

To the Chair of the Environment and Social Planning Committee, respectfully;

In the spirit of electoral change and understanding what is on the minds of voters at this juncture, I send this letter in the hopes of creating change.

Montreal has recently announced a goal and plans to go 'Zero Waste.'

[How the City of Montreal plans to go 'zero waste' | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-zero-waste-grocery-compost-textile-recycling-1.5325319)

(or type the following URL into your search bar:)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-zero-waste-grocery-compost-textile-recycling-1.5325319>

Burnaby should follow suit. And we should start by targeting packaging on our produce. For example, there is NO need to package cucumbers to be pre-portioned into Styrofoam plates and wrapped in serran. Packaging is all about marketing, anyway. It's marketing departments that need their hands slapped.



The point I would like to make is that grocery store packaging shouldn't be looked upon as a 'waste management' issue to be overseen by Metro Vancouver. Rather it should be looked upon as a supply chain and marketing issue, overseen by city bylaws, the same bylaws that will enact 'single use plastics' bans. Let's get them out of the waste-management cycle altogether!

It seems to me that, in order to establish a 'single use plastics' ban, we have to define and list 'single use plastic,' and I'm arguing that Styrofoam and saran wrap packaging on grocery produce should make that list. It's completely unnecessary, except for the marketing and product information on it. Currently, Health Canada does not require product information for unprocessed produce, so any information the supplier wants imparted to the consumer should be provided as signage to be displayed near the item, not on unnecessary plastic or foam.

Furthermore, produce sellers - such as Kin's Farmers Markets - who purchase in bulk and then repackage into pre-priced portions shouldn't be allowed to use foam or plastic to do this anymore. Again, signage can indicate how many/much of an item is included for the posted price.

At the very least, the purchase of plastics or foam of any kind within Burnaby should be levied with an environmental processing tax or surcharge, much like the recycling fee levied on beverage containers or the surcharge on fuel at gas stations, and for that fee to be listed on the receipt as a separate line item in exactly

the same manner as the abovementioned analogues. This might encourage produce sellers, such as Kin's Farmers Markets, to reconsider their packaging 'requirements.' At the same time, end-user customers will see this on their bill and want to do something about reducing their spending, as well. Incidentally, this will produce income for the City of Burnaby that can be reinvested in further ways to reduce waste and emissions, create more green spaces, or purchase carbon credits.

Once this process is in place, the definition of 'single use plastics' could be broadened to include hard plastic casing and therefore extended to other retail goods, such as the unnecessary amount of packaging on Children's toys, pet supplies, items packaged in bulk quantities such as lighters, glue, and batteries, etc.



Finally, if the City of Burnaby chooses not to enforce any kind of moratorium on the unnecessary packaging of produce, perhaps consumers will start to unwrap the products in the store and leave it for them to deal with, hopefully creating change this way: the store doesn't want to deal with the waste, but if they are forced to, they might go to their suppliers and ask them to package things differently.



But municipal legislation is far preferable to consumers becoming 'agents provocateurs.'

With a great deal of respect and wishful thinking;

Bethney Ross

Beth Ross

Burnaby, BC,