

California City Approves 25-Cent Fee on Single-Use Cups

Customers at restaurants and coffee shops in Berkeley, California, who don't bring a reusable cup for their drink will soon have to pay a 25-cent fee for a single-use cup as part of a new law.

The new law was approved by all members of Berkeley's City Council and it will take effect in January 2020.

The law also requires restaurants to provide takeout containers that are compostable by mid-2020 and to provide only reusable plates and utensils for those eating in. It also says other single-use items, like lids and stirrers, can only be offered when requested.

Restaurants would keep all the money coming from the fee, and it would be up to them to decide what to do with it.

The hope is to reduce the use of single-use containers through a change in behavior and one day have people bring their own reusable takeout containers to restaurants, just like they bring their reusable bags to the grocery store, Councilwoman Sophie Hahn said.

A lot of restaurants in Berkeley already use compostable takeout containers and reusable plates and utensils for dining-in, and the new law faced no opposition, Hahn added.

The single-use cup fee is the latest effort in the city of Berkeley to reduce waste. Bans on plastic bags received support in the city long before California became the first state to introduce the ban in 2014. The city was also the first to collect recycling as well as garbage, and has introduced a ban on plastic straws.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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