates the City's Adopted Prohibitions

on the Use of Polystyrene Products and Single Use Plastics. It's important that all three related items are approved: 1) introducing the revised ordinance, 2) developing incentive programs and 3) engaging the service of a consultant to provide education and support. As you know, single-use plastics litter our streets, parks, and school campuses and it's expensive to manage this waste. litter cleanup, hauling fees, etc., Better to spend the money on preventing the waste before it needs to be cleaned up. Respectfully yours,

Diana S. Matsushima

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Vote Yes on Item 8D  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:22:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:22 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Vote Yes on Item 8D



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**From:** Khushnam Joshi <[joshi.khushnam@gmail.com](mailto:joshi.khushnam@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 7:19 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Vote Yes on Item 8D

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Dear Mayor Ellen and City Council Members

As a Glendale resident, I urge you to vote in favour of reusable, recyclable and compostable food ware in Glendale, i.e. item 8D on the agenda for the meeting on 28 Jan 2025.

I would request all city council members to vote yes on introducing the revised ordinance, developing incentive programs and engaging the services of a consultant to provide continued education and support to organisations impacted by the Plastic Waste Reduction Regulations ordinance.

Thank you  
Khushnam Joshi  
91203

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Waste Reduction Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:21:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:21 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Waste Reduction Ordinance



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**From:** Kimberly moss <[kim@pegasushomecare.com](mailto:kim@pegasushomecare.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 7:41 AM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Waste Reduction Ordinance

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Dear Mayor Asatryan and Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Waste Reduction Ordinance and urge you to vote “Yes” on introducing the revised ordinance and developing incentive programs for business to reduce waste and eliminate harmful products from our environment. I also support the city in engaging a consultant to educate and support organizations on the benefits of waste reduction and use of compostable products.

Thank you for your work and commitment to creating a healthier community for all.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Moss  
V.P. and C.O.O.



T: 818.551.1932 Ext. 113  
M: 818.636.8910  
F: 818.844.8381

505 N. Brand Blvd.  
Suite 1000  
Glendale, CA 91203

[pegasushomecare.com](http://pegasushomecare.com)

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: YES on Item 8D - Ordinance to reduce plastic waste  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:22:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:22 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: YES on Item 8D - Ordinance to reduce plastic waste



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**From:** [wcatunda@gmail.com](mailto:wcatunda@gmail.com) <[wcatunda@gmail.com](mailto:wcatunda@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:22 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** YES on Item 8D - Ordinance to reduce plastic waste

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Dear Councilman and women of Glendale,

My name is Diana da Costa and I have been a resident of Glendale since 2020. I am writing to express my support for the ordinance that reduces plastic waste and usage. By approving this ordinance, we are hopeful to see progress in terms of reducing our carbon footprint in the environment and align with our neighbors in Burbank.

Amid the catastrophic fires that raged at our neighbors in Altadena this month, it is imperative that Glendale must step up its efforts to reduce plastic waste. I urge Glendale's councilman, councilwomen and mayor Asatryan to approve this ordinance.

Thank you,  
Diana da Costa

**From:** [Abajian, Suzie](#)  
**To:** [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Yes on single use plastic ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:21:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Soghomonyan, Vladimir <[VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:VSoghomonyan@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:20 PM  
**To:** Abajian, Suzie <[SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:SAbajian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Adjemian, Aram <[AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:AAdjemian@Glendaleca.gov)>; Cortes, Karen <[KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:KCortes@GlendaleCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Yes on single use plastic ordinance



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**From:** Burt Culver <[ballast@gmail.com](mailto:ballast@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 12:08 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Yes on single use plastic ordinance

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Hi,

Just a note confirming my support of the expansion of the single use plastic ordinance.

Our landfills are overflowing with plastic and our bodies are filling with microplastics. We need to get plastics out of our trash stream and our food supply. Reducing single use plastic waste is a great way to accomplish both of these goals.

Thanks!

Burt Culver

Montrose, CA

**From:** [Hank Schlinger](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Yes on 8D!  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 10:50:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.tiff](#)  
[hschling\\_nametag.png](#)

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I am strongly urging the city council to vote yes on item 8D and promote reusable, recyclable, and compostable foodware as described in the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance.

It's not too late to try to turn this problem around, although the clock is ticking closer to disaster.

Thank you,

Dr. Hank Schlinger

Henry D. Schlinger, Jr., Ph.D.  
1755 W. Mountain St.  
Glendale, CA 91201

Author of :



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**From:** [Soghomonyan, Vladimir](#)  
**To:** [Abajian, Suzie](#); [Adjemian, Aram](#); [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please show us you care about us and our future in the city of Glendale  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:25:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

---



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**From:** Joanna Hovland <[josap@hovland.org](mailto:josap@hovland.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 4:46 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please show us you care about us and our future in the city of Glendale

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Please don't fall behind and not care about the residents of Glendale.

**PLEASE VOTE YES ON: (1) introducing the revised ordinance, (2) developing incentive programs and (3) engaging the services of a consultant to provide continued education and support to organizations impacted by the Plastic Waste Reduction Regulations ordinance.**

Joanna Hovland, Glendale resident for 55+ years

**From:** [Soghomonyan, Vladimir](#)  
**To:** [Abajian, Suzie](#); [Adjemian, Aram](#); [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed amendments to the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:24:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Alison Brett <[mrs.brettsbackyard@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.brettsbackyard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 6:22 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed amendments to the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance, (1) introducing the revised ordinance to the businesses that will be affected, (2) developing incentive programs and (3) engaging the services of a consultant to provide continued education and support to organizations impacted by the Plastic Waste Reduction Regulations ordinance.

I love this planet I share with all of you and think it is in the best interest of the community to support changes that will improve our environment and our health. I hope the Council considers the long sighted view being mindful of future generations. I am extremely disappointed in and stand opposed to the Federal Government's focus on extraction of resources at the expense of the environment and often causing harm to indigenous communities first and then all of us in the long run. The administration's lack of acknowledgement of the clear science on climate change is dangerous and irresponsible. The way they ignore people's lived experience with severe natural disasters unparalleled in history from Puerto Rico with Hurricane Maria to Lahiana, Maui and most recently right here in a neighboring community and in other areas across SoCal is a slap in the face to millions of average Americans. Their dismissal of science in general should be of deep concern to everyone. I sincerely hope locally the Council will set a better example of stewardship of our planet and make decisions that protect the planet and people instead of harming them.

Here are the reasons I hope the proposed amendments to the Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance are approved:

- Plastic pollution (and the associated proliferation of micro plastics in the environment) is an urgent global crisis that affects our bodies, our waterways, our soil, our food, even the air we breathe.
- The vast majority of plastic is derived from fossil fuels. Its production, transportation, and disposal all generate significant greenhouse gas emissions, contributing directly to global warming.
- Single-use plastic litters our streets, parks and school campuses and pollutes our waste streams, causing headaches for composting and recycling facilities.
- Managing this waste also hits our pocketbooks. The city and, by extension, Glendale taxpayers, pay a great deal to manage this waste (litter cleanup, hauling fees, and potential hefty impact fees that can be levied on municipalities, by the [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System](#), for example.
- A shocking 44% of plastic litter in the ocean is composed of takeout food and drink containers, [according to this survey](#) published in the journal Nature Sustainability.

I understand that regulations like this have impacts on businesses and appreciate that there is support, both practical and financial built into the plan moving forward. This will ensure that the changes can be made in ways that allow time to adapt and build scaffolding for success.

Once more, I encourage each member of the City Council to vote in support of the proposed amendments to the plastic waste reduction act.

Thank you,

Alison Brett

**From:** [Soghomonyan, Vladimir](#)  
**To:** [Abajian, Suzie](#); [Adjemian, Aram](#); [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Single use plastic ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:24:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Diana Fishman <[diana.fishman@gmail.com](mailto:diana.fishman@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 5:02 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Single use plastic ordinance

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Hello,

I am writing to encourage you to vote yes on item 8d, ending single use plastic in take-out and dining establishments. The amount of plastic in our waste stream is overwhelming with not enough of it actually getting recycled, much of it ends up as litter, in landfills where it will never degrade, or in our oceans. It is also produced from fossil fuels contributing to significant greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. We see firsthand now the effects of our climate crisis with the recent wildfires. There are so many options for compostable food containers and straws, there is no reason for them not to be used. And if restaurants are concerned with an added cost associated with using renewable resources, I encourage them to consider that they are losing conscientious customers due to using single use plastic. When I go to a food establishment with on site dining that does not use reusable, washable plates, table and drinkware, regardless of how much I like the food, I will not return. This has happened many times. Likewise I am much less likely to order from restaurants that have excessive plastic or worse, styrofoam take out containers. I would rather support businesses doing their part for the environment and I am willing to pay more for that as a customer. Neighboring cities are making similar ordinances and Glendale is falling

behind. We can do better to protect the future of our beautiful city.

Thank you,

Diana Fishman,

Concerned resident of the Glenwood area of Glendale

Diana Fishman, ACE

Editor • Running Point

[lemurvillage.com](http://lemurvillage.com)



**From:** [Soghomonyan, Vladimir](#)  
**To:** [Abajian, Suzie](#); [Adjemian, Aram](#); [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Proposed Amendments to Glendale's Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance (Item 8D)  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:05:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Rachel Ridgway <[rbridgway@glendale.edu](mailto:rbridgway@glendale.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:50 AM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for Proposed Amendments to Glendale's Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance (Item 8D)

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Dear Mayor Asatryan and Esteemed Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to Glendale's Plastic Waste Reduction Ordinance, including Motion 1 for financial assistance and Motion 2 for continued education and support. These thoughtful amendments will help our city take meaningful action against plastic pollution while providing crucial support to affected businesses.

The proposed timeline for implementation is both ambitious and achievable:

- Requiring fiber-based compostable straws, stirrers, and utensils by July 2025
  - Mandating compostable or recyclable to-go foodware by January 2026, transitioning to fully compostable by January 2027
  - Implementing reusable foodware requirements for large facilities by January 2026 and all dining facilities by July 2026
- These changes are urgently needed. Recent studies have shown that 44%

of ocean plastic pollution comes from takeout food and drink containers alone and with part of the Los Angeles River passing through our City, we must remain responsible stewards of this vital resource that empties directly into the Pacific Ocean.

Plastic pollution affects every aspect of our lives – from the water we drink to the air we breathe – while contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions through its production, transportation, and disposal.

I particularly commend the Council's consideration of Motion 1, which would allocate up to \$150,000 annually to help businesses transition through product incentives and capital improvements. This demonstrates our city's commitment to supporting local businesses while advancing environmental protection. Similarly, Motion 2's provision for expert consultation and education will be crucial for successful implementation.

The financial impact of managing plastic waste affects all Glendale taxpayers through cleanup costs, hauling fees, and potential regulatory penalties. By taking action now, we can reduce these costs while aligning with neighboring Burbank's ordinance and positioning Glendale as a regional leader in sustainability.

I applaud the thorough outreach conducted by Sustainability Officer David Jones, City staff, and ReCreate Waste Collaborative in preparing these amendments. Their engagement with the restaurant community shows a commitment to creating practical, effective solutions.

I strongly urge you to vote YES on:

1. Introducing the revised ordinance
2. Developing the proposed incentive programs
3. Engaging consultant services for continued education and support

This comprehensive approach will allow Glendale residents to support local restaurants while knowing we're protecting our environment for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial initiative.

Sincerely,  
rr

**Rae Ridgway**

Instructor of Geology & Oceanography  
Physical Sciences Division  
Tel: (818) 240-1000, Ext.5768

[www.glendale.edu](http://www.glendale.edu)

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Book a time: <https://calendly.com/oceanrocks/>



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**From:** [Soghomonyan, Vladimir](#)  
**To:** [Abajian, Suzie](#); [Adjemian, Aram](#); [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Plastic Waste Reduction Regulation  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:39:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Allyson McCullagh <[allymac03@icloud.com](mailto:allymac03@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:34 PM  
**To:** City Council <[CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Plastic Waste Reduction Regulation

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Good afternoon,

I just wanted to express my support for the Plastic Waste Reduction Regulation. This is a good thing for the city. Let's put the environment first!

### **WHY DOES REDUCING SINGLE USE PLASTIC MATTER?**

Plastic pollution (and the associated proliferation of micro plastics in the environment) is an urgent global crisis that affects our bodies, our waterways, our soil, our food, even the air we breathe.

The vast majority of plastic is derived from fossil fuels. Its production, transportation, and disposal all generate significant greenhouse gas emissions, contributing directly to global warming.

Single-use plastic litters our streets, parks and school campuses and pollutes our waste streams, causing headaches for composting and recycling facilities.

Managing this waste also hits our pocketbooks. The city and, by extension, Glendale taxpayers, pay a great deal to manage this waste (litter cleanup, hauling fees, and potential hefty impact fees that can be levied on municipalities, by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, for example.

A shocking 44% of plastic litter in the ocean is composed of takeout food and drink containers, according to this survey published in the journal Nature Sustainability.

Appreciatively,  
Allyson McCullagh

**From:** [Soghomonyan, Vladimir](#)  
**To:** [Abajian, Suzie](#); [Adjemian, Aram](#); [Cortes, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Item 8D/ January 28 Council meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:45:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [glendaleca\\_logo.png](#)

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**From:** Kristina Kunikova <kikikunikova@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:40 AM  
**To:** City Council <CityCouncil@Glendaleca.gov>  
**Subject:** Item 8D/ January 28 Council meeting

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Dear Mayor Asatryan, dear Council members,

as your voter and a resident of Glendale I kindly ask you to please vote Yes on item 8D at tonight's City Council meeting.

It is very important we all do whatever we can to protect our environment and the City Council as our elected representatives should lead the way.

Thank you so much in advance for your consideration and commitment to improve our environment.

Sincerely,

Kristina Kunikova

January 27, 2025

City Council Members  
City of Glendale  
613 E. Broadway  
Glendale, CA 91206

Subject: Comments on Ordinance to Reduce Plastic Waste

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments on the proposed ordinance to amend the Glendale Municipal Code, which aims to reduce plastic waste, promote sustainability, and protect public health. I appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and your commitment to fostering a healthier, more environmentally conscious community.

A Deep Connection to Glendale

For 15 years, I had the privilege of practicing clinical medicine in South Glendale, while I served as Co-Director of the Glendale Adventist Family Medicine Residency Program, a Physician Executive at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, and the Medical Director of the Glendale Adventist Alcohol and Drug Services. Working closely with Glendale's diverse, multicultural communities gave me firsthand insight into the challenges many residents face, particularly those from immigrant families and underserved populations.

My professional and personal experiences in Glendale have instilled a deep commitment to advancing public health and environmental sustainability. As a former mayor and councilmember in South Pasadena, I also understand the complexities of implementing policies that balance ambitious goals with practical solutions.

The Urgency of Action

Recent studies reveal alarming evidence about the proliferation of microplastics in our environment and their infiltration into human bodies. These plastics, including polyester and polystyrene, act as endocrine disruptors, mimicking estrogens and causing significant health risks, including thyroid dysfunction, impaired fertility, and increased rates of cancers such as testicular cancer. Microplastics have been detected in human bloodstreams, breast milk, and even brain tissues.

For those who wish to explore the scientific research and health impacts of these materials in greater detail, I have included a detailed summary as an attachment to this letter.

## Economic and Social Equity Concerns

While this ordinance has the potential to position Glendale as a leader in sustainability, it is crucial to ensure that its implementation does not disproportionately burden small businesses, particularly those owned by immigrants or operating on narrow margins. Many businesses face challenges such as language barriers, limited capital for equipment upgrades, and the higher costs of compliant alternatives.

### Recommendations:

- **Expand Incentives:** I commend the proposed \$150,000 allocation for incentives but urge the Council to consider increasing funding for capital improvements, such as energy-efficient dishwashers, and direct additional support to small, independent establishments.
- **Targeted Education:** Retaining a consultant to provide multilingual education, workshops, and technical support will be vital. Glendale's diverse community requires culturally sensitive outreach to ensure that all businesses understand and comply with the ordinance without confusion or fear.
- **Phase-In Timelines:** The phased approach outlined in the ordinance provides a practical path for implementation. However, I encourage the City to monitor the socioeconomic impacts of each phase and adjust timelines if necessary to avoid undue hardships.

### Community-Wide Benefits

The ordinance reflects a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to reducing plastic waste, including:

1. Prohibitions on single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and utensils by July 1, 2025.
2. Requirements for recyclable or compostable foodware for to-go items by January 1, 2026.
3. Mandates for reusable foodware in dine-in establishments, starting with larger facilities in 2026.

These measures will enhance Glendale's reputation as a forward-thinking city, committed to health, sustainability, and equity. Partnerships with programs like GoGreen Financing and SoCal Gas for energy efficiency upgrades further demonstrate the potential for businesses to thrive economically while adapting to these changes.

### A Call to Lead with Compassion and Collaboration

I urge the Council to adopt this ordinance while committing to a collaborative implementation strategy that ensures support for small businesses and the diverse communities that call Glendale home. By leading on this issue, Glendale can set a powerful example of how environmental leadership can align with economic and social equity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further or provide additional input.

Sincerely,

Marina Khubesrian, MD  
Physician | Public Health Policy Advocate  
Former Mayor and Councilmember, City of South Pasadena

## Attachment: Health Impacts of Plastics, Including Polyester and Polystyrene

### Introduction: Understanding Plastics and Their Components

Plastics, ubiquitous in modern life, are primarily composed of synthetic polymers such as polyester and polystyrene. These materials are used extensively in single-use products like packaging, food containers, and disposable utensils. While convenient, they pose serious environmental and public health risks.

Polyester is a common component in synthetic textiles and microfibers that shed into the environment, while polystyrene is widely used in foam products, cups, and food containers. Both materials degrade into microplastics, which persist in the environment and enter the human body, causing widespread health concerns.

This summary highlights the health risks associated with these plastics and underscores the urgency of reducing their prevalence in our waste stream.

#### 1. Endocrine Disruption

- Chemicals released by polyester and polystyrene (e.g., phthalates, styrene) mimic estrogens and act as endocrine disruptors.
  - Effects include:
    - Thyroid dysfunction: Impaired metabolism, mood, and energy levels.
    - Fertility issues: Reduced sperm quality, testicular cancer, and menstrual irregularities.
    - Hormonal imbalances: Contributing to conditions like PCOS and metabolic disorders.

#### 2. Cancer Risks

- Styrene, a component of polystyrene, is classified as a probable human carcinogen by the IARC.
  - Microplastics exacerbate inflammation and oxidative stress, which are pathways to carcinogenesis.
  - Associations with increased risks of cancers, including testicular, breast, and colorectal cancers.

#### 3. Respiratory and Cardiovascular Effects

- Inhalation of microplastics: Linked to chronic inflammation in the lungs, asthma, and fibrosis.
- Microplastics in the bloodstream: May contribute to:
  - Cardiovascular inflammation.
  - Atherosclerosis and other heart conditions.

#### 4. Systemic Impacts of Microplastic Exposure

- Microplastics have been detected in:
  - Human blood: Suggesting systemic exposure.
  - Placenta and breast milk: Potential risks to fetal and infant development.
  - Gut microbiome: Linked to intestinal inflammation and dysbiosis.

## 5. Environmental and Public Health Implications

- Microplastics from polyester and polystyrene are persistent in the environment, contaminating air, water, and food.
  - Accumulation in ecosystems and humans underscores the urgent need for mitigation strategies.