

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Single-Use Plastics: Alternatives for Daily Life

Over 100 million straws are used and disposed of in the United States each day. If you think that statistic is hard to swallow, you may be ready to consider some alternatives to single-use plastics.

One big step was already taken by The City of Gainesville in 2020 by enacting an ordinance banning **single-use plastic straws and stirrers by food service providers and retail establishments.**

Now, how can you go further in reducing single-use plastics in your daily life?



- **Bring your own coffee cup – or ask for a “for here” cup when buying beverages.** In addition to being a waste of resources, did you know your disposable coffee cup is actually lined with plastic? Microplastic latte, anyone? The good news is that several local coffee shops offer discounts for bringing your own mug, and some even offer reusable “for here” cups. You can avoid waste, look cool, and enjoy a better-tasting cup of coffee.
- **Opt for plastic-free packaging when shopping.** Go beyond just saying no to the plastic bag for your groceries, and you’ll discover the world of waste-reduction alternatives the supermarket offers. Items such as fruit, root veggies, garlic, and onions *can* come pre-bagged, but the bag-free version is usually just as accessible. Grab a few spuds, chuck them into your basket, and feel good knowing you just avoided sending more unnecessary shrink wrap to the landfill.

Find so many more Zero Waste topics at gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWasteNews, and be sure to follow ZeroWasteGNV on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###