

account for the majority of the subsidies, according to the report. In 2018-19, the total amount of allowable royalty reductions hit \$631 million, it found. That was up from \$447 million in the prior fiscal year. In all, B.C. has at least \$2.6 to \$3.2 billion in outstanding royalty credits from fossil fuel producers, according to the report.

In 2017-18, at least \$268 million in fossil fuel subsidies came through provincial tax exemptions, according to the study. A large proportion of those subsidies were directed at consumers, but others benefited producers. B.C. also provided direct spending supports for compressed natural gas, LNG and even coal mining, according to the authors.

resources away from effective climate change strategies, not to mention other important priorities such as health care and education. This means that other sectors of the economy must compensate for the vast amounts of government revenue spent on subsidies — which is neither fair nor efficient,” it stated.

The authors made several recommendations, including publicly releasing all data related to government spending on fossil fuel subsidies each year. They also recommended the government create an action plan to end the subsidies, coordinate its subsidy reform efforts with the federal government, and avoid creating new ones.

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Vancouver bubble-tea vendors get one-year exemption from straw ban

SCOTT BROWN

Vancouver city council will vote Wednesday on a bylaw that will ban most plastic straws by April 2020.

The bylaw calls for a ban on plastic straws, including compostable plastic straws, and requires that all accessible straws, the bendable ones wrapped in paper, be handed out only if a customer asks for one.

If approved, the bylaw will come into effect April 22, which is Earth Day.

In its report to council city staff recommends a one-year ban exemption for plastic straws served with bubble tea in order to allow businesses to find alternatives.

“Many residents consider drinking bubble tea to be part of their cultural identity. Businesses that

sell bubble-tea drinks were among the most dependent on plastic straws and are highly concerned about impacts to their business if they cannot find ways to serve bubble tea that do not require plastic straws,” the report said.

Staff is also recommending a city-wide ban on plastic shopping bags beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

Paper bags would be required to contain at least 40 per cent recycled content and would come with a 15 cent fee.

The fee will jump to 25 cents after one year.

Disposable cups are being hit with a fee of at least 25 cents, and vendors will only be able to give out single-use utensils, made of any material, by request only.

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Referred to:

Environment Committee (2020 Date To Be Determined)

Copied to:

City Manager, Dir. Corporate Services, Dir. Engineering

Dear Mayor and Council of Burnaby

I read in yesterday's Vancouver Sun the above article on banning plastic straws and other plastic articles in order to protect the environment from these destructive items. Is Burnaby planning on joining with Vancouver to ban plastic? I would appreciate it if you would bring this up to Council at your next meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Judith Matthews
Burnaby,