

Dear Councilmember Nelson,

First, congratulations on your election! I was pleased to vote for you and am very excited to have you as my representative on the city council. I appreciate your progressive, community-oriented vision and support of environmentally responsible initiatives around energy efficiency, transportation, and other issues.

I urge you to vote in favor of the proposed Sustainable To-Go ordinance, scheduled for a vote on October 3. Implementing this ordinance would remove a significant source of waste headed to landfills in the form of non-recyclable styrofoam, black plastics, and #6 plastics. It would also make it more likely that leftover food in such containers would be composted rather than directed to landfills, reducing methane emissions.

This ordinance is consistent with our community context and goals. Minneapolis has already adopted a similar ordinance, and the Sustainable To-Go ordinance is consistent with the recently-passed Climate Inheritance Resolution.

I hope that you will vote Yes on the Sustainable To-Go ordinance on October 3.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Kugler  
1316 Seminary Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**From:** Mary F. Jenn [<mailto:maryfjenn@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 8:12 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable To-Go Ordinance 236

Hello Council Member Thao,

I grew up in Minnesota's western suburbs and upon my return to the Twin Cities from living in San Francisco for many years, I chose to live in the Selby-Dale area of Saint Paul and I love it here.

I know, from talking to people who work for the city, that there are a lot of initiatives to move the city toward more sustainable practices. As discarded plastic packaging choke our waterways, kills wildlife and poisons our food chain, I would like to urge to you to support this ordinance. It would establish Saint Paul as definitively working toward being a modern, sustainable city heading toward zero-waste practices.

As a former resident of a city who did this many years ago (San Francisco), there are some people who do not like change. They will complain, but in the long run, businesses will be able to proudly wear the badge of supporting zero waste and sustainable practices. After some time,

many businesses even began to compete for the honor. Eventually they even banned plastic shopping bags, so businesses simply started charging a dime for a paper bag.

I really do hope, as the Council Member who represents my, ward, that you will consider supporting this ordinance if you are not already. It would be good for Saint Paul, good for business and good for the planet.

Thank you.

Mary F. Jenn

**From:** April Aegerter <[aprilaegerter@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilaegerter@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 21, 2018 11:59 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance

Dear Council Member Dai Thao,

I strongly support the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance that is up for a vote in October. I know that many St. Paul residents and businesses support it too.

This ordinance is good for the business and the consumer. 70% tax reduction is what a business will see when reducing their trash. And this ordinance will help businesses reduce and divert their trash into recycling and/ or organics. Currently commercial trash in Saint Paul is taxed at 70% percent (County and city taxes combined). Organics and recycling are taxed at 0%.

Consumers can also save money by diverting their waste into the recycling and organics waste streams. Residential annual recycling bills in Saint Paul are approximately \$60, and with curbside organics collection right around the corner, they will both serve as another means for Saint Paul residents to reduce their trash and potentially save money by switching to a smaller sized cart.

Many cities have successfully introduced similar ordinances, resulting in benefits to their communities and a reduction of waste, such as Saint Louis Park and Minneapolis. And with thousands of sustainable products on the market, it is easier than ever and makes sense that to-go packaging be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Passing this ordinance would move St. Paul into an ever growing metro sustainability leadership circle towards helping achieve state- level recycling mandates (75% by 2030) - mirroring successful and popular sustainability ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park.

Please vote YES for Sustainable To-Go Packaging.

Thanks, April Aegerter  
764 Lexington Pkwy N 55104

**From:** Brian Harrison <[brianharrison@icloud.com](mailto:brianharrison@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2018 3:28 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance

Dear Council Member Thao:

I strongly support the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance that is up for a vote in October. I know that many St. Paul residents and businesses support it too.

After at least a year to roll out, this ordinance would require all places of business that serve food to-go prepared on premises to be packaged in materials that could be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

This ordinance is good for the business and the consumer. 70% tax reduction is what a business will see when deducting their trash. And this ordinance will help businesses reduce and divert their trash into recycling and/ or organics. Currently commercial trash in Saint Paul is taxed at 70% percent (County and city taxes combined). Organics and recycling are taxed at 0%.

Consumers can also save money by diverting their waste into the recycling and organics waste streams. Residential annual recycling bills in Saint Paul are approximately \$60, and with curbside organics collection right around the corner, they will both serve as another means for Saint Paul residents to reduce their trash and potentially save money by switching to a smaller sized cart.

Many cities have successfully introduced similar ordinances, resulting in benefits to their communities and a reduction of waste, such as Saint Louis Park and Minneapolis. And with thousands of sustainable products on the market, it is easier than ever and makes sense that to-go packaging be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Passing this ordinance would move St. Paul into an ever growing metro sustainability leadership circle towards helping achieving state- level recycling mandates (75% by 2030) - mirroring successful and popular sustainability ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park.

Please vote YES for Sustainable To-Go Packaging.

Best regards,

Brian Harrison  
1555 Selby Ave. #501  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**From:** Jennifer Hildebrandt [<mailto:jhildebrandt44@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2018 4:56 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance.

Dear Councilmember Rebecca Noecker,

I strongly support the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance that is up for a vote in October and I know that many St. Paul residents and businesses support it too. After at least a year to roll out, this ordinance would require all places of business that serve food to-go prepared on premises to be packaged in materials that could be reusable, recyclable, or compostable, which is a win-win for

every party involved, but most importantly, our earth.

This ordinance is good for the business and the consumer. Businesses will see a 70 % tax reduction when deducting their trash, and this ordinance will help businesses reduce and divert their trash into recycling and/ or organics rather than ending up in landfills. Currently commercial trash in Saint Paul is taxed at 70% percent (county and city taxes combined), whereas organics and recycling are taxed at 0%.

Consumers can also save money by diverting their waste into the recycling and organics waste streams. Residential annual recycling bills in Saint Paul are approximately \$60 and with curbside organics collection right around the corner, they will both serve as another means for Saint Paul residents to reduce their trash and potentially save money by switching to a smaller sized cart.

Many cities, such as Saint Louis Park and Minneapolis, have successfully introduced similar ordinances, resulting in benefits to their communities and a reduction of waste. And with thousands of sustainable products on the market, it is easier than ever and makes sense that to-go packaging be reusable, recyclable, or compostable. There are also grants available through the city to assist businesses in transitioning to recyclable/compostable containers, which businesses should be made aware of, which would be a big incentive to get businesses on board with the ordinance.

Passing this ordinance would move St. Paul into an ever growing metro sustainability leadership circle towards helping achieving state- level recycling mandates (75% by 2030) - mirroring successful and popular sustainability ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park.

Please vote YES for Sustainable To-Go Packaging!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hildebrandt  
148 Forbes Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102

From: [ginasevick@yahoo.com](mailto:ginasevick@yahoo.com) [<mailto:ginasevick@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 4:11 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
Subject: Sustainable To-Go Container initiative

Dear Councilwoman Brendmoen,

Please accept my suggestion to support the Sustainable To-go container initiative for St. Paul. I think this is an important step forward in St. Paul's goals to become a more sustainable city. I also appreciate the opportunity that small businesses may have to receive grant funding support to assist them in their transition efforts.

Best, Gina Brewington  
Cumberland St.

**From:** Celina McManus <[celinamcmanus@yahoo.com](mailto:celinamcmanus@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2018 4:28 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance.

Dear Council Member Dai Thao,

I strongly support the Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance that is up for a vote in October. I know that many St. Paul residents and businesses support it too.

After at least a year to roll out, this ordinance would require all places of business that serve food to-go prepared on premises to be packaged in materials that could be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

This ordinance is good for the business and the consumer.

70% tax reduction is what a business will see when diverting their trash to composting /recycling . And this ordinance will help businesses reduce and divert their trash into recycling and/ or organics. Currently commercial trash in Saint Paul is taxed at 70% percent (County and city taxes combined). Organics and recycling are taxed at 0%.

Consumers can also save money by diverting their waste into the recycling and organics waste streams. Residential annual recycling bills in Saint Paul are approximately \$60, and with curbside organics collection right around the corner, they will both serve as another means for Saint Paul residents to reduce their trash and potentially save money by switching to a smaller sized cart.

Many cities have successfully introduced similar ordinances, resulting in benefits to their communities and a reduction of waste, such as Saint Louis Park and Minneapolis. And with thousands of sustainable products on the market, it is easier than ever and makes sense that to-go packaging be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Passing this ordinance would move St. Paul into an ever growing metro sustainability leadership circle towards helping achieving state- level recycling mandates (75% by 2030) - mirroring successful and popular sustainability ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. Please vote YES for Sustainable To-Go Packaging.

Sincerely,  
Celina McManus  
301 Dayton Ave #8  
St. Paul, MN 55102

**From:** stephanie peterson [<mailto:steph.peterson@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 2, 2018 4:56 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Sustainable To-Go Food Packaging Ordinance - Vote Yes!

Dear Councilmember Noecker-

I hope you consider voting yes to the Sustainable To-Go Food Packaging Ordinance. I would love to see St Paul become a leader in environmental sustainability issues like Seattle. We are currently just creating more trash needlessly when we could easily switch to compostable

materials. The more people that start using biodegradable packaging, the more the price will come down.

We also need curbside composting with commercial composting to complete the circle. I currently drive to the Ramsey County Yard Waste site to drop off my compost from home, but this is very limiting for many people. It needs to be easy and available for everyone to do.

Please invest in a smarter future for the city with your vote tomorrow!

Thanks,  
Steph Peterson

**From:** Kingsbury, Colleen M [<mailto:Colleen.M.Kingsbury@allina.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 2, 2018 9:35 AM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** “Sustainable To-Go Food Packaging Ordinance” - please vote yes

Good morning, Councilmember Noecker and staff members –  
As a resident of Lowertown, I’m writing to express my support of the “Sustainable To-Go Food Packaging Ordinance” proposal, which the City Council is scheduled to consider on 10/03/18 (according to the [Pioneer Press](#)).  
Lowertown has a lot of great restaurants and a lot of restaurateurs who support sustainability in their businesses. Examples include Tim McKee of OCTO Fishbar, Tim Niver of Saint Dinette and Steve Lott of Big River Pizza. I’m happy to support all of these local businesses due to their sustainability efforts – and their great food, which draws customers from across the Twin Cities to Lowertown.  
As a resident of St. Paul, I’ve seen a lot of success with sustainable food containers used at CHS Field, which does a wonderful job composting and recycling. I’ve also seen the unfortunate mess of non-sustainable packaging as a member of the Spire Credit Union member volunteer “Lowertown Clean Up Crew.”

Thank you for considering my support of this effort as you determine your action on the “Sustainable To-Go Food Packaging Ordinance” proposal.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Kingsbury  
261 5<sup>th</sup> St E, Apt. 309  
St. Paul, MN 55101

From: LAURA MICHELSON [<mailto:lmichelson8402@msn.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 1:22 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
Subject: Green to go ordinance

Rebecca, I am writing to express my strong support for the 'Green to go' ordinance. It's an important step towards reducing plastics waste in our environment. I appreciate your vote in support of this ordinance.

Thank you,

Laura Michelson

While well-intentioned, it would be a mistake to adopt a "Sustainable To-Go Food Packaging Ordinance."

As a city, we need to reflect on the number of ordinances enacted, particularly the rash of policies set against small businesses. Coupled with an impending minimum wage increase, the City of St. Paul is applying a reckless amount of downward pressure on our business community.

Continuing to apply ordinances while we have existing ones, such as earn sick and safe time, with poor levels of compliance, illustrates that we need to pause on ordinances and rectify the issues of compliance for the rules already in place. Additional ordinances will exacerbate compliance issues.

Lastly, the City of St. Paul has spent the better part of two years on garbage related policies (organized trash collection). As the saying goes, "we've got bigger fish to fry."

Let's continue with outreach and education related to sustainability, but use our resources and political capital to address poverty, implement St. Paul 3K, and improve city services pertaining to workforce development.

Dillon Donnelly  
St. Paul, MN

Dillon Donnelly  
Donnelly Custom Manufacturing Co.

Dear Saint Paul City Council members,

I would like to personally thank you all for any support you've given to the sustainable take-out container initiative in the past and recently. While I understand the challenges and the difficulties of proposing these requirements right now, I also feel there's no better time than now to start meeting our city, county, and state recycling and waste reduction goals.

I understand a vote (or the next action) has been delayed by a month. Please know that several waste reduction advocates are meeting this Saturday to strategize how we can help this initiative and how we can help you further this initiative. Several of us have been working on a document that includes facts, talking points, resources, organizations that support, and restaurants/establishments that have voluntarily implemented sustainable take-out containers. We hope to have that document available for you to review within a week or so.

Please let me know how else community members can help. As you know, many of us who want change in our community/world are willing to take positive action and dedicate time. We know you all work hard to improve our community and we know that we community members need to help by doing our part.

Sincerely yours,

~Melissa Wenzel  
613 Burlington Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55119  
612-801-5031

St Paul District 1 Community Council Board Member  
Ramsey County Parks and Rec Commission Member

**From:** David Weiss [<mailto:drw59mn@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2018 4:59 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Climate Change, Affordable Housing, Sustainable Packaging

Dear Council member Prince:

There are many reasons to support affordable housing and sustainable to-go packaging. Even if climate change were not such an approaching crisis, these things are simply **just, responsible** policies to support **just, responsible** action in our community.

However, in the looming face of climate change it becomes imperative for cities to show bold, audacious leadership AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. Cities have a particularly crucial role in this, because their policy impacts are more far-reaching than mere individual actions, while their communities can be far more engaged at the local level than by state or national initiatives (which may be equally important, but more difficult to achieve). Communities



can “own” their leadership with pride that shapes individual actions and expands civic imagination. Such things will be NECESSARY if we hope to have a livable world to bequeath to our grandchildren.

Therefore, I urge you to enthusiastically support the **proposed zoning amendment** coming before you **on October 17** that will make it easier to build more homes for more people, especially at key intersections that have solid existing walk/bike/transit connections along Marshall Avenue. Such housing makes our city more livable, our community more vibrant, and our future more hopeful.

Additionally, I urge you to enthusiastically support the **proposed ordinance on sustainable to-go packaging** coming before you **on November 7**. Such an ordinance will align the richness of our local cuisine with the fragility of our precious planet; additionally, it will help drive the to-go packaging market in the direction of green — the ONLY direction that offers our grandchildren a promise for tomorrow.

I am writing to each council member because this issue is about our common future not our individual Ward preferences, and I hope my words are compelling regardless of my address, but I will appeal most directly to Mitra in Ward 4.

Thank you,

David Weiss  
1359 Blair Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104

From: **Michael Stoick** <[stoick@csp.edu](mailto:stoick@csp.edu)>

Date: Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 5:15 PM

Subject: InterFaith Creation Care St. Paul Supports a Reusable To-go Program

To: "Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul)" <[russ.stark@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:russ.stark@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

Cc: Teresa Borzicik <[trborzicik@gmail.com](mailto:trborzicik@gmail.com)>, Cathy Velasquez Eberhart <[cathy@vfamilycoffee.com](mailto:cathy@vfamilycoffee.com)>, Lorraine Delehanty <[delelor@gmail.com](mailto:delelor@gmail.com)>, Trudy Dunham <[trudy.dunham@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.dunham@gmail.com)>, Kris Grangaard <[ktbd4@comcast.net](mailto:ktbd4@comcast.net)>

Chief Resilience Officer Stark,

The Interfaith Creation Care- St. Paul network looks forward to our meeting with you on Oct 5th.

Helping St. Paul reduce waste and become more sustainable is one of the topics we have talked with you and are passionate about. Due to the fact that the city council will be voting on the Sustainable To-go Packaging ordinance on Oct 3rd before our meeting, we want to reach out to share the following information to indicate our support Sustainable To-go Packaging initiatives.

1. The caring for creation committee at Macalester Plymouth United Church presented to its congregation- The reusable to-go container program that the City of Durham, North Carolina recently launched. <https://durhamgreentogo.com/>
2. The University of Minnesota has a reusable to-go container program for students and customers at all University Restaurants, which means tens of thousands of

people in the twin cities already know how the reusable to-go container programs work. <http://www.dining.umn.edu/about/togo.html>

The purpose of this letter is to indicate our support of the Sustainable To-go Packaging Ordinance. We are ready to help and look forward to your direction and guidance on how to present the idea of a reusable to-go container to the city council or support another group or organization that is already working on a reusable to-go container program in St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Michael Stoick  
Michael Stoick, Sustainability Coordinator  
Macalester Plymouth United Church

**From:** Mettameyer [<mailto:mettameyer@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Ban non-compostable packaging

I support all efforts to eliminate non-compostable packaging. Period. Start with take-out containers at restaurants, but it's just a first step. If the cost is a burden for restaurants, promote the practice of people bringing their own containers for restaurant leftovers.

Thank you,  
Peg Meyer  
55101

As virtually all of the trash in St Paul is incinerated-- not landfilled, it is ludicrous to ban Chinese paper boxes. I don't think that the health department would even allow us to fill containers that customers bring in—what does it do for liability if their container is contaminated? Also, we could not have items ready for pickup. Paper boxes are a good item for incineration. We do not have a viable compost option here ( other than DIY hauling in most areas. ) Switching to reusable/ recyclable simply means adding many more plastics to the waste stream. I am close to zero waste myself, but I know that most people are not. Especially since we are all now forced to have trash hauling. PLEASE EXCLUDE PAPER BOXES! Even Minneapolis allows Chinese paper take out boxes!

**From:** April Aegerter <[aprilaegerter@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilaegerter@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 4, 2018 9:51 AM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Vote YES in favor of the sustainable take-out container ordinance

Dear Counsel Member Thao,

Please vote Yes in favor of the sustainable take-out container ordinance. With the reports coming out on global warming we need to do everything we can to make this

planet sustainable. I already do my part in avoiding businesses that use Styrofoam containers but we as a city need to do more!

I'm glad to see they dismissed the ridiculous charge for helping a voter vote. You also look amazing! Way to go on losing weight and making healthy choices for your future. I need you fighting for me and the cities best interests in the years to come.  
Thank you.

Your constituent, April Aegerter