



# BONAIRE PLASTIC FREE!

Dear entrepreneur,

In 2022 we will use less plastic. It is better for our environment and our nature to replace disposable plastic with sustainable products. **Plastic carrier bags, straws, stirrers, cutlery and polystyrene (styrofoam) meal packaging** may no longer be sold or given away for free in Bonaire. The island council took this decision on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## What does this mean to you?

The ban applies to anyone on Bonaire who wants to sell or give away plastic for single use. Starting June 1st, 2022 you may no longer sell and give away plastic carrier bags, straws, stirrers and cutlery and starting August 1st, 2022, you may also no longer sell or give away polystyrene meal packaging for free. Regarding meal packaging, the ban only applies to meal packaging made of polystyrene foam (styrofoam). Until then, you can use up the disposable plastic in your stock. After that, you can sell or give away these products only if these are made from sustainable material.

## Why this ban?

Plastic is a chemical synthetic material, making it an unnatural substance. Plastic is not good for nature, our health and the economy. Plastic waste that is thrown away incorrectly often ends up in nature or in the sea. Dirty seas and beaches are bad for the fishery, the tourism and the coral around the BES islands. It is harmful to the image of Bonaire, the environment and our public health.

The definition of plastic includes all synthetic materials that are not found in nature. That is why polystyrene (styrofoam) meal packaging also falls under the ban. Bioplastics are also banned. These often also end up in nature, but can only be broken down in an industrial way.

We cannot properly reuse disposable plastic on Bonaire. Bonaire does not yet have the right machines to make new products from old plastic. That is why the island council and the OLB have opted for a total ban on certain plastic products.



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## Information session

On February 7, we organize a meeting for entrepreneurs. We will then inform you about the ban on disposable plastic and we will also answer your questions. Would you like to be present at the meeting? **Sign up before January 30<sup>th</sup>** by sending an e-mail to [plasticvrij@bonairegov.com](mailto:plasticvrij@bonairegov.com).

Please mention the following in the e-mail:

1. Your name
2. Company name
3. Telephone number
4. Preferred part of the day 10:00 AM or 05:30 PM
5. Preferred languages: English and Dutch or Papiamentu and Spanish

## More information

For detailed information, please visit our website [www.bonairegov.com](http://www.bonairegov.com) or e-mail your question to [plasticvrij@bonairegov.com](mailto:plasticvrij@bonairegov.com).

Sincerely,

**MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SPACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Eng. Marlon Martina, MBA