



**NEW!**

# **CLEAN & GREEN RETAIL ORDINANCE**

*O-19-48 Sponsors: Councilors Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego*

## **WHY?**

Each of us use 300+ plastic bags, on average, each year. Add in the single-use straws and Styrofoam containers, and we create a lot of waste that lasts hundreds of years longer than we do. Cities across the country are leading the way to create a more sustainable future.

Companies like Starbucks, Hyatt, Hilton, McDonald's & Kroger's/Smith's Grocery Stores have already announced plans to end the use of single-use plastics.

Albuquerque's proposed ordinance prohibits the use of plastic bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam containers and encourages customers to bring their own. Businesses can switch to offering recyclable and biodegradable options may charge a small fee (up to 10-cents, helping to protect small business from cost increases) to encourage customers to reuse those paper bags before recycling.



## **Prohibited**

- Plastic bags at checkout
- Plastic straws \*
- Styrofoam takeout containers



- Takes effect Jan. 1, 2020
- Businesses who refuse to comply can be fined
- Businesses can sign up to become a Certified Clean & Green Business to show their support and encourage customers to reuse bags
- Businesses worried about new costs have the option of charging up to 10-cents per bag or container



## **Allowed**

- Customer-owned reusable bags
- Recyclable/Biodegradable takeout containers
- Recyclable or biodegradable straws
- Recyclable paper bags at checkout

## **What if...**

### **What if I forgot my bag or need an extra?**



If you forgot your reusable bag or need an extra bag at checkout, the store can offer you a recyclable paper bag. They may charge up to 10-cents per bag to encourage you to reuse them again before recycling.

### **What if I need a straw?**



If you prefer a straw, just ask. Under this law, businesses can give recyclable or biodegradable straws anytime. It also recognizes that persons with physical disabilities or medical needs sometimes need plastic straws to aid in drinking. Businesses who use straws are required to make plastic straws available to anyone who asks, no questions asked.

Learn more: [cabq.gov/council](http://cabq.gov/council)