

***Re-use for Good* Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What are some of the negative impacts of single-use plastics and products?

Single-use Plastics and Products (SUPPs) have serious impacts on our environment, marine species and even our own health. Over 1 million single-use cups and plastic bottles are disposed of each year at SFU with only around 11% of plastics being recycled in Canada. SUPPs also contribute to climate change because fossil fuels are consumed at nearly every stage of their lifecycle – extraction, production, transportation and disposal.

2. Are you eliminating plastic straws?

No. While straws will no longer be the default option at Dining Services locations, anyone who needs a straw for accessibility or similar needs will be able to get it upon a ‘no questions asked’ request. Reusable straws are currently available for purchase from the SFU Bookstore and will soon be available free of charge at the SFU Centre for Accessible Learning.

3. How are you addressing accessibility challenges?

Ensuring accessibility needs are met is an important component of ***Re-use for Good***. The ***Re-use for Good*** Taskforce is actively working with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) and student accessibility groups such as the [SFSS Accessibility Committee](#) to ensure that specific needs are met.

All SFU community members are encouraged to provide feedback to the ***Re-use for Good*** Taskforce by completing [this survey](#).

4. Why are compostable utensils removed from dining venues?

Unfortunately, compostable utensils do not decompose easily or sufficiently. They end up clogging composting facilities, in landfill or incinerated. Moreover, they use significant amounts of energy throughout their life cycles. Compostable utensils don’t align with our Zero Waste goals and aren’t a suitable alternative to reusable cutlery. Dining Services will offer metal cutlery that can be washed and re-used.

5. Is drinking tap water safe at SFU?

Yes. Metro Vancouver's tap water is safe to consume. SFU tests and [tracks its water quality](#) and is committed to delivering water of the highest quality in accordance with [Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation](#) and [Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality](#).

6. How can I participate in the reusable GoGreen container program? Is there a cost?

SFU has launched the GoGreen container program to replace single-use to-go containers with reusable alternatives. [Click here](#) to learn more. There is no cost to participate, we just request that you return the containers so they can be washed and reused again.

7. Can I hand my own container to dining staff for take-out food?

Right now, due to health and safety concerns, dining staff cannot accept personal food containers. Instead, you can participate in SFU's [GoGreen container program](#) to help us all get to zero waste. However, you can bring your own hot beverage mug to use – and get a discount for doing so.

8. What infrastructure changes are being done to support this transition?

Re-use for Good is improving campus infrastructure for reusables by:

- Providing the community with more reusable alternatives to SUPPs like reusable straws and bags at the SFU Bookstore, GoGreen containers for take-out food and metal cutlery;
- Introducing wooden chopstick recycling bins in dining venues, supported by [ChopValue](#);
- Selling empty, ready-to-use reusable beverage bottles in vending machines at a low cost;
- Offering zero waste catering and events services; and
- Increasing the number of water bottle refill stations and dishwashers.

9. What will happen to other single-use plastics on campuses snack items such as chips and candy bars?

The Re-use for Good initiative does not include chip bags and candy wrappers in its scope at this time.

10. Why aren't we also removing aluminum cans?

Aluminum cans are not being eliminated because they are durable and highly recyclable. When recycled or reused, aluminum products have less of an ecological impact compared to single-use plastics and products (SUPPs).

11. How can I get involved with the project?

Re-use for Good is a collective effort whereby faculty, staff, students, food service operators and suppliers all play an active role within their departments and work areas to identify and reduce SUPPs at SFU. Start by identifying SUPPs that you use both at school, work and in your personal life. Either eliminate them or switch to reusable alternatives. Participate in reusable programs such as the [GoGreen container program](#) and [click here](#) to volunteer your time and/or feedback to **Re-use for Good**.

12. How can I take action at home? How can I live a zero-waste lifestyle?

Start by identifying SUPPs that you use in your personal life. Either eliminate them or switch to reusable alternatives. Help spread the word by telling your friends and family about your commitment to zero waste. Check out tips for zero waste living [here](#) and [here](#).

13. Are municipalities and governments tackling SUPPS?

Yes, the [City of Vancouver](#), released a single-use item reduction strategy in 2018. The [Federal government](#) has also announced that it will be banning certain SUPPs starting in 2021.

14. What other SUPPS does SFU plan to eliminate in the future?

From Fall 2019 to Fall 2020, the Re-use for Good initiative plans to address the following SUPPs:

- Plastic and paper bags
- Plastic bottles (water, juice, pop, etc.)
- Plastic takeout containers
- Single-use utensils
- Wood stir sticks
- Hot and cold beverage containers (coffee cups, etc.)
- Plastic milkers and creamers
- Single-use coffee pods

The *Re-use for Good* Taskforce will continue to investigate how to eliminate other SUPPs through ongoing stakeholder engagement and research.