

Policy 3.2.5 Prohibition on the Use of Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products at Parks and Other City Facilities and City-Sponsored Events

POLICY PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the undesirable impacts on water quality, stormwater, wildlife and aesthetics within and beyond the city limits of Sunnyvale created by littered or discarded expanded polystyrene foam food containers. This policy is intended to encourage environmentally responsible practices such as using reusable dishware at meetings and special events. If reusable dishware is not feasible, the alternative would be to use food containers that are recyclable in the City's recycling program or to use compostable containers.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the City of Sunnyvale that the City will:

1. Prohibit the use of City funds for the purchase of expanded polystyrene foam food service products for meetings, events and other City functions.
2. Prohibit the use of expanded polystyrene foam food service products by vendors, franchisees, lessees, contractors and commercial food and beverage purveyors at parks and other City facilities. Prohibited products include, but are not limited to, expanded polystyrene food containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, and cups, on or in which any foods or beverages are placed or packaged. Pre-packaged foods sold in retail and grocery stores (meat, fish, etc. on trays, egg cartons) would be exempt. Each City department shall incorporate this prohibition into each of its leases, permits, agreements, etc., upon issuance, renewal or otherwise at the earliest opportunity and fully and expeditiously implement the prohibition.
3. Prohibit the use or distribution of expanded polystyrene food service products at special events at City facilities, parks or other locations that are sponsored or co-sponsored by the City. This prohibition shall apply to event organizers, agents of event organizers, event vendors, and any other party (including non-profit organizations) that has an agreement with one or more of the co-sponsors of the event to sell food or beverages at the event or otherwise provide an event-related service. Each City department shall incorporate this prohibition into each of its City agreements, permits, etc., with event organizers and sponsors. The prohibition on the use of expanded polystyrene food service products will not be enforced upon an individual attending the function solely as a visitor or spectator. Each written agreement with a vendor, including a non-profit organization, to sell food or beverages at an event sponsored or co-sponsored by the City of Sunnyvale shall specifically prohibit the usage and distribution of expanded polystyrene food service products.

COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

4. Not accept donations of expanded polystyrene food service products or allow their use at parks and other City facilities for special events sponsored or co-sponsored by the City.

(Adopted: RTC 12-293 (December 18, 2012))

Lead Department: Environmental Services Department