



## A Bag's Life School Education Program – Minneapolis

### Strategy

A Bag's Life aims to build diverse coalitions to help create programs that will educate and inspire children – and, by extension, their parents – to do a better job of recycling.

By uniting non-profit, private and public sector stakeholders – including state and local elected officials, educators, retailers, the media, the creative community and industry and environmental groups – we have helped teach a new generation the importance of the 3 R's as they related to plastic bags, film and wraps.

In addition to providing resources via [abagslife.com](http://abagslife.com), Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest, A Bag's Life also teaches students and their parents about recycling through plastic bag, film and wrap collection contests within and between schools, as well as entire school districts. A Dallas collection competition currently underway includes 20 schools districtwide.

A Minneapolis program would invite all schools to participate, building upon the district's "Global Citizens" environmental initiative. The collection competition would span several months (i.e. from America Recycles Day to Earth Day 2017), and the end result would be to:

- Increase the amount of bags, film and wraps collected through retail takeback
- Inform students about the daily, myriad and creative reuses for plastic bags
- Educate the public about what companies like Trex and Novolex do with this material once recycled
- Unite numerous stakeholders behind the common goal of recycling more plastic bags, film and wraps
- Through this competition, teach the community at large that plastic bags, film and wraps should be recycled instead of littered or thrown away

### The Dallas collection competition thus far has included:

- A kickoff event at an elementary school, sponsored by the Dallas Independent School District, which featured:
  - Comments and poster signing by Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and City Councilmember Carolyn Arnold
  - Attendance by retail and industry representatives
    - Kroger
    - Albertsons / Tom Thumb
    - Walmart
    - The Texas Retailers Association
  - Support for and from the city's GrowSouth initiative
- A recycling collection box decorating contest, to include:
  - Participation by and photo ops with city council and school board members
  - Judging by members of the local creative community
- An anticipated collection message made by Mayor Rawlings during Earth Day Texas 2016
- An announcement of the winners and presentation of the bench to the winning school

### In Minneapolis our potential partners would include:

- *Local elected officials*, who would lend a collection competition greater credibility and visibility
- *Minneapolis Public Schools*, whose infrastructure and educational expertise would help maximize the effectiveness of a local collection competition

## **A Bag's Life School Education Program – Minneapolis (cont'd.)**

- *A significant number of grocers / retailers* (i.e. Target, based in Minneapolis, is a national partner of A Bag's Life), who would provide the infrastructure for and financially benefit from a collection competition
- *Trex Company*, which historically has donated to the winning schools tangible items made from recycled bags, film and wrap
- *Local environmental groups*, who support common sense approaches to addressing the 3 R's
- *Other industry recyclers* (i.e. Novolex, which turns recycled bags, film and wraps into new plastic bags through closed-loop recycling)

### **How a Minneapolis Collection Competition Would Work**

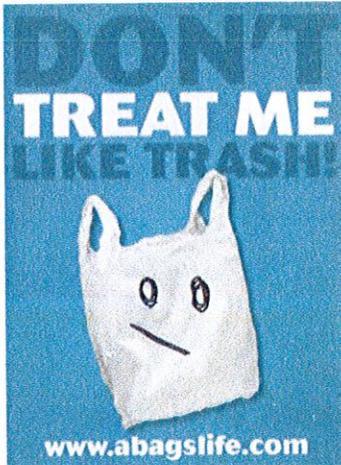
- Local, regional and national retailers each would partner with an area elementary or middle school to collect bags and wraps over a month-long period
- A Bag's Life would provide educational materials to students participating in the contest
- A kickoff would be held at a school chosen by the district, with members of the media invited
- Trex Company would provide collection bins to all participating schools
- Schools would compete against each other to collect the most material, both in total and per capita
- A collection bin decorating contest would be judged by members of the local creative community, with elected officials and members of the media invited
- Schools would coordinate with their retail partners to facilitate bulk material drop-off
- As with other contests A Bag's Life has coordinated, the honor system would be used to report collection numbers
- The schools that collect the most bags, film and wraps – in total and per capita – would win benches made out of this recycled material
- Periodic announcements would be made on FB and Twitter
- Traditional and social media would be notified of the final tally
- Facebook and Twitter posts would be made when the winning schools receive their benches
- Further, A Bag's Life would create a "brand" identity for this collection contest to be included in the materials provided. Additionally, we would work with the retailers to create POS materials for their stores that inform local shoppers about the contest and educate them about returning their bags, film and wraps back to the store for recycling.

### **About A Bag's Life**

On Earth Day 2010, Florida's governor, retailers, environmental groups and other partners launched A Bag's Life on the state capitol steps. Through thought-provoking messaging like "Don't Treat Me Like Trash" and "Gimme A Second Chance," the program encourages consumers through Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest to think before throwing away their plastic bags, film and wraps. The website, [abagslife.com](http://abagslife.com), offers an easy-to-use recycle location finder that lists the nearest drop-off points for recycling plastic bags, film and wraps, including a Google maps option. Program managers include a sitting public official and former journalist, who lend expertise to municipal program design and traditional and social media outreach.

# A BAG'S LIFE

## SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM



### What is A Bag's Life?

It's a public educational campaign that unites non-profits, community and government organizations around the common goal of promoting the three R's as they relate to plastic bags, common films and wraps used in everyday life.

Through thought-provoking messaging like "Don't Treat Me Like Trash" and "Gimme A Second Chance," A Bag's Life encourages consumers to think before tossing the bag away.

The ABag'sLife.com website offers an easy-to-use recycle location finder that lists the nearest drop-off points for recycling plastic bags and wraps with a Google Maps option.

A Bag's Life social media sites on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest also encourage ways to embrace the 3R's as they relate to bags and wraps.

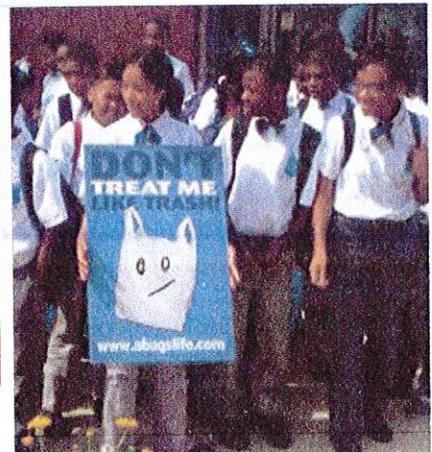
### How Does A Bag's Life Educate?

In addition to resources on [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com), A Bag's Life has been successful in educating the 3R's through collection contests within individual schools and clubs, between schools and in entire school districts.

By encouraging students to reuse or recycle their bags and wraps, rather than sending them to the landfill, collection contests have recycled millions of bags. Students also are inspired to think creatively of ways to reuse their bags.

Representatives from A Bag's Life can assist in identifying local partners to participate in a school collection contest. Local Keep America Beautiful affiliates and solid waste departments have proven to be invaluable partners, as have municipalities, state transportation and consumer affairs departments. Trex, the largest manufacturer of lumber made from plastic bags, can assist with prizes for participating schools, in addition to the grand prize.

Local retailers are connected with schools so all bags are recycled and accounted for in the contest prize tally.



# 3 Districts — 39 Schools — 897,384 Bags Collected When Students Learn to Recycle...

Galveston, Texas

## 17 Schools Jump in as Successful Competition Continues for Second Year

Galveston kicked off its first A Bag's Life collection with nine schools in 2013 and students responded with more than 300,000 plastic bags. The program was determined to be so successful, Keep Galveston Clean is again doing it for the 2014-15 school year, with nearly double the number of participating schools and a target to collect 750,000 bags.



Corpus Christi, Texas

## Crockett Elementary Wins Plastic Bag Recycling Competition

Kiii News - April 30, 2013 - video: <http://bit.ly/130zQiv>

For the past five months, 14 Corpus Christi Independent School District schools have been in a competition to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic bags.

On Tuesday, students at Crockett Elementary saw all of their hard work pay off.

It was all part of the Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge that began back in November on America Recycles Day, which ended on Earth Day.

For collecting more than 76,000 plastic bags, the students at Crockett were given a park bench made entirely from 10,000 recycled plastic bags provided by the Trex company.

"It's easy to collect bags, because when you see one, just pick it up and recycle it," student Dirk Johnson said.

"It teaches them to take care of our Earth. To recycle and not to throw trash anywhere," Principal Aurelia Barrera said.

In all, the 14 CCISD schools collected more than 237,000 plastic bags. The competition was put on by the school district, the City of Corpus Christi, the Trex company and A Bag's Life.

(see entire story on [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com))

State College, Pennsylvania

## For Elementary School Students Recycling Challenge is in the Bag

StateCollege.com - April 18, 2014 - video: <http://bit.ly/1mA0PNh>

Recycling is easy. In fact, you might say it's so easy, an elementary school student can do it.

What you might not know is how well an elementary school student can do it.

For the past eight weeks, 16 elementary schools in State College Area School District have been collecting plastic bags as part of a nationwide recycling challenge. A final weigh-in was conducted on Thursday. The grand total -- an astonishing 360,384 bags were collected, weighing in at over 5,631 pounds.

"This is the first time we've ever done anything like this," says Amy Schirf, education coordinator at Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority, who helped organize the event with local schools after reading about it online in mid-February. "And we did not think we were going to get anything like we've been getting. It's just been crazy."

While the competition brought a level of excitement to a simple task like recycling, schools have taken the opportunity to teach students how to protect the environment and understand the importance of reducing waste.

Students in Katie Roth's third grade class at Grays Woods Elementary say they recycled plastic bags from all over town, including stores such as Target, Wegman's, and Walmart, in addition to their own homes.

(see entire story on [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com))



# REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

**A Special Event To Launch  
A Bag's Life in New York**

**Tuesday, December 13 • 9:45 am**

**South Bay Elementary School  
160 Great East Neck Road • West Babylon**

**Special guest speaker  
Wayne Horsley, Suffolk County Legislator**

**A Bag's Life is a partnership between Retailers,  
Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Recyclers  
and Plastic Bag Producers to encourage New Yorkers  
to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Plastic Bags and Wraps**



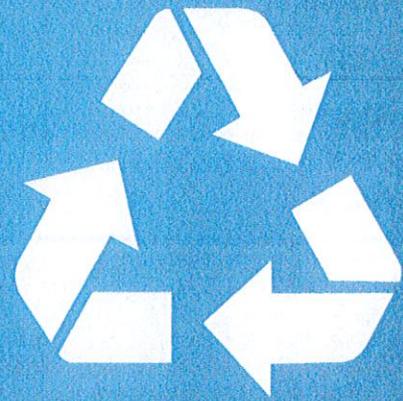
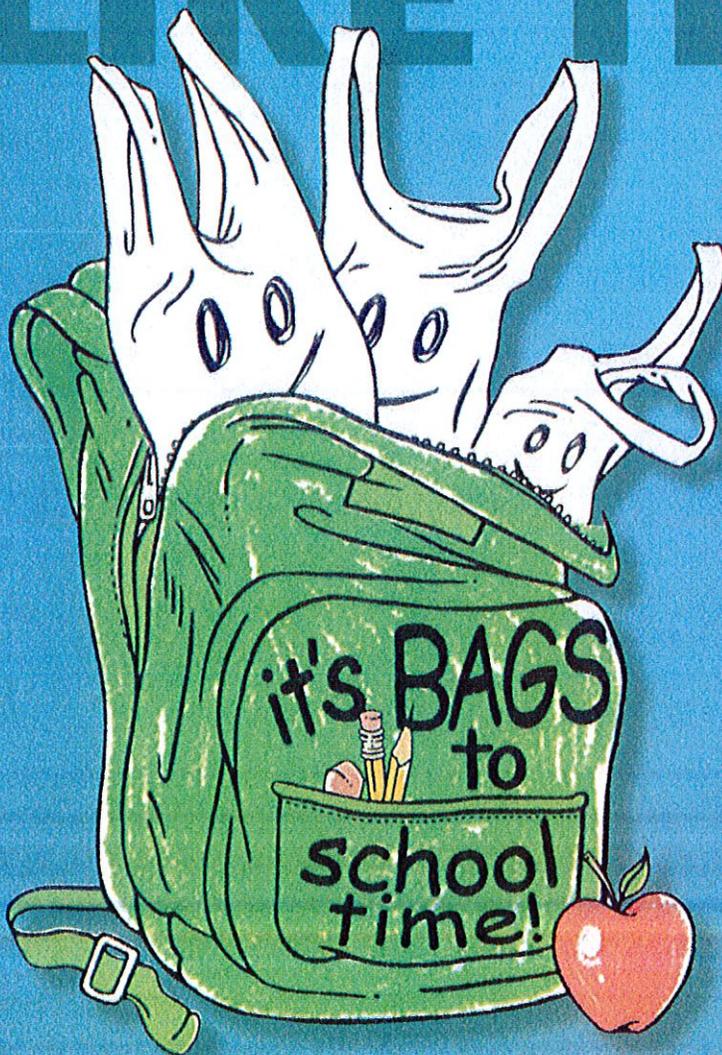
**[www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com)**

# DON'T TREAT ME LIKE TRASH!



# School Plastic Bag Collection Guide

# DON'T TREAT ME LIKE TRASH!



**Educating  
Students  
on Recycling**

**[abagslife.com](http://abagslife.com)**



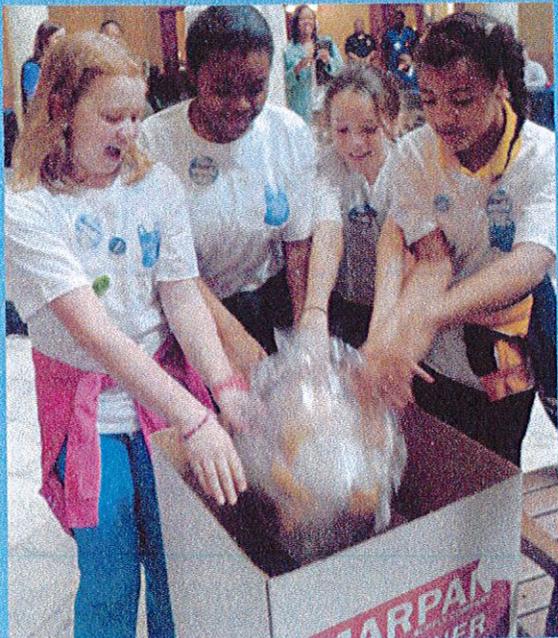


## All about us

A Bag's Life is a public educational campaign that unites non-profits, businesses, community and government organizations to raise awareness and make it easier for more people to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic bags. A Bag's Life website, [abagslife.com](http://abagslife.com), includes an app with locations where people can drop off bags and other household product wraps for recycling. Locations include the country's largest grocery and home improvement retailers.



## Why Start A School Plastic Bag Recycling Program?



A Bag's Life is bringing you a new way to get your school excited about recycling plastic bags.

Many communities offer curbside recycling for plastics, but what should you do if your community's program doesn't include recycling for plastic bags and plastic wraps? The answer is easy: take plastic bags and wraps back to a grocer or retailer who recycles them. The good news is that many major grocers and retailers all across the country will take back bags and wraps, so recycling can be as easy as reminding folks to do it.

Many, if not most, national grocery stores and national retailers all over the country — like Target, Lowe's Home Improvement and Walgreens — recycle bags and wraps. In fact, there are more than 15,000 store locations that collect these items across the United States.

A Bag's Life school recycling collection event will help educate students that recycling plastic bags and wraps is as simple as bringing them

back to a participating local store. It's also a great time to explain that once recycled, this valuable material can be made into products like low maintenance fencing, backyard decks, benches and new bags..

Students learn best by example and action. If they learn at a young age that bringing their bags back to a store that recycles, eventually it will become second nature. Instead of throwing plastic bags into the trash, they'll look for a recycling bin and hopefully teach their parents to do the same!

Send us an email to [info@abagslife.com](mailto:info@abagslife.com) and we will ship you a free kit with a variety of promotional giveaways, including tip cards, stickers and static clings for cars to remind students to recycle their plastic bags and wraps. These will be sent to you free of charge, while supplies last!



# Let's Get Started

## 1. Choose an organizer for the program

This could be a group of students, an environmental or science club, a committee of parents, a teacher or an administrator. This is your go-to person who will be responsible for the program.

## 2. Find a retail partner

Most large retail grocery stores recycle plastic bags. A Bag's Life partners can be found by typing in your zip code on the website – [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com) -- and finding retailers within a few miles of your school who recycle plastic bags. Contact the store and ask the manager if they would be willing to help you with the project, accept your bags and if they want to be a partner.

## 3. What type of event

Decide if you want this to be a contest between classrooms, grades or just a recycling event. You will need to choose a start date and an end date. Ask your retail partner if they would be willing to provide a prize – like a pizza party for the winning classroom or grade, if you are doing a contest. Or maybe they want to provide gift cards for supplies.

## 4. Choose recycling containers

If you are holding a contest, you may need a container in each classroom or store them in 30-gallon bags. Someone will need to count your bags. A full 30 gallon bag is approximately 1,000 grocery bags and weighs 13.5 pounds. This will be a good math project for your students, too.

## 5. Store your bags and then take them to the store

You will need to store your bags somewhere and then arrange to have them taken to the store for recycling. This is where your retail partner may be able to help, or at least offer suggestions.

## 6. Educate your students and teachers

The success of a recycling program depends on how well people participate. Make sure everyone knows what to do and why it is important. There are many ways to do this, including thru an assembly to launch your program, announcements, posters, research projects and guest speakers.

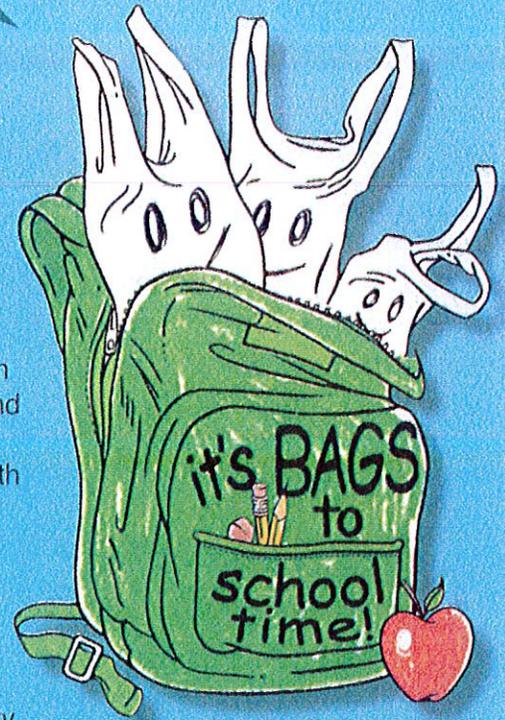
## 7. Success stories

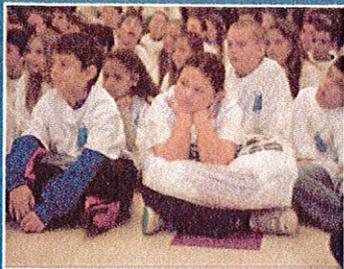
Give us a shout: [info@abagslife.com](mailto:info@abagslife.com)

Share on Facebook: [facebook.com/abagslife](https://facebook.com/abagslife)

Post on your page or tag us on yours: [#abagslife](https://twitter.com/abagslife)

A Bag's Life can provide you with Tip Cards that will help your students understand which items can be recycled along with their bags. Stickers also are available, as well as static clings to remind parents to bring back their bags when they go shopping.





reduce . recycle . reuse

## Did you know...

Wherever plastic bags are recycled, you can also recycle clean:

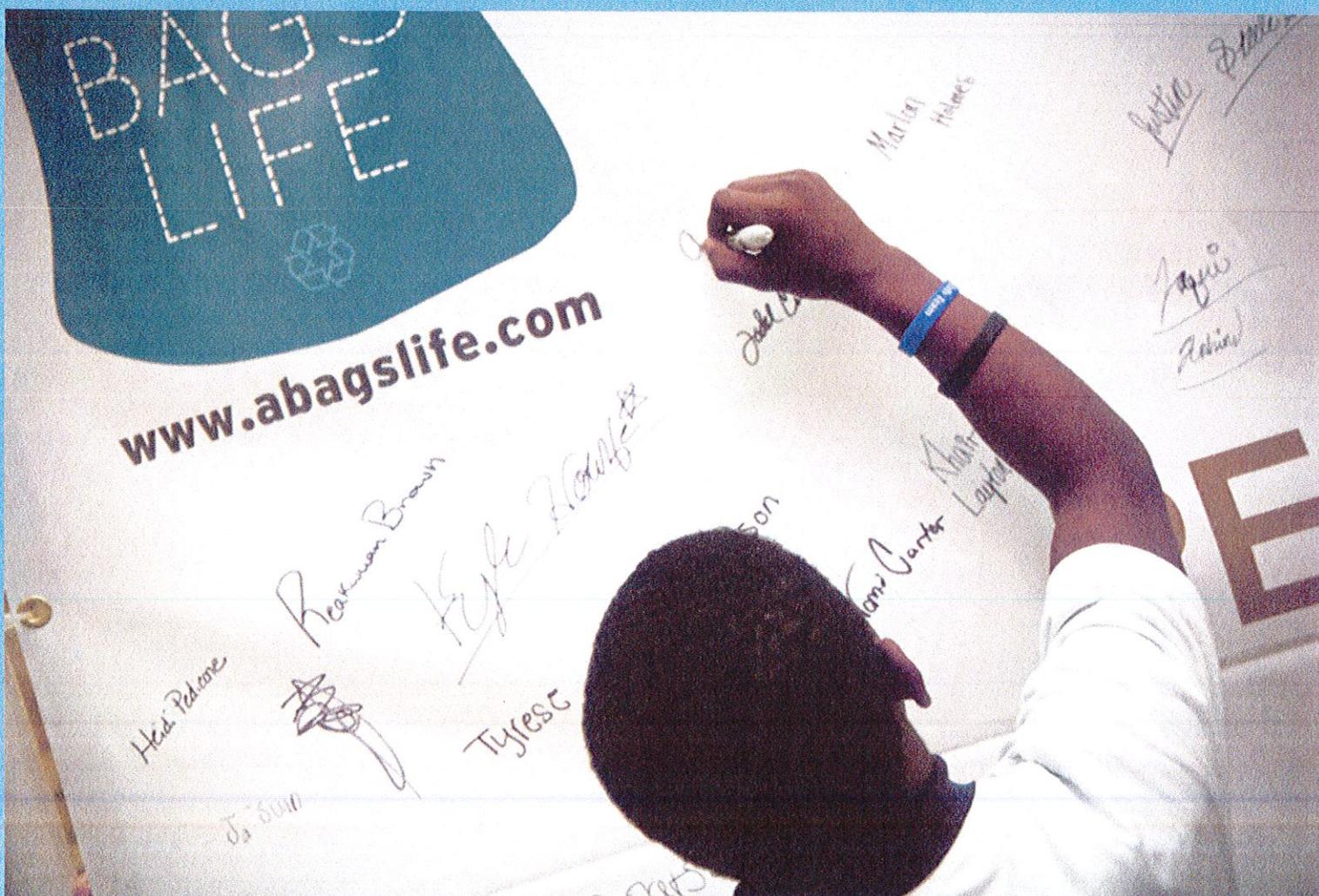
Newspaper Bags  
Dry Cleaning Bags  
Bread Bags  
Veggie Bags  
Toilet Paper Wraps

Napkin Wraps  
Paper Towel Wraps  
Furniture Wrap  
Electronic Wrap  
Plastic Retail Bags

Grocery Bags  
Food Storage Bags  
Cereal Box Liners  
Tyvek  
Diaper Wrap

Plastic Shipping Envelopes  
Case Wrap  
Ice Bags  
Bag's labeled #2 or #4

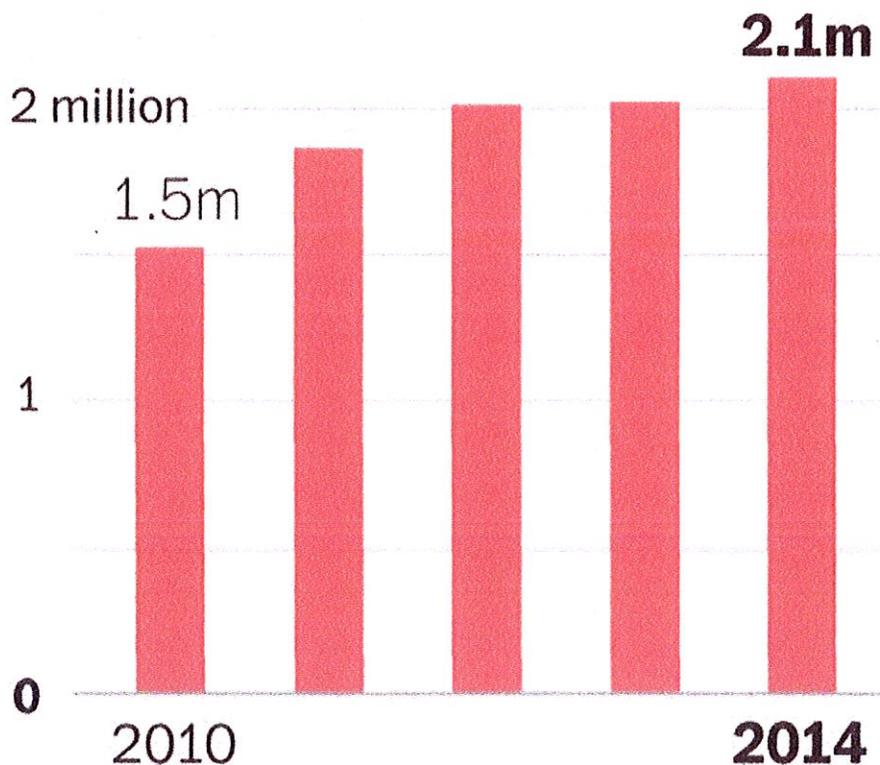
But, you cannot recycle these at the store: Food or cling wrap, prepackaged food bags like frozen food bags or prewashed salad bags, and wraps with a lot of glue.



[abagslife.com](http://abagslife.com)



## Yearly bag-fee revenue from the program's first five years

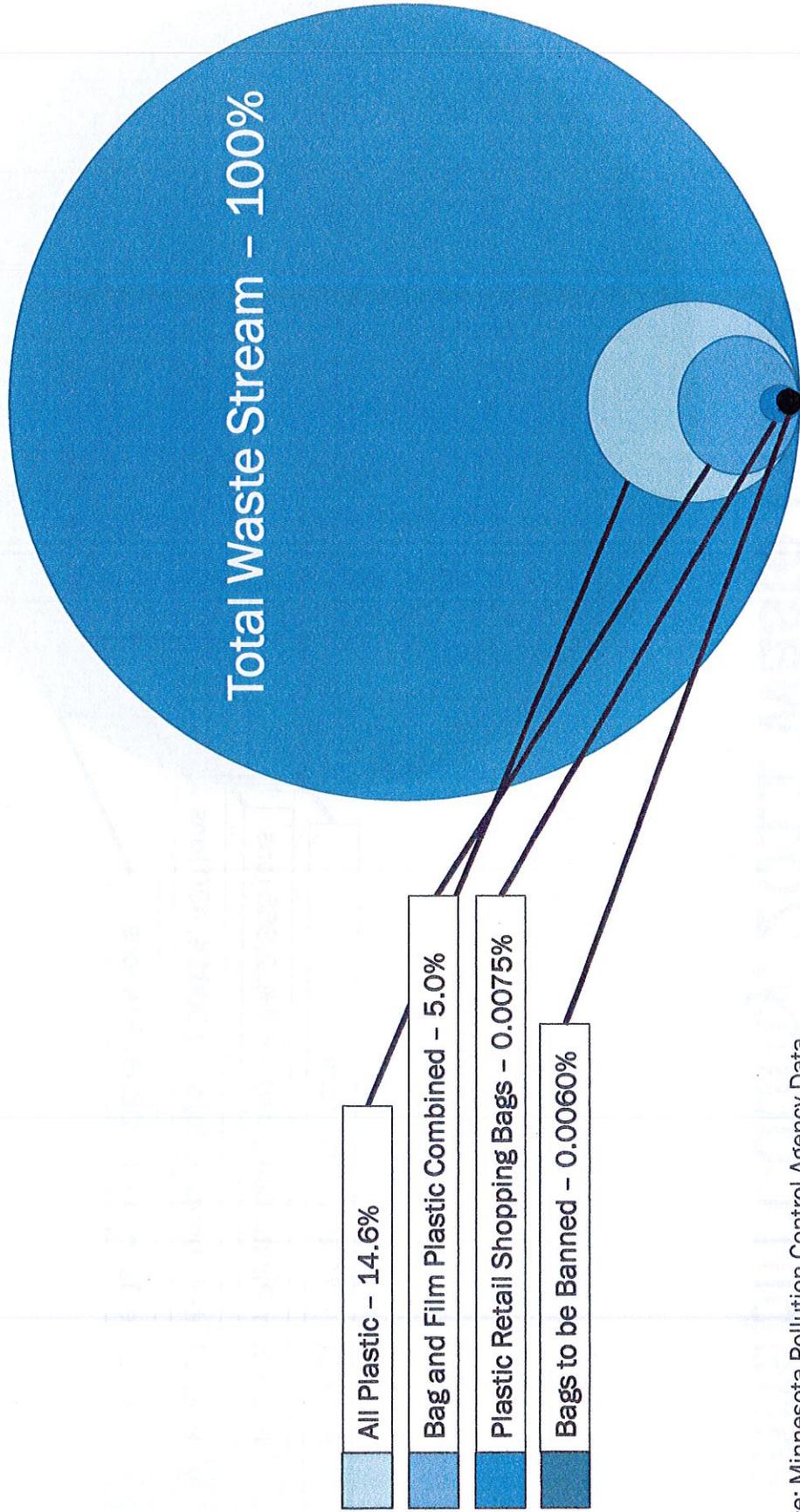


Note: FY2010 is a partial year, and D.C.'s population has increased by about 55,000 people in five years.

Source: FOIA request filled by the District Department of the Environment

THE WASHINGTON POST

# St. Paul Transfer Station, 2013 Waste Profile



Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Data

**From:** [ajschmid@boreal.org](mailto:ajschmid@boreal.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 3:32:31 PM

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I just returned from AZ where, as in Mpls, grocery clerks auto-bag groceries to the point of bagging single items & in my case, often prompting my Q'-do I have to have a plastic bag? When they say no & remove the bag, I try to nicely suggest that they only offer bags upon request. Typically they tell me that management requires them to do so.

Unless this is curtailed by ordinance, this sort of practice will continue nationwide & the corollary will be that this garbage will continue to fill our landfills & worse will remain a continuing , major source of litter.

It isn't hard to bring your own bag.

The process starts @ the local level. Thanks

--

Boreal Access Web Mailer

**From:** [Alesha Baerenwald](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 8:21:07 AM

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I completely support banning plastic bags. I already carry one in my purse at all times. I think it's the right next step to creating a more environmentally friendly city. Please pass the ban.

Alesha

**From:** [Sean Gosiewski](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y.](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#)  
**Subject:** Monday Hearing - Bring your own bag ordinance - Letter of Support - Alliance for Sustainability  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 3:25:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Alliance for Sustainability Endorsement Bring your Own Bag.pdf](#)

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March 15, 2016

Peggy Menshek, Minneapolis City Council Committee Coordinator

[Peggy.Menshek@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Peggy.Menshek@minneapolismn.gov)

Cam Gordon City Council Member Second Ward 612-673-2202 [cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov)

Abdi Warsame City Council Member Sixth Ward 673-2206 [Abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov)

350 South 5th Street - Room 307 Minneapolis MN 55415

Dear Council Members,

The Alliance for Sustainability, with 1,200 members in Minneapolis **formally endorses** the proposed **Minneapolis Bring Your Own Bag ordinance** to regulate the use of carry-out bags in Minneapolis by prohibiting distribution of non-compostable plastic bags and requiring retailers to charge a fee (that they would keep) for paper bags to encourage people to bring their own bag when they shop.

We support this proposed ordinance for major reasons - litter, waste, lifecycle environmental impacts, and problems at recycling facilities.

- **Litter:** In 2002, 50 to 80 million bags ended up as litter in the environment in the US. Once plastic enters the environment, it never leaves – just becomes smaller and smaller pieces of plastic. This plastic has negative impacts on many forms of wildlife.
- **Waste:** Minnesotans throw away 87,000 tons of plastic bags every year and in Minneapolis, most plastic bags end up in the downtown garbage burner. Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled in the US.
- **Lifecycle impacts:** All bags require energy, create waste, and cause air and water pollution. Single-use paper bags create 64 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 31 pounds of water pollution per 10,000 uses. Single-use plastic bags create 9 cubic pounds of solid waste, 18 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 2 pounds of water pollution per 10,000 uses.

The Alliance for Sustainability supports communities to follow the principles of the Natural Step Framework to work toward long term sustainability and the Bring your Own Bag Ordinance will help Minneapolis move toward a Zero Waste goal and help meet all 4 conditions for long term sustainability.

Thanks so much for working to enact this ordinance! Sustainably,

Sean Gosiewski, Executive Director  
Alliance for Sustainability,

In the GreenWay Building, 2801 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S. Suite 100,  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

612-250-0389 [sean@afors.org](mailto:sean@afors.org)

[www.afors.org](http://www.afors.org) [www.allianceforsustainability.com](http://www.allianceforsustainability.com)

**From:** [Amy Hubbard](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 10:57:55 AM

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I think you should implement the single use plastic bag ban. Many other communities have. We will all adjust....whine, cry and complain first, but adjust. It's the right thing to do.

Amy Hubbard

**From:** [Anne LaLonde Laux](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 6:52:44 AM

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Please ban plastic bags within the city.

Anne Laux  
5012 Colfax Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN. 55419

**From:** [annea1608@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:annea1608@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** I support the plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:19:05 AM

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**From:** [april](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 8:40:30 AM

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I'm a huge fan on a ban on plastic bags as described in a recent City of Minneapolis Recycling Reminder email! And, a 5 cent charge for paper bags is great too! I really hope it is implemented- there are easy and inexpensive options for reusable bags these days, so that shouldn't be a barrier.

April Zoll Close

**From:** [Barb Stevens](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:35:01 AM

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I am in support of the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance!

**From:** [Beth Hannan](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 4:48:06 PM

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Please ban plastic bags in Minneapolis. This is an easy thing to solve and we can all adapt!

Thank you,  
Beth Hannan

**From:** [Brett Smith](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic ban bag  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 5:59:30 PM

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Dear Council Member: I strongly support the banning of plastic bags in Minneapolis. I would prefer a ban that has as few exemptions as possible. Thank you for any efforts you can make or assure that we get this ban in place. Thank you.

Brett Smith  
5300 Irving Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Mn 55419  
612-920-9569

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Carol Syverson](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 8:53:19 AM

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Hello,

Please pass the proposed Bring your own bag ordinance. It is a simple way to encourage all to create less waste. Minneapolis is behind in this. I have traveled for years to both the east and west coast and most areas charge a fee to buy a plastic bag if you do not have one. It is motivating to help you remember that reusable bag in the car!

Thank you to all for your consideration.

Carol Syverson  
4020 Vincent Ave S

**From:** [Annie Hall](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Carry out bags in retail establishments ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:43:19 AM

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Dear City Council,

I have a few questions/comments about the proposed ordinance regarding carry out bags.

If the proposal goes through, and single-use plastic bags are prohibited, how much do we expect the use of paper bags to increase? Has this been measured in other cities? Will we actually be reducing net greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution with passage of this ordinance? I'm assuming that an environmental scientist could calculate the net result (including pollution from recycling paper bags, etc.), but I didn't see that information in the Carryout Bags in Retail Establishments Presentation.

My second question/concern is regarding small garbage can liners. I currently use single use plastic bags (such as ones from the grocery store) to line my small garbage cans. I know I am not alone in this - it makes it less messy to remove the garbage from the can, and I also have heard that residents of Minneapolis are not supposed to put trash in their trash collection bins unless it is in a trash bag? I am interested to hear what the alternative proposals are for lining small garbage cans. I have tried using BioBag brand compostable bags designed for food scraps, but I found that they were only suitable for dry garbage. Anything wet tended to make the BioBag decompose, and so it ended up being ineffective for garbage that is wet.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,  
Anna C. Hall

**From:** [catduf1707@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:catduf1707@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:13:21 AM

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I support the plastic bag bans

Catherine Duffy-Shaw      203 Ms. Zastrow/White

**From:** [chaayl0805@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:chaayl0805@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** I Support the Plastic Bag Ban  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:14:04 AM

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Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Plastic Bag Ban  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 4:33:25 PM

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fyi

**From:** Charlie McAwesome [mailto:buddah.happy@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 5:52 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Cam A.  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban

Hello Councilman Gordon,

I am writing you to express my support for the proposed ban on plastic bags in Minneapolis.

I have lived in Minneapolis for the majority of my life, with the exception of two years living in San Francisco, CA.

While living in San Francisco a ban on single use plastic bags was proposed, passed, and implemented. "Reusable" plastic bags were available for a charge of 10¢. I worked in retail, a Costume shop on a busy section of Haight St. Before the ban the customers I spoke with were about 50/50 whether they were for or against the ban. As shortly as a month after the ban went into effect we were all used to it, and almost no one complained. The number of customers bringing their own reusable bags skyrocketed. The 10¢ charge was just enough of a reminder to keep reusable bags on all of our minds, and to remember to bring them along.

San Francisco, though wonderful, is a FILTHY city. While still the usual detritus clung to the streets there was an easily noted lack of plastic bags blowing around.

Minneapolis, with it's incredible parks and green spaces would be all the more beautiful for not choking it with excess plastic.

Just about every Minneapolitan I know has a drawer or hook overflowing with canvas bags. A 5¢ charge is no hardship and will have the benefit of a constant reminder to bring ones reusable bags shopping.

In a city which prides itself on its forward thinking and natural beauty a ban on plastic bags fits perfectly.

Thank you for supporting the plastic bag ban!

Sincerely,  
Charles McDowell  
612-239-4137  
4337 14th ave s  
Minneapolis, mn 55407

**From:** [Chris Sigurdson](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 12:40:39 PM

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Our household of 4 people is entirely in support of the ban. Very easy to adapt to.  
Thank you

**From:** [Lloyd, Christine](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:05:03 AM

---

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my support of the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance for these reasons:

- < 5% of bags are ever recycled.
- 10% of the plastic produced worldwide every year winds up in the ocean.
- 70% of plastic finds its way to the ocean floor, where it will likely never degrade.
- There is 6X more plastic debris than zooplankton in areas of the Northern Pacific Ocean.

Sincerely,

Christine Lloyd

4815 York Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55410

612-237-0943

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**From:** [Citizen Kanine](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 3:48:46 PM

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Greetings -

We are writing to request that you support the proposed **single use plastic bag ban**. As a small, locally owned dog walking business we use an average of 20 biodegradable plastic bags every day. While we have access to an endless supply of free commercial plastic bags we choose to purchase biodegradable bags in effort to support the environment.

As you know, the average American family uses 1,500 plastic bags per year. At least 12 million barrels of oil are used per year in the manufacture of those plastic grocery bags. Less than 5% are ever recycled. We can learn to take reusable bags with us! China banned plastic bags at checkouts in 2008. A year later, a Chinese retail association reported that the move had saved 1.6 tons of oil and 40 billion plastic bags. 10% of all plastics produced ends up in the ocean. Last year a study found that 90% of all sea birds had plastic in their guts; other studies show that one million birds and 100,000 turtles and other sea animals die of starvation each year after ingesting discarded plastic bags which block their digestive tracks.

Thank you for supporting your voter base!

Curtis and Lisa Johnson

--

Citizen Kanine, LLC  
Good Dogs. Better Owners.  
[Visit our Facebook page](#)

**From:** [Dallas Rising](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** Bring Your Own Bag  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:33:03 PM

---

I'm writing to express support for the BYOB ordinance under consideration for Minneapolis. I'm sure many people have covered many reasons for supporting this effort. Mine are rooted in concerns for animals, via the environment. Not only are plastic bags wasteful, but they also kill indiscriminately.

Dallas Rising  
3853 Columbus Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

--

“Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem.”

— *A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh*

**From:** [Dana Kirkemo](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:29:54 PM

---

We are in full support of banning plastic grocery bags. It's important for the environment. We live near the river and often see plastic bags in the Mississippi River.

Thank you for trying to change this.

Dana Kirkemo and Doug Cousins  
Downtown Minneapolis residents- Ward 3

**From:** [davfro2905@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:davfro2905@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:38:13 AM

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Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Denise Musser](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 9:00:11 PM

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Please support the plastic bag ban. I can't stand the sight of them blowing around the city, stuck in the fences, in the water and lakes. They are not necessary.

Europe, Hawaii and other places have banned them in a reasonable manner. It's not a huge controversy and can save us cleaning up our waterways in the long run. Please support this as it's the reasonable, responsible thing to do. We want this for ourselves and our children.

Thank you.  
Denise Musser  
Minneapolis, MN

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Dennis&Susan Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2016 2:58:54 PM

---

I support the proposal to eliminate single use plastic bags. They are a waste and not good for the environment.

I've been to Rwanda, where plastic bags aren't allowed, and the capital city, Kigali, is remarkably clean. Also, I lived in DC for about 18 years and we had a small charge (5 cents or so) for bags supplied by the store.

Sent quickly from my iPhone so please forgive misspelling and take no offense at brief responses.

**From:** [Doreen k](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:39:31 AM

---

I wholeheartedly support the proposed "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags.

Thank you,

Doreen Kloehn  
4036 Xerxes Ave S  
Minneapolis MN 55410

**From:** [Dottie Dolezal](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#)  
**Subject:** Ban Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 8:21:06 AM

---

Dear Council Members,

Please support the bill to eliminate single use plastic bags in Minneapolis. It is a smart move for us, the city and the world. We don't need more pollution in our city. The exceptions to the ban also seem reasonable.

Thank you

Dorothy and James Dolezal  
3005 West 43rd St  
Minneapolis MN 55410

**From:** [Edward Crandall](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 7:31:15 PM

---

Greetings,

My personal opinion is that the cheap plastic bags (like those featured at Target Stores) has very little redeeming value. Paper bags are much more stable and they are easily re-cycled.

Please vote to eliminate the annoying, possibly polluting plastic shopping bag!

Best,

Edward Crandall

Edward Crandall  
Sourcing Options  
4237 Linden Hills Blvd  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
612-860-5417  
[edwardallencrandall@gmail.com](mailto:edwardallencrandall@gmail.com)  
SKYPE: eddiecrandall

I speak not only for myself, but also as a representative of the East Isles Green Team, and the East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA).

First, I would like to state, **for the record, that both the East Isles Residents Association and the East Isle Green Team have voted to endorse the proposed plastic bag ordinance of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances.**

Second, speaking for myself, I would like to remind everyone that this is a very modest ordinance. We should all be considering ways to decrease all uses of plastic bags in our daily lives. Even the seemingly "less hazardous plastics", like low density polyethylene (LDPE) found in single use grocery bags, actually present hazards from their time of production through their disposal to both health and environment. Although plastics create a huge amount of garbage, I will focus on some health effects of plastics.

Not only are plastic bags made of toxic substances, such as benzene, and sometimes, metal colorants, which create hazards for workers producing the bags; but discarded bags can absorb toxins from the environment. This poses a direct threat to fish, birds, turtles, even earthworms, and ultimately all of us.

*2.00006 ->* Fish and turtles mistake plastic bags for food. When plastic bags block their digestive systems, they may starve <sup>(1)</sup>. And when turtles swallow bags, gas from indigestible food makes them buoyant, and they can no longer dive for food. Birds are smothered by plastic bags <sup>(1)</sup>. Ingested polyethylene particles can alter hormone regulation in fish <sup>(2)</sup>. When earthworms digest plastic particles, these particles, with associated toxins, pass into our soil and surface water <sup>(3)</sup>.

As plastics pass through the food chain, they not only deplete our food supply by killing fish and birds, but have direct effects on humans, including increased cancer rates, and potential birth defects. Polyethylene can absorb organic contaminants, more than some other plastics <sup>(4)</sup>. Polychlorobiphenyls, (PCBs) are absorbed by LDPE, and can be transferred by ingestion to organisms, such as young water birds <sup>(5)</sup>. When humans eat fish from areas of the Great Lakes that are contaminated with high concentrations of PCBs, the PCBs can contribute to delayed human nervous system development <sup>(6)</sup>.

In conclusion, to help protect both our ourselves and our environment, I urge you to limit the use of plastic bags in Minneapolis stores.

References:

- 1) Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B 2009 364 2013-2025; DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2008.0265.  
Published 14 June 2009  
**Environmental implications of plastic debris in marine settings—  
entanglement, ingestion, smothering, hangers-on, hitchhiking and  
alien invasions. \*\*This is a GOOD GENERAL REFERENCE**
  
- 2) Sci Total Environ. 2014 Sep 15;493:656-61. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.06.051.  
Epub 2014 Jul 1.  
**Early warning signs of endocrine disruption in adult fish from the  
ingestion of polyethylene with and without sorbed chemical  
pollutants from the marine environment.**
  
- 3) Environ. Sci. Technol. 10.1021/acs.est.5b)5478
  
- 4) Environ Sci Technol. 2013 Feb 5;47(3):1646-54. doi: 10.1021/es303700s. Epub  
2013 Jan 9.  
**Long-term field measurement of sorption of organic contaminants to  
five types of plastic pellets: implications for plastic marine debris.**
  
- 5) Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B 2009 364 2027-2045; DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2008.0284.  
Published 14 June 2009  
**Transport and release of chemicals from plastics to the environment  
and to wildlife**
  
- 6) Toxicol Ind Health. 2000 Sep;16(7-8):305-33.  
**Effects of polychlorinated biphenyls on the nervous system.**

**From:** [elecla0204@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:elecla0204@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Cam.gordan@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Cam.gordan@minneapolismn.gov)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:15:48 AM

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Thanks! Eleanor

**From:** [EF sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 2:22:10 PM

---

I support the ban on single use plastic bags.

Ella Sullivan, Minneapolis resident

**From:** [elcon0210@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:elcon0210@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:21:47 AM

---

I support no plastic bags.  
Sent from my iPad



Our mission is to reduce waste today through innovative resource management and to reach a waste-free tomorrow by demonstrating that waste is preventable, not inevitable.

Cam Gordon (chair)  
Andrew Johnson (vice-chair)  
Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee  
City of Minneapolis City Council  
Minneapolis MN 55401

March 21, 2016

Dear Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Johnson, and Committee Members:

Eureka Recycling expresses our strong support for the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. As a nonprofit, social enterprise with a zero waste mission, we strongly support the elimination of disposable bags both plastic and paper in favor of reusable bags made of renewable, safe materials. Because of the deleterious effects on the environment and our health that plastic bags specifically cause, Eureka Recycling supports a plastic bag ban with an associated fee for any other disposable bags.

Plastic bags are often reported as a very small percentage of the waste stream because discards are typically measured by weight. However, this metric does not provide a complete picture of the impacts of plastic bags.

- Single-use high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bags pose significant problems to the environment, wildlife, and human health through their production, use, and disposal. Made from crude oil, natural gas and other petrochemical derivatives, an estimated 12 million barrels of non-renewable oil are needed to make the 100 billion plastic bags Americans use annually—more than 330 per person per year.<sup>1</sup>
- The amount of time a plastic bag is used by a consumer (roughly 12 minutes or less) is a tiny fraction of the amount of time it exists after being disposed of or littered in the environment.
  - Loose in the environment, plastic never biodegrades; instead it slowly photo degrades. As it photo degrades, plastic film breaks into smaller and smaller pieces which attract surrounding toxins. When mistaken as a food source, these plastic particles form a progressively greater health risk of food chain contamination.
  - When plastic bags are disposed of in Minneapolis, the majority are sent to HERC to be burned, creating dioxins and other toxins harmful to human health. The EPA reported that 1.4 billion pounds of plastic bags were generated while the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) report estimated that only 65 million pounds were collected for recycling – resulting in a 5% recycling rate. The EPA reports that paper sacks are recycled at a 49% rate.

2828 Kennedy Street NE \ Minneapolis, MN 55413 \ (651) 222-7678 \ Fax (612) 623-3277 \ [www.eurekarecycling.org](http://www.eurekarecycling.org)

Eureka Recycling is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. It is our policy to hire without discrimination based on race, creed, religion, sex, color, national origin, sexual or affectional orientation, ancestry, familial status, age, disability, marital status or status with regard to public assistance.

Printed on 100% postconsumer recycled paper that was processed without the use of chlorine.

- Part of Eureka’s zero waste work includes the operation of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located in northeast Minneapolis, where we currently “process” (sort and send to be made into new products) over 200 tons of recyclables a day from around the Metro area. While plastic bags are recyclable through drop off programs (i.e. at grocery stores), they cause huge problems in recycling facilities like ours and thus are not accepted in residential collection programs. This can be confusing for consumers – if the bags are technically recyclable, why can’t we put them in the recycling cart?

In short, to separate the materials from one giant pile into over a dozen different materials to send to markets, all MRFs use equipment that rotates on axles somewhere in their process. Plastic bags get wound and bound around these axles and require facilities to shut down the whole operation in order for someone to climb into the equipment and remove the bags, decreasing the efficiency of recycling overall. The bags are then too dirty and wet to be recycled and have to be sent to the burner or landfill.

In February the Minneapolis Council voted unanimously to approve the Department of Public Works to negotiate a contract with Eureka to begin processing all the recyclables from single-family homes in Minneapolis beginning in November. We are excited about the opportunity to steward these resources on behalf of Minneapolis residents. We applaud Councilmember Gordon and Councilmember Warsame for their leadership on this important issue, and look forward to further collaboration outside the scope of the recycling contract to pursue more of the City’s zero waste goals.

Sincerely,



Bryan Ukena  
Co-President



Tim Brownell  
Co-President

**From:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Eureka Recycling letter of support for the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:50:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[ER\\_Minneapolis\\_BringYourOwnBagOrdinance\\_Letter\\_of\\_Support.pdf](#)

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**From:** Lynn Hoffman [mailto:[lynnh@eurekarecycling.org](mailto:lynnh@eurekarecycling.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:27 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Cam A.; Johnson, Andrew; Frey, Jacob; [Elizabeth.glidden@minneapolis.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.glidden@minneapolis.gov); Cano, Alondra; Bender, Lisa  
**Cc:** Tim Brownell; Bryan Ukena; Kate Davenport  
**Subject:** Eureka Recycling letter of support for the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance

Dear Councilmember Gordon, Councilmember Johnson, and Committee Members:

Eureka Recycling expresses our strong support for the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. As a nonprofit, social enterprise with a zero waste mission, we strongly support the elimination of disposable bags both plastic and paper in favor of reusable bags made of renewable, safe materials. Because of the deleterious effects on the environment and our health that plastic bags specifically cause, Eureka Recycling supports a plastic bag ban with an associated fee for any other disposable bags.

Plastic bags are often reported as a very small percentage of the waste stream because discards are typically measured by weight. However, this metric does not provide a complete picture of the impacts of plastic bags.

- Single-use plastic bags pose significant problems to the environment, wildlife, and human health through their production, use, and disposal. Made from crude oil, natural gas and other petrochemical derivatives, an estimated 12 million barrels of non-renewable oil are needed to make the 100 billion plastic bags Americans use annually—more than 330 per person per year.
- The amount of time a plastic bag is used by a consumer (roughly 12 minutes or less) is a tiny fraction of the amount of time it exists after being disposed of or littered in the environment.
  - Loose in the environment, plastic never biodegrades; instead it slowly photo degrades. As it photo degrades, plastic film breaks into smaller and smaller pieces which attract surrounding toxins. When mistaken as a food source, these plastic particles form a progressively greater health risk of food chain contamination.
  - When plastic bags are disposed of in Minneapolis, the majority are sent to HERC to be burned, creating dioxins and other toxins harmful to human health. The EPA reported that 1.4 billion pounds of plastic bags were generated while the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) report estimated that only 65 million pounds were collected for recycling – resulting in a 5% recycling rate. The EPA reports that paper sacks are recycled at a 49% rate.
- Part of Eureka Recycling's zero waste work includes the operation of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located in northeast Minneapolis, where we currently

“process” (sort and send to be made into new products) over 200 tons of recyclables a day from around the Metro area. While plastic bags are recyclable through drop off programs (i.e. at grocery stores), they cause huge problems in recycling facilities like ours and thus are not accepted in residential collection programs. This can be confusing for consumers – if the bags are technically recyclable, why can’t we put them in the recycling cart?

In short, to separate the materials from one giant pile into over a dozen different materials to send to markets, all MRFs use equipment that rotates on axles somewhere in their process. Plastic bags get wound and bound around these axles and require facilities to shut down the whole operation in order for someone to climb into the equipment and remove the bags, decreasing the efficiency of recycling overall. The bags are then too dirty and wet to be recycled and have to be sent to the burner or landfill.

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Sincerely,

Bryan Ukena  
Co-President

Tim Brownell  
Co-President

**Lynn Hoffman**

*Chief of Community Engagement*

W: 612.455.9112 | M: 651.270.7071 | [Website](#)

Zero-Waste Hotline: 612.NO-WASTE (669.2783)

*Waste is preventable, not inevitable.*



**From:** [Felicity Britton](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Goodman, Lisa R.](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:34:10 AM

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[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/31/world/europe/31iht-bags.4.9650382.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/31/world/europe/31iht-bags.4.9650382.html?_r=0)I would like to register my support of the proposed Bring Your own Bag ordinance.

The Average American Family takes home 1,500 plastic bags per year (around 400 billion or more nationally). At least 12 million barrels of oil are used per year in the manufacture of those plastic grocery bags. Less than 5% of plastic grocery bags are recycled.

Once in the waste stream they don't break down for hundreds of years, and if they do break down, they degrade into smaller pieces that make their way into our waterways. In August 2015, it was reported that 90% of seabirds have plastic in their guts. They mistake the plastic for fish and eggs.

It costs less than a penny to manufacture a plastic bag but the estimated litter clean-up cost per bag is about \$.21 to the taxpayers.

After Ireland imposed a fee on plastic bags, use dropped 94%. In Washington DC, a 5c fee per bag led to a decrease from 22.5 million bags used a month to 3.3 million per month. After Denmark introduced their legislation, the average Dane takes home just 4 plastic bags per year.

I think Minneapolis has a chance to be a state leader in joining the hundreds of cities, counties and countries around the world who realize that this multi billion plastic bag habit is just not sustainable or necessary. Our air, water and wildlife are counting on us. We can do it!

Felicity Britton  
2720 W 43rd St, # 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
612-275-5659 cell  
612-925-4249 home

**Plastic bag facts:**

Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. That's over one million plastic bags used per minute.

Source: [planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/plastic-bag-facts.html](http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/plastic-bag-facts.html)

Roughly 80 percent of those bags were used in North America and Western Europe. Every year, Americans reportedly throw away 100 billion plastic grocery bags.

Source: [www.worldwatch.org/node/5565](http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5565)

The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year.

Source: [www.nrdc.org/media/2008/080109.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/media/2008/080109.asp)

At least 12 million barrels of oil are used per year in the manufacture of those plastic grocery bags.

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Less than 5% of plastic grocery bags are recycled.

Source: EPA

Scientists estimate that every square mile of ocean contains about 46,000 pieces of floating plastic. Researchers have found that plastic debris acts like a sponge for toxic chemicals, soaking up a million fold greater concentration (than surrounding water) of such deadly compounds as PCBs and DDE. Becoming highly toxic poison to marine animals which frequently consume these particles.

Source: [www.sprep.org/factsheets/pdfs/plasticbags.pdf](http://www.sprep.org/factsheets/pdfs/plasticbags.pdf)

There is now six times more plastic debris in parts of the North Pacific Ocean than zooplankton. Source: [www.acfnewsresource.org/environment/plastic\\_plankton.html](http://www.acfnewsresource.org/environment/plastic_plankton.html)

At least 267 different species are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of plastic marine debris.

Source: [www.worldwatch.org/node/5565](http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5565)

10% of the plastic produced every year worldwide winds up in the ocean. 70% of which finds its way to the ocean floor, where it will likely never degrade. Source: (United Nations).

Ireland imposed a plastic bag fee in 2002. Within weeks use of plastic bags dropped 94%. all money from the plastic bag tax goes directly to the environment ministry for use in enforcement and clean-up projects.

"I spent many months arguing against this tax with the minister, I thought customers wouldn't accept it," said Feargal Quinn, a senator and founder of Ireland's largest chain of supermarkets. "But I have become a big, big enthusiast."

Quinn...added: "We were using millions of plastic bags a year and they were all being imported and only used once. Now we're saving the environment, we're reducing litter and since we're not paying for bags it ultimately saves money for us and that reduces the price of food for our customers."

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/31/world/europe/31iht-bags.4.9650382.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/31/world/europe/31iht-bags.4.9650382.html?_r=0)

Ikea and Aldi have been charging for bags for years and people still shop there.

China banned plastic bags at checkouts in 2008. A year later, a Chinese retail association reported that the move had saved 1.6 tons of oil and 40 billion plastic bags.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/plastic-bag-ban-proposal-heads-to-minneapolis-council-could-face-criticism/318486511/>

Plastic bags can clog storm drains and recycling streams and cost millions of dollars for cities to maintain, repair and clean-up.

More than 10 percent of washed-up debris polluting the U.S. coastline is made up of plastic bags.

An estimated one million birds and 100,000 turtles and other sea animals die of starvation each year after ingesting discarded plastic bags which block their digestive tracks.

It costs less than a penny to manufacture a plastic bag the estimated litter clean-up cost per bag is about \$.21 to the taxpayers.

Source: <http://www.townoftruckee.com/departments/solid-waste-recycling/single-use-bag-ordinance>

Plastic bags when recycled are DOWNcycled – into things that can only be used/recycled once.

in Washington, D.C., a five-cent fee on plastic and paper bags went into effect in January 2010, levied in every business that sells food or alcohol. And it worked -- in just the first month, plastic bag use plummeted to 3.3 million at food retailers, the city reported, down from an average of 22.5 million a month in 2009.

A [2008 Washington city report](#) showed that 47 percent of the trash in the Anacostia River tributaries and 21 percent in the main stream came from plastic bags. Since the fee went into effect in January 2010, plastic bags in the D.C. waters of the Anacostia fell 66 percent from 2009, according to a local environmental group that hosts an annual river clean-up.

Source: <http://archive.earth.org/article/how-dc-beat-the-plastic-bag-lobby>

Denmark introduced a plastic bag fee in 1993. Now Danes use an average of 4 plastic bags per person per year.

Up to 90% of seabirds have plastic in their gut, a rate that is predicted to be 99% by 2050.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/01/up-to-90-of-seabirds-have-plastic-in-their-guts-study-finds>

**We are living on this planet as if we had another one to go to.**

**From:** [West, George](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Banning Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 7:56:54 AM

---

Raising awareness through education and voluntary participation in a “bring your own bag” approach is the best path. Legislating behavior such as this only leads to more harmful unintended consequences. Please focus your energy on more pressing governmental issues.

George West

**From:** [ginny templeton](#)  
**To:** [Johnson, Barbara A. - City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Comment](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#)  
**Subject:** No Delay for Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 2:20:14 PM

---

Please do not delay the vote for the BYOB ordinance.

The average American family takes home 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year and when not recycled here is what happens

< 5% of bags are ever recycled.

10% of the plastic produced worldwide every year winds up in the ocean.

70% of plastic finds its way to the ocean floor, where it will likely never degrade.

There is 6X more plastic debris than zooplankton in areas of the Northern Pacific Ocean.

Sincerely,  
Ginny Templeton



HEALTHY FOODS LOCAL FARMERS

March 30, 2016

Dear Council Members and Committee –

I am writing in response to the proposed plastic bag ordinance. I am very concerned about the ordinance's potential effects within a Farmers Market setting.

Let me start by saying, we are in full support of reducing the use of plastic bags. As the FIRST Zero Waste Farmers Market in the state, we have been diverting over 95% of our waste for the past 8 years. In addition, we understand the goal and need to incentivize consumers to shift away from single-use bags, we remind customers to bring their own bags weekly, but behavior change is slow.

As written, however, the proposed ordinance stands to greatly impact our local farmers that comprise the backbone of the City's farmers markets and local food system in a way that is distinct from grocery stores or other retail environments.

In the current definition of carryout bags, there is an exception for "(1) bags without handles used by customers inside stores to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, ..." Per a conversation with Robin Garwood, I understand that this exception was intended to apply to a farmers market setting as well. However, that intention is not clear as written, as farmers markets do not take place "inside stores."

Mandating a 'minimum \$.05 cents' for every bag with handles provided to customers has unique challenges for our market vendors. Our vendors do not have automated point of sale systems, and do not always carry coins. Vendors that do have change in coins frequently only have quarters, and most Farmers Market products are typically priced and rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Therefore the typical Farmers Market transaction under the ordinance as written would play out as follows:*

*A customer is buying a tray of cucumbers, peppers & onions and a bunch of carrots for \$10 and didn't bring their own bag. The farmer would:*

- a) need to have stacks of coins to make .95 cents change for each customer needing a handled bag.*
- b) 'price' the goods at \$9.95 instead and absorb the 5 cents (plus the additional 10 cents for the compostable bag as they are more expensive). Thus reducing their margin on each sale by 15 cents.*
- c) not offer bags with handles only 'produce bags' and the customer needs to juggle four produce bags or more likely the customer would end up buying less because it's difficult to carry.*

Our market is committed to actively working with our vendors and customers to encourage the use of reusable bags. However, we hope the Council will also take into consideration the unique challenges of implementing such an ordinance within the Farmers Market setting, and the need for our markets to remain vibrant, economically viable spaces for our local farmers and customers.

Thank you,

Martha Archer

Martha Archer  
Executive Director

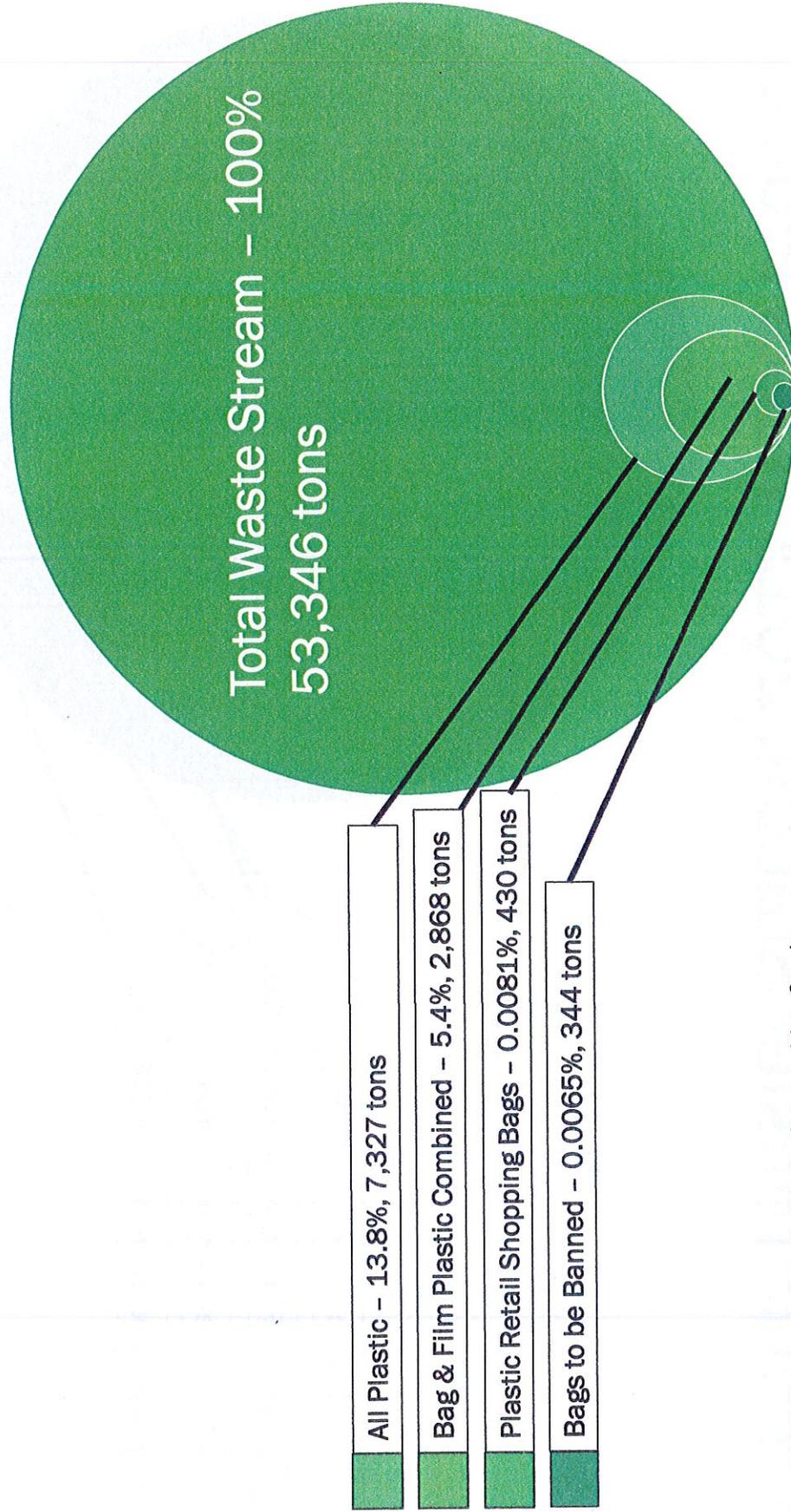
**From:** [helsch0108@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:helsch0108@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 2:44:49 PM

---

No more plastic bags! Ban them! They are not good for the environment if we don't use them properly!

Sent from my iPad

# Hennepin County, 2011 Waste Profile



Source: 2011 Hennepin County Waste Composition Study

**From:** [James Urie](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** My family supports the plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:58:02 AM

---

Please support reusable bags and help to rid our community of plastic bags...

**From:** [Jean Greenwood](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:22:33 AM

---

Thank you for considering a ban on single-use plastic bags. Please make this happen--others cities have done so. It's a small thing we can do to protect our environment. I've been using a cloth bag for decades and it's no big deal to do so.

I urge you to pass the ban on plastic bags.

thanks,

jean greenwood  
4515 garfield ave. s.

**From:** [Jean Wennerlyn Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:18:03 AM

---

Dear Council,

I support measures that reduce plastic bag use. On behalf of Health, Environment & Community, I hope you will too!

The average American family takes home 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year and when not recycled here is what happens

- < 5% of bags are ever recycled.
- 10% of the plastic produced worldwide every year winds up in the ocean.
- 70% of plastic finds its way to the ocean floor, where it will likely never degrade.
- There is 6X more plastic debris than zooplankton in areas of the Northern Pacific Ocean.

Not only does the plastic strangle and injure ocean wildlife. The plastic debris absorbs toxic chemicals concentrating deadly compounds like PCBs and DDE. As Marine animals consume these particles they enter our food chain- which yes, includes us!

Thank you!  
Jean

Jean Wennerlyn Johnson  
2802 W. 40th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
(612) 309-7738

**From:** [Jeff Van Schoick](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags, etc.  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 9:54:13 AM

---

I am 100% against the proposed plastic bag ban and paper bag deposit. I reuse all plastic bags for small trash and my paper bags are properly recycled containing other recyclables in my bin. Again another example of a small group claiming support (2600 signatures- big deal) to foist their idea of "green" on the majority of citizens with no regard of cost to businesses. Jeff Van Schoick. 5552 Queen Ave South. 612-760-2313. Home 612-927-7084.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [James Urie](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Please ban plastic bags!  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2016 9:55:38 AM

---

I support the proposal to ban plastic bags in Minneapolis. We can re-use durable bags, etc. This ban would help persuade us to move in the right direction...

Thanks,  
Jim Urie  
5509 Upton Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55410

**From:** [JJ Bitter](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 10:37:27 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to please consider supporting the proposed **single use plastic bag ban**.

This would greatly help our city and our state, as well as our fragile ecosystems around the world.

Thank you,  
JJ Bitter

Sent from my iPhone  
J.J. Bitter

**From:** [John Paul](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 1:45:55 PM

---

Council Members:

I agree with the ban. It makes a lot of sense and you carved out exemptions that are practical. I support!

- John Paul Roy, Mpls, Longfellow, 55406

Sent from the JPad! (JohnPaul) "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Mahatma Gandhi

**From:** [johvan2711@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:johvan2711@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:14:00 AM

---

I support the plastic bag ban

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Judee Arnstein](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 6:58:42 PM

---

Minneapolis City Council,

I support a ban on plastic bags in Minneapolis. In Ireland they charge the customer for a store provided bag, which encourages people to bring their own. Minneapolis retailers could charge 5 cents and only provide paper bags.

Thank You,  
Judee Arnstein  
4833 Russell Ave. So.  
Minneapolis, MN 55410

**From:** [Julie Pekala](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:56:50 PM

---

Hello,

My name is Julie Pekala. I'm writing to advocate a plastic bag ban or restriction. I currently live a block away from the creek. While walking the paths with my dogs it breaks my heart to see countless amount of plastic bags hanging in trees, sitting on rocks or flowing through the water. My house is situated near a grocery store, convenience store and multiple restaurants, so all of the unwanted trash left by customers makes its way down to the water. Plastic bags should be banned to save our wildlife and preserve nature. Personally, I think plastic bags are just a lazy man's joy. If plastic bags were banned we could "shape" up our economy, energy production and environment.

Thank you  
Julie Pekala

**From:** [Julie Railsback](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:28:34 AM

---

I fully support the banning of single use plastic bags. I also wish newspaper recipients would be required to have a small box for their papers rather than the daily plastic. It is such a waste, and the Star Tribune has not been responsive to my requests to discontinue the bags.

Julie Railsback  
124 Prospect Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

**From:** [kathy\\_kosnoff](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 4:54:19 PM

---

Vote YES to the ban on plastic bags!

**From:** [Kate Manley](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban in Minneapolis  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:13:58 AM

---

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Keiko Veasey](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:13:47 PM

---

Dear City Council Members,

I write to urge your support for the proposal co-sponsored by CMs Gordon & Warsame to ban single use plastic bags and charge a \$0.05 fee for carryout paper bags. As a city that has demonstrated its commitment to progressive environmental policy, including a vision of a Zero Waste Minneapolis, it is consistent with the values of our city and its citizens to take this next step.

#### Resource Use

Banning plastic bags reduces our city's overall carbon footprint and combats climate change, in a very simple way. The production of single-use plastic bags consumes 12 million barrels of oil per year. TWELVE MILLION BARRELS OF OIL! Banning unnecessary plastic bags therefore reduces our reliance on & use of fossil fuels, and the environmental damage associated with the drilling, processing, transport & use of fossil fuels.

#### Litter

Banning plastic bags beautifies our surroundings and protects our local resources. Over the years, I have participated in various clean-up events around our gorgeous city. Each and every time, there is an astonishing amount of plastic bags that are collected as part of these clean-up efforts. Remains of plastic bags are embedded in the shoreline, stuck in branches of the trees, and blowing across the paths. Yet, what is collected are only shreds of bags...the other parts of the bags are likely in the lakes, creeks, clogging up the storm sewers, and worse.

#### Damage

Banning plastic bags saves us money and increases the efficiency of our recycling processes. Though plastic bags are prohibited from single sort recycling, they inevitably find their way into the recycling stream and clog up the sorting and recycling machinery. This creates significant costs for our recycling processor, which in turn, must be passed along to the city and taxpayers.

#### Pollution

Banning plastic bags prevents air pollution, especially on our most vulnerable population. Single-use plastic bags that do not end up clogging up the recycling machinery or as litter around the city will end up being burned in the HERC burner. Even with the best technology, burning plastic releases nasty chemicals, including dioxins, into the air...completely unnecessarily.

While I understand there is hesitancy from retailers regarding this proposal, this is a very small cost-of-doing-business in Minneapolis and I am confident that our smart local business owners will figure it out. Large retailers such as Aldi and IKEA have successfully implemented a system whereby customers pay for their bags and/or bring their own. Most local grocery stores already offer an option of giving a credit or discount when customers bring their own bags. Collecting a fee for paper bags does not seem to be such an administrative hurdle as to outweigh the benefits

of implementing this proposal.

Many common-sense and reasonable exceptions are provided for in the proposal. We have the benefit of learning from the 150+ cities that have adopted a plastic bag ban already, and this proposal reflects the lessons learned from early adopters. The proposal in front of the council is extremely reasonable and balanced.

Reducing the amount of plastic is key to moving us towards the common goal of Zero Waste Minneapolis. There are many instances where reducing or eliminating plastic is very difficult, but eliminating single-use plastic bags is one of the easiest.

Paper bags have a similar overall carbon footprint as plastic, however the long-term impact of paper bags are not nearly as severe as plastic. Therefore, it is reasonable to ban plastic bags and discourage paper bag use through a very small fee. There are very simple and inexpensive alternatives to single use bags and this is a proven effective way to enact behavior change.

Respectfully,  
Keiko Veasey  
Linden Hills, Minneapolis

**From:** [PBK](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Thanks for focus: Papa got a brand new bag (reusable!)  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 12:49:58 PM

---

Thanks City Council:  
Papa Got Ta' Brand New Bag  
(Reusable!)

I got my City mandated reusable bag.

It deflects Hit and Runs.

It is Bullet Proof and expandable for onesy body armour, as needed.

It is huge so it will accommodate up to One neighbor's strewn garbage or 4 discarded tires.

It can receive and humanely pen one loose dog, per hour.

I can pull it over my head to muffle Boom Car toxins.

Or just stuff it in my ears to muffle out the foul language, fighting and arguing dropped so loudly and frequently at most all public places and streets of NoMi.

It will twist up into a weapon against armed home invaders.

Or muggers on the streets, here. It can safely receive up to 50 spent shell casings from the street. And in the most dreaded outcomes it works as a "body bag". God forbid.

It can be pieced out to make up to a dozen artful Men's Belts to restore NoMi men's sagging pants, and futures.

It can't, as yet, tutor or feed children in poverty who are neglected at home and failed at the public school.

Buy Local.

There is an enormity of these issues in NoMi which will create a market for these bags.

It is wise that the City Council focus it's valuable time on this vital, looming issue above other existential safety issues. But, because of the huge accumulated disparity between NoMi' declining Livability and other quadrants of the city's ascending Livability I will not even bother to market

The NoMi Bag in the rest of the city.

Keith Reitman  
stakeholder West Broadway

**From:** [KSEWW@aol.com](mailto:KSEWW@aol.com)  
**To:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** Letter from Kids for Saving Earth  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 10:00:33 AM

---

Dear Minneapolis City Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the children of Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Earth, and Kids for Saving Earth. We have many members of Kids for Saving Earth in Minneapolis and throughout the world and I know they would enthusiastically support a "Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance."

Adults need to consider what they are doing to the future of this planet. They need to focus on ways to protect the Earth including limiting the use of all single use bags but especially plastic bags.

Single use throw-away bags create air, land and water pollution, contribute to global warming, fill our landfills, harm our wildlife and the clean up and care related to bag trash, raises our taxes.

There is a simple solution. Sometimes breaking bad habits is hard to do but this program has worked successfully in many cities throughout the United States. I know the good people of Minneapolis will support this ordinance to regulate the use of throw-away bags.

Thanks for considering this ordinance and for supporting it!

**Tessa Hill, President Kids for Saving Earth**

**37955 Bridge Road**

**North Branch. MN 55056**

**[www.kidsforsavingearth.org](http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org)**

**[tessa@kidsforsavingearth.org](mailto:tessa@kidsforsavingearth.org)**

**651-674-8561**

**cell: 651-442-9433**

**Office: 763-559-1234**

**From:** [KSEWW@aol.com](mailto:KSEWW@aol.com)  
**To:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** Letter from Kids for Saving Earth  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 10:00:33 AM

---

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There is a simple solution. Sometimes breaking bad habits is hard to do but this program has worked successfully in many cities throughout the United States. I know the good people of Minneapolis will support this ordinance to regulate the use of throw-away bags.

Thanks for considering this ordinance and for supporting it!

**Tessa Hill, President Kids for Saving Earth**

**37955 Bridge Road**

**North Branch. MN 55056**

**[www.kidsforsavingearth.org](http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org)**

**[tessa@kidsforsavingearth.org](mailto:tessa@kidsforsavingearth.org)**

**651-674-8561**

**cell: 651-442-9433**

**Office: 763-559-1234**

**From:** [Linda Romine & Peter Hoban](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Ban plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 5:23:44 PM

---

Yes, it is time that Minneapolis bans plastic bags. We are falling behind other progressive states such as Hawaii who banned single use plastic bags two or three years ago. We need to move to washable cloth bags that can be thrown in the washer to prevent the contamination from grocery use.

Linda Romine

**From:** [Cioci, Madalyn \(MPCA\)](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public hearing for proposed single-use bag ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 3:15:33 PM

---

Hello,

The MPCA would like to provide comment on the proposed single-use bag ordinance scheduled for 1:30 on Monday, 3/21. I bet there will be a sign-up sheet that day, but wanted to let you know my intention in case you are “pre-registering” speakers.

The MPCA has recently released a [whitepaper on this issue](#), and I’ll be representing the perspective presented in that report.

Thank you,

**Madalyn Cioci**

Waste and Pollution Prevention Specialist

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | 520 Lafayette Rd N. | St. Paul, MN 55155 | 651-757-2276 |

[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)



**From:** [Hanson, Jackie A.](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Cc:** [Peltier, Colleen S.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Do Not Ban Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:12:39 AM

---

**From:** Mark Minneapolis [mailto:marky.mark.minneapolis@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 12:06 AM  
**To:** City Clerk - Council Information Division  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Ban Plastic Bags

Dear City Council Members,

I am a Minneapolis resident who works in retail. I spend much of my day ringing customers out at the check-out and bagging their items.

Please consider the effect that a plastic bag ban would have on people who are cashiers who probably have not had much of a voice in this decision and are in fact a major stake holder.

In an ideal world, a customer presents a nice clean reusable bag that is open, ready, and empty. In practice, this is never the case.

They always give them to me folded up, closed up, and snapped shut in some locking pocket mechanism. It takes awhile and a lot of effort to get them unraveled.

They are always dirty and wet and tore-up.

They are never empty. They have purchases in them from other stores. A classic example is a customer handing me a bag with bread already in it from the store down the street. They want me to load milk in it. So now I have to take out their bread from another store and put their milk in it and then put the bread on top. Many times, I have no idea what is already in the bag and cannot recognize what is in there. It is very awkward going through someone's personal belongings. I've encountered used Kleenex and even dirty diapers in people's bags.

If a customer is threatened with paying 5 cents for a paper bag, they will expect me to cram more stuff in to their reusable bag than Mary Poppins could fit in hers!

Also, cashier work is repetitive and the task of using reusable bags for ever purchase is arduous at best.

I myself tried using reusable bags and they tore up within 3 shopping trips. I read online that in Texas when they banned bags, the trash for plastic bags went way down but the trash for reusable plastic bags went way up and nullified any savings to the environment.

I beg of you to please reconsider such a ban. Consider all options. In the end, its us little people, cashiers and low wage workers, who suffer over these types of things. Make sure there is actually a gain to be had. It is hard enough doing cashier work as it is.

Thank you, Thank you.  
Mark Frank  
Minneapolis, MN

**From:** [Martin Urberg](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 12:25:11 PM

---

I am concerned about the ordinance to ban plastic bags. From what I understand, such bans in other cities have resulted in even worse pollution from heavier bags and have not helped the situation. We always reuse our plastic bags for garbage bags and a ban on plastic bags would mean we would need to purchase an equal number of plastic bags for that use so no savings would come from our household and we would pay more. Encouraging reusable bags seems a better way to help decrease the pollution as is done by Kowalski's who give a rebate for bringing bags and Lunds and Byerlys who give to charity for reusable bags.

Marty Urberg

**From:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bring Your Own Bag Input  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 10:01:32 AM

---

----- Original message -----

**From:** Matt Niehoff <nieho003@umn.edu>  
**Date:** 03/21/2016 9:38 AM (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** "Gordon, Cam A." <Cam.Gordon@minneapolismn.gov>  
**Subject:** Bring Your Own Bag Input

Dear Cam Gordon,

As a constituent of Ward 2, I urge you to support the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. Many of us have our own reusable bags and may forget to bring them to the store from time to time. This ordinance will help us remember to bring our own bags, and reduce plastic waste and harmful greenhouse gas emissions from the production of plastic bags.

As a resident that crosses the Mississippi River every day, I also support this ordinance because it will help to stop some of the additional plastic that enters into the river.

I am unable to attend the public hearing due to work, but again, I urge you to support this ordinance today in the Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee.

Best,  
Matt Niehoff

**From:** [megke0111@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:megke0111@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Cam.gordan@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Cam.gordan@minneapolismn.gov)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:19:37 AM

---

I support the plastic bag ban

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Michelle Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 10:33:20 PM

---

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to encourage you to please support the proposed plastic bag ban. The information I have read reports that at least 12 million barrels of oil are used per year in the manufacture of those plastic grocery bags. Less than 5% are ever recycled.

Allow our community the opportunity to learn to take reusable bags with us! When China banned plastic bags at checkouts in 2008, a Chinese retail association reported that one year later, the move had saved 1.6 tons of oil and 40 billion plastic bags. Sadly, 10% of all plastics produced ends up in the ocean. Last year a study found that 90% of all sea birds had plastic in their guts; other studies show that one million birds and 100,000 turtles and other sea animals die of starvation each year after ingesting discarded plastic bags which block their digestive tracts. This is tragic and unnecessary.

Thank you in advance for your support of the plastic bag ban!

Warm thanks for your efforts-  
Michelle Schwartz

--

Michelle Schwartz, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Literacy specialist and Orton-Gillingham provider

# Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission

March 8, 2016

Minneapolis City Council,

The Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) at our February meeting unanimously voted to send this letter in support of the "Bring Your Own Bag" Ordinance currently being discussed by the Minneapolis City Council. We are happy to see that many of the suggestions and notes that CEAC presented to the city council members last year were taken into account when drafting this legislation. This ordinance will take a very large step in reducing the single-use plastic bags that litter and contribute towards blight of our neighborhoods, parks, lakes, and recycling centers. We see this ordinance as a good first step in both City of Minneapolis's Zero Waste plan, but the goals of the CEAC Zero Waste group as well.

We'd also take this chance to emphasize to the City and the City Council the importance of a few parts of this ordinance. While it will take a large step in reducing litter throughout the city of Minneapolis, it must not cause undue hardship on both its residents and businesses.

The inclusion of language prohibiting the collection of a pass-through charge from transactions involving WIC, TANF, SNAP, and other food assistance programs insures that no additional financial hardship is placed upon these residents. CEAC recommends the City follow through with the true purpose of this ordinance and make sure these people, and well as any others in need, have an opportunity to receive reusable bags before implementation of the ordinance, either from the city itself or through cooperation with private companies. By doing this, many more people can become involved in helping reduce waste, rather than simply switching from plastic to paper.

Additionally, CEAC would like to place emphasis on the fact that this ordinance is written to support businesses as much as city residents. By allowing the business to keep the entire pass-through charge, this will help to compensate businesses for adjusting to this change, and also incentivize retailers to think twice before distributing more bags than necessary. We hope businesses will take this as a chance to improve their waste streams internally, as more emphasis is placed on environmental impacts.

We know that this issue will bring up some lively debates and heated questions as any change does. CEAC notes that entire countries, such as Italy, Ireland, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Somalia, China, and others have already implemented similar measures. In addition, other major cities in the United States, such as Seattle, Los Angeles, Austin, and the entire state of Hawaii have already done the same. In no way will Minneapolis be the first, nor last, to implement this change.

CEAC strongly supports this ordinance and looks forward to its implementation in 2017.



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Anna Abruzzese, Chair of CEAC

Other Members: Adam Arvidson (MPRB Representative); Dylan Bradford Kesti (Community Power) Ward 6; Allan Campbell (Sierra Club) Ward 13; Lisa Daniels Ward 7; Darrell Gerber Ward 8; Jenna Grove (Clean Water Action) Ward 6; Tony Hainault (Hennepin County Representative) Ward 7; Meleah Houseknecht Ward 2; Jen Kader (Women's Environmental Institute) Ward 10; Ricardo McCurley Ward 12; Andrew Murray (Vice Chair) Ward 10; James Nash Ward 10; Roxanne Obrien Ward 4; Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin Ward 2; Brian Ross Ward 3; Michelle Stockness Ward 13

**From:** [MJ Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 1:19:10 PM

---

I am a home owner in the Kenny neighborhood and would like to see plastic bags banned.

Thank you,  
MJ Anderson  
5644 Humboldt Avenue South

AMERICAN INDIAN OIC



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter has been written on behalf of the leadership present within the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors Group (aka MUID Group). The MUID Group represents over 20 American Indian non-profits throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and we are reaching out to you today to voice our unanimous support for the proposed "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance for the city of Minneapolis.

It is our belief that this new action will serve to greatly reduce unwanted litter in the form of plastic and paper bags typically utilized by convenience stores within the city. All too often, our community members invariably find these bags as refuse, lying about in great numbers along streets, alleys, as well as in the bushes and trees here within our great city. This pollution represents a direct threat not only to the physical beauty of our neighborhoods, but also serves as a direct threat to the living ecosphere that also shares this space with humankind.

The MUID Group believes it to be a moral imperative to actively engage and support such policies like the proposed "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance as they are directed towards reducing waste, maximizing our limited natural resources, and preserving our most important legacy for the next seven generations – a clean and safe home here on Earth.

Chii Miigwech and Pilamaya for taking this action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Hobot', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Hobot  
Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors Group – Chair

President and CEO  
American Indian OIC  
[www.aioic.org](http://www.aioic.org)



**From:** [Hooks, Jordan](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Bring Your Own Bag  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 5:42:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hello,

We received the email below regarding the carry out bags in retail establishments ordinance.

### **City of Minneapolis**

---

Name \* ann

Email \* myrvark@gmail.com

Phone

Phone Type

Address

City Minneapolis

State MN

Zip

Question/Comment \* I haven't been a resident of Mpls for many years, I live in an outlying area. But I am very upset about your wanting to eliminate plastic shopping bags because I don't want them next taken away where I live. They are simply the most useful and convenient thing to carry home groceries and other items. Paper bags can be recycled but if you have only one useful arm they're impossible to carry and they always split before you get them into the house. They also fall apart if the contents are damp or sweat in hot weather. We can grab one or more of our present plastic bags in one hand to carry. As to reusable fabric bags, oh for heavens sake - it has been demonstrated that they require frequent laundering for safe use - not only a nuisance but another waste of resources. It requires electricity to pump water into our homes and run the washer and more power or gas to heat the water. And now we are polluting water that has to be treated or takes centuries to trickle down through the soil and (hopefully) becomes cleansed as it seeps to ground water tables. What about all the folks who would have to spend the extra bucks to wash them at laundromats? Instead why not just simply require that plastic shopping bags be made of materials that biodegrade like the garbage bags now in use? Personally I have limited space for a free standing garbage can so I re-use my plastic bags as garbage bags, using a wire basket made for that purpose that hangs inside a cabinet door under my sink. I am picturing shoppers having to remember and carry around all those cloth bags. Even I, who am almost 80 years old, purchase multiple bags of groceries to avoid having to waste gasoline and energy on frequent shopping trips. Where do I put say a dozen cloth bags while I fill my cart with groceries? I am not going to place

my groceries into the cloth bags and have to unload, then reload them to go through the checkout! What if I didn't bring enough bags, I get to buy more at the checkout? Now picture a family who will use multiples of bags - will you design a carrier for their bags to be hung maybe on the front of the shopping cart? Better, you could force retailers to maintain the cloth bags, keep them laundered and available at the checkouts for their customers who could be forced to pay a recycling fee when they return them for laundering! Lastly, when you all grow old and try to remain independent as you start to grow frail, only then will you appreciate wanting to eliminate any and all unnecessary extra chores from your lives like maintaining a bunch of danged cloth shopping bags! Please reconsider and make a wiser decision! Thank you!

Previous <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/contact/index.htm>

This is an email generated from the City of Minneapolis website. \* Required fields are indicated with an asterisk.

Thank you,

**Jordan Hooks**

*Customer Service Agent II*

**City of Minneapolis - 311**

3000 Minnehaha Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Office: 612-673-3000

[jordan.hooks@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:jordan.hooks@minneapolismn.gov)



**From:** [Patricia Jones](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 9:50:30 AM

---

Let's do the right thing and ban plastic bags in Minneapolis. We can all figure out ways to do without them. It might stretch us a little to make the transition, but what's a little effort compared to the price we all pay for continuing a costly and dangerous habit?

Thanks. Pat Jones, 4239 Abbott Ave. S., 55410

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Paula Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 6:01:57 PM

---

I am writing in strong support of the "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance. I've been waiting for this to become a reality for so many years. Please pass this ordinance!

Thank you,

Paula Stewart  
4444 Abbott Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN 55410



MINNESOTA  
GROCERS  
ASSOCIATION

the  
**RETAILERS**edge  
Minnesota Retailers Association

MINNESOTA  
  
LODGING ASSOCIATION



American  
Forest & Paper  
Association

**MSSA**  
Minnesota Service Station &  
Convenience Store Association



MINNESOTA  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE

March 21, 2016

Council President Barb Johnson  
Minneapolis City Council Members  
City of Minneapolis  
350 South 5th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Council President Johnson and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed ban on single-use carryout shopping bags coupled with a 5 cent tax on retail-dispensed paper bags. Many of the organizations on this letter recently had the privilege of cooperatively studying a similar plastic bag ban in partnership with the City of St. Louis Park—an exercise that was very enlightening as it related to understanding environmental impacts and consumer behaviors.

Based on our understanding of the potential effects of a Minneapolis' plastic bag ban and fee we offer the following input:

- Ironically bags labeled “single-use” plastic bags are largely not used just once. Research shows that the vast majority of plastic bags are reused by consumers.
- Without the option to reuse plastic bags, consumers would actually purchase new plastic bags for purposes such as dog walks, trash cans liners, diaper changes, and dirty gym clothes.
- Consumers appreciate and expect choices when they visit a community retailer. It is appropriate to provide education and allow for Minneapolitans to make the best choice for their household and community.
- Plastic bags are not a significant portion of the waste stream—less than 0.5%.
- Most plastic bags used by consumers contain recycled materials—usually 30 to 40 percent post-consumer content.
- Many Minneapolis retailers have already embraced recycling plastic bags voluntarily and at their own expense. These voluntary programs are robust and provide the flexibility to maximize success.
- Some retailers incent customers to bring their own bag or reward them for doing so because it works for their business model and their products.
- A fee on paper bags in Minneapolis provides an unwelcome and uncompetitive landscape for businesses whose competitors across the street are not subjected to the same restrictions. This can also be confusing for customers, and provide a direct disadvantage to retailers who are committed to the city of Minneapolis.
- In a world where brick and mortar are the foundation of main street success, giving customers a reason to consider alternative shopping methods is counter to our collective goals.
- Small businesses and neighborhood stores are impacted the most by such a policy, causing higher prices and administrative burden.

With these observations in mind, we think there is a better way forward in Minneapolis as we strive for sustainability. We suggest that more can be accomplished with an education campaign that focuses on collaboration and creating awareness than through another regulatory and punitive policy.

Banning bags and adding fees are more of a problem than a solution. Look at the long list of exceptions already in the proposal—those exceptions will likely only grow. Under this proposal, instead of investing everyone’s time and resources in education and collaboration, the City will be spending its energy and taxpayer dollars on compliance checks, complaint investigation, and tracking down the source of bag litter.

We simply can’t support regulating bags and taking away customer choice. That’s not a solution, nor is it a meaningful strategy toward zero waste. Education and awareness is the correct long-term approach to achieving the City’s goals. That’s the type of initiative the City, consumers, retailers, and manufacturers can get behind to move us forward.

Sincerely,

Dan McElroy, President/CEO  
Minnesota Restaurant Association and Minnesota Lodging Association

Jamie Pfuhl, President  
Minnesota Grocers Association

Bruce Nustad, President  
Minnesota Retailers Association

Lee Califf, Executive Director  
American Progressive Bag Alliance

Gretchen Spear, Director, Packaging and Government Affairs  
American Forest and Paper Association

Lance Klatt, Executive Director  
Minnesota Service Station and Convenience Stores Association

Kevin Thoma, Executive Director  
Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association

Tony Kwilas  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

**From:** [Richard Berg](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 11:01:31 AM

---

Dear Minneapolis City Council,

There is a herd of elephants in the room and you choose to address a mouse. This is not leadership it is cowardice. Plastic bags need to take a back seat to issues like the sky rocketing crime rate (nearly double last years), unemployment, racial disparities, and housing issues.

Banning plastic bags in Minneapolis won't do much to me or for me, you see I have all but quit shopping in Minneapolis, I feel far safer shopping in Robbinsdale, Crystal, Fridley, or other suburbs. I work in Shoreview so stopping somewhere on my way home is not a problem for me and is certainly safer. In suburbs I have never been approached by prostitutes or pimps, I have never been asked for spare change and nobody has ever tried to rob me. All of these things have happened in Minneapolis.

I'm far more concerned about the crime, open air drug sales, and drunk and uninsured motorists than I am about plastic bags. Yet the city doesn't even tow uninsured motorists or drunk drivers anymore. Recently an uninsured motorist ran into a friend's house causing thousands of dollars of damage to their house and yard. The disabled vehicle was left parked in front of their house adding insult to injury. Where is the fairness in that? Just the other night a young man lost his life and a woman was shot after an argument at a known problem property near 53<sup>rd</sup> and Logan, why does the city tolerate these quality of life issues? It is not fair to the neighbors or the neighborhood.

I'm only asking that you address the big issues first, once you have solved the things that really affect the city and its residents, then come back and revisit the mouse. Let's just deal with crime, housing, racial disparity, and housing first. Please consider a moratorium on adding low income housing in North Minneapolis until there are adequate jobs here. Please consider programs that will attract businesses to open manufacturing facilities in areas of higher unemployment.

Please lead and do not cower behind "achievements" like banning plastic bags. An accomplishment that serves to ignore the real issues.

Thank you,

Richard Berg

4<sup>th</sup> Ward

**From:** [Rico Ventura](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 8:25:52 AM

---

Plastic bags are totally recyclable, just as much as aluminum cans. It makes no sense to ban either - it's just leftist fashion.

**From:** [Riley Curran](#)  
**To:** [Glidden, Elizabeth A.](#); [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:27:32 PM

---

Hello All,

I missed the Monday meeting, but wanted to chime in that I think it would be excellent policy to severely reduce plastic bag usage in Minneapolis. Being that we have some of the largest retailers in the country based here, it would be an excellent testing ground for policy that could have national implications.

Cheers,  
Riley Curran

Robert Roscoe / Design for Preservation

1401 East River Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 612.317.0989 [bobroscoe@me.com](mailto:bobroscoe@me.com)

March 21, 2016

Second Ward, Minneapolis City Council  
City Hall  
Minneapolis, MN

Re: plastic bag ban

Dear Cam:

I am strongly in favor of a ban on plastic bags, and would even hope the exempted plastic bag use can be phased out, or customers charged for their use.

We all live in a world that needs each one of us to make an extra step to alleviate wasteful use of disposable materials. Even the act each of us take is a signal we are making a contribution to saving our planet.

Thank you and Councilmember Abdi Warsame for proposing this plastic bag ban, and I urge you to seek further prohibitions, aided with new technology in the future.

Sincerely

Bob Roscoe

**From:** [Rodger and Kathryn Ringham](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 5:03:58 PM

---

I like the proposed ordinance.

Rodger Ringham  
4409 Dupont Av S  
Mpls 55419

**From:** [SJ Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 2:02:00 PM

---

I support the ban of plastic bags.

Sadie Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sarah Bonvallet](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Ban the Bag  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 11:42:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [untitled](#)  
[untitled](#)  
[untitled](#)

---

As a long-time Minneapolis resident I support banning plastic bags for our city!

Thank you,

Sarah Bonvallet  
*Creative Director*  
[Dangerous Man Brewing](#)  
651.491.8988



**From:** [igotcheese2@cs.com](mailto:igotcheese2@cs.com)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 5:13:13 PM

---

Hello,

I am a vendor at the Minneapolis Farmers Market and while I don't have a comment I am looking for clarification of this statement.

"a proposed fee of \$.05 on paper bags"

If plastic is banned and I need to use paper bags and I now purchase those paper bags what is a "proposed fee of \$.05 on paper bags mean?"

Is this a tax on paper bags on top of my extra expense of purchasing them as well as their higher cost over plastic?

It seems that I am getting hit then three times.

- 1) No plastic, lose the great price value.
- 2) Buy paper bags and pay more for those versus plastic.
- 3) plus pay \$.05 a paper bag.

Thank you,  
Scott Graham  
IGotCheese.com

**From:** [Sheryl Erickson](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 6:50:36 PM

---

I would like to express concern that if the city moves forward with a ban on single use plastic bags, we will continue to have a way to recycle the plastic bags that continue to be used. My local cooperative grocery no longer recycles plastic bags "because we don't give them out any longer." This is not true. Though they no longer give out single use plastic grocery bags, they still provide produce bags, bread bags, and plastic bag packaging in the rest of the store. In my case, I recycle all of my plastic bags, and the single use bags comprise less than 5% of the total. Will the city finally provide pickup for plastic bags even though there is a ban on single use bags, or will I have to drive to a grocery in the suburbs to recycle them?

Regards,  
Sheryl Erickson  
Southwest Minneapolis resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joshua Houdek](#)  
**To:** [Reich, Kevin A.](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Frey, Jacob](#); [Johnson, Barbara A. - City Council](#); [Yang, Blong](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Bender, Lisa](#); [Glidden, Elizabeth A.](#); [Cano, Alondra](#); [Goodman, Lisa R.](#); [Quincy, John](#); [Johnson, Andrew](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Cc:** [mat.hollinshead@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:mat.hollinshead@northstar.sierraclub.org); [Zawistowski, Stephanie](#); [Menshek, Peggy Y](#); [Hodges, Betsy A.](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 5:04:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Sierra Club endorsement of Bring Your Own Bag ordinance.pdf](#)

---

Dear Council Members,

As the #tumblebag campaign makes disturbingly clear, plastic bags are ubiquitous in our urban environment. When it comes to the plastic littering our streets, sewers, parks and lakes, less would definitely be more – which is why the Sierra Club strongly supports Council Members Gordon and Warsame’s proposal to ban single-use plastic bags and institute a small fee on single-use paper bags.

Plastic bags linger indefinitely, never decomposing but rather breaking down into smaller plastic pellets. They harm wildlife, clog drains, gum up recycling facilities, and blight the landscape. Moreover, their manufacture creates greenhouse gas emissions and pollutes our air and water.

Minnesotans discard 87,000 tons of plastic bags each year. And in Minneapolis, the plastic bags that don’t degrade into tiny toxic pellets in our yards, parks and waterways instead end up in the downtown HERC incinerator, potentially contributing to public health problems like childhood asthma.

But plastic bag waste is *not* an immutable fact of life. Other U.S. cities – including Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. – have demonstrated that a plastic bag ban is doable, and that it leads to a dramatic reduction in plastic bag litter.

Minneapolis, an aspiring Zero Waste community, belongs with these other cities at the forefront of smart environmental policy. Their experience shows that the transition, if thoughtfully managed, can go smoothly – and that the benefits will be concrete, substantial, and swift.

- A plastic bag ban in San Jose reduced bag litter in "approximately 89 percent in the storm drain system, 60 percent in the creeks and rivers, and 59 percent in city streets and neighborhoods," according to a report from San Jose's Transportation and Environment Committee.
- After enacting a plastic bag fee of five cents, Washington, D.C.'s bag usage dropped from about 22 million each month to three million the first month the fee was in effect, according to the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue as reported by *The Washington Post*.
- One recent study from Austin, TX, found that the amount of plastic bag litter in town was a quarter of what was found in another city without a ban.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=232679>)

The Sierra Club applauds and endorses the Bring Your Own Bag proposal calling for a ban on single-use plastic bags and a small fee on single-use paper bags. The Sierra Club also supports the following exemptions:

- Reusable bags over 4 mil in thickness
- Produce bags without handles
- Dry-cleaner, newspaper, and door-hanger bags and plastic bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage bags or to contain pet waste
- Bags without handles to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment
- Customers using vouchers or electronic benefit cards would be exempt from paying the .05 paper bag fee

Our city's ban on polystyrene takeout containers, which took effect nearly a year ago after initially meeting with intense opposition, demonstrates that businesses and citizens can adapt to and even embrace seemingly ambitious changes like this. The environmental benefit would be well worth the initial effort. If Austin and Portland can do it, the City of Lakes can – and should – too.

Sincerely,

Mathews Hollinshead

Conservation Chair  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Joshua Houdek  
Land Use and Transportation Program Manager  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter  
2327 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55406  
Main: [612-659-9124](tel:612-659-9124), Direct: [612-259-2447](tel:612-259-2447), Cell: [612-207-2295](tel:612-207-2295)



# SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

**North Star Chapter**  
2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-4420

Minneapolis City Council  
350 South Fifth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

March 14, 2016

RE: Support for the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Proposal

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As the #tumblebag campaign makes disturbingly clear, plastic bags are ubiquitous in our urban environment. When it comes to the plastic littering our streets, sewers, parks and lakes, less would definitely be more – which is why the Sierra Club strongly supports Council Members Gordon and Warsame’s proposal to ban single-use plastic bags and institute a small fee on single-use paper bags.

Plastic bags linger indefinitely, never decomposing but rather breaking down into smaller plastic pellets. They harm wildlife, clog drains, gum up recycling facilities, and blight the landscape. Moreover, their manufacture creates greenhouse gas emissions and pollutes our air and water.

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- Bags without handles to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment
- Customers using vouchers or electronic benefit cards would be exempt from paying the .05 paper bag fee

Our city's ban on polystyrene takeout containers, which took effect nearly a year ago after initially meeting with intense opposition, demonstrates that businesses and citizens can adapt to and even embrace seemingly ambitious changes like this. The environmental benefit would be well worth the initial effort. If Austin and Portland can do it, the City of Lakes can – and should – too.

Sincerely,



Mathews Hollinshead  
Conservation Chair  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter is the leading grassroots voice working to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment. Since our inception in 1968, we have involved volunteer leaders to act through environmental advocacy, community organizing, and outdoor exploration. For more information, please visit our web site at [sierraclub.org/minnesota](http://sierraclub.org/minnesota)

**From:** [Samuel Parker](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Ban the bag  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 5:39:43 PM

---

I am in favor of Ban the Bag in principle (especially with regard to plastic bags), but how exactly would the 5 cent cost per paper bag be implemented? At the checkout counter?--This would slow down checkout, because often there is no way of knowing how many bags will be necessary to hold one's groceries until they have been bagged, especially for a large number of goods. Imagine waiting while all the groceries are bagged for the 12 member family in front of you in line--all to add 75 cents to their bill!

Reusable bags are a fine idea, but you have to remember to bring them with you--something I am finding harder and harder to do as I age toward full-blown senility! Just keep them in your car? Great idea if I lived in my car (which I do not...yet). And I think it would be unconscionable to make those who forgot their reusable bags buy more just to get their groceries home.

Finally, would we see a net reduction in our grocery bills if we ban all point-of-sale plastic and/or paper bags? After all, the bags cost the stores "X" amount of money, right? And you can bet that cost is passed along to the consumer. I don't expect to see my can of Fancy Feast reduced by a penny any time soon!

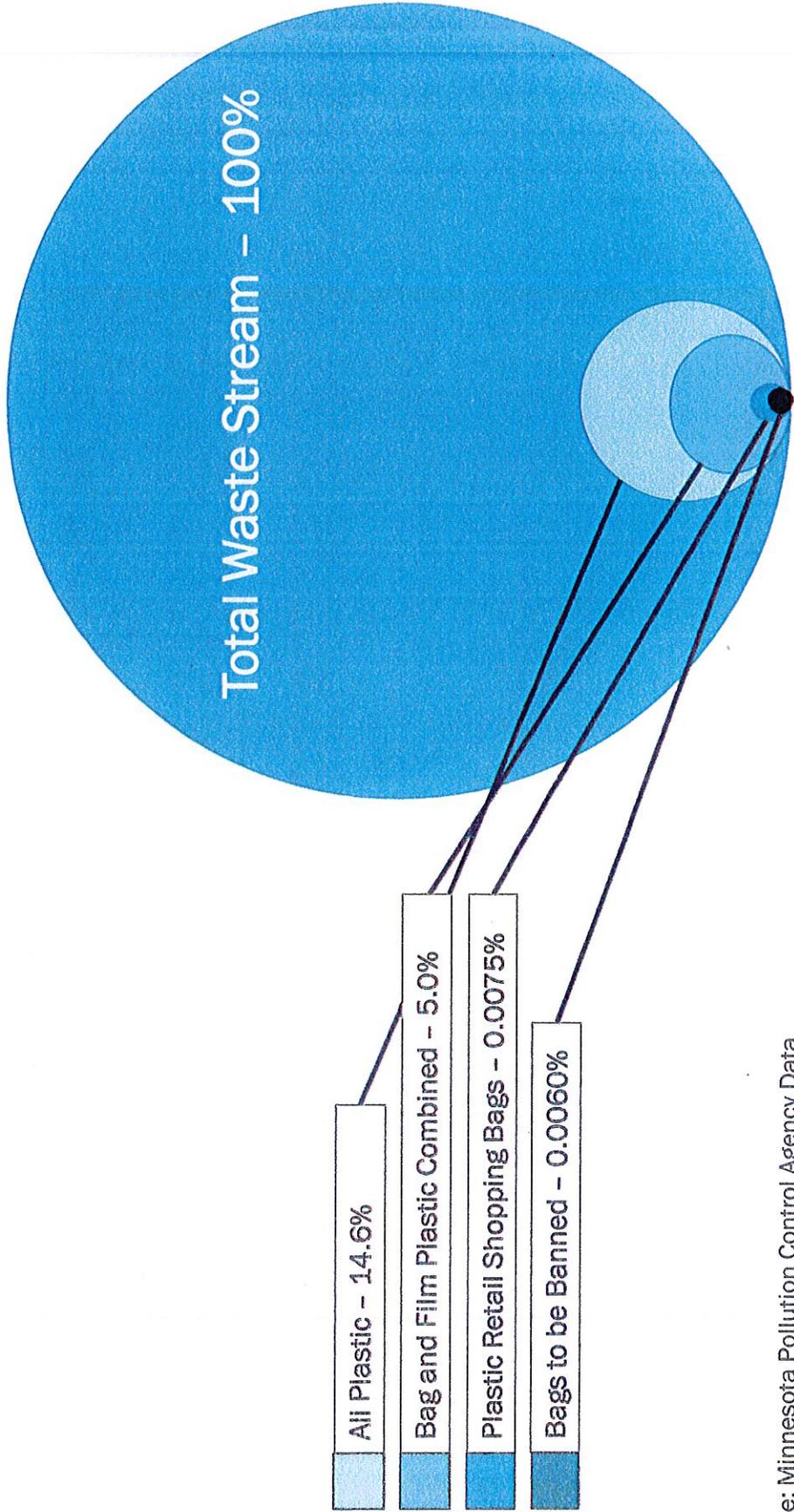
I will try to use reusable bags regardless of how the Council votes.

Just some thoughts (as if anyone really reads this stuff!).

Sincerely,

S. J. Parker

# St. Paul Transfer Station, 2013 Waste Profile



Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Data

**From:** [stestic0912@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:stestic0912@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:20:36 AM

---

I admit, me and my mom use reuse plastic bags a lot. But whatever! I'm glad the society is going to do something about the plastic overproduction issue.

We got 99 problems and plastic won't be one!

Stella Siciliano,

Environment Supporting Young Citizen  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Steve Eberly](#)  
**To:** [Johnson, Barbara A. - City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Comment](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)  
**Subject:** No Delay for Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 11:14:04 PM

---

Hello Council Member Johnson,

I heard that you are considering delaying the vote on the BYOB ordinance change.

I support this ordinance and want the vote to proceed tomorrow (this is not April fools!).

Similar ordinances have been implemented all over the US and worldwide, there is nothing particularly special about Minneapolis that would suggest a delay (or more study) is needed.

Thank you please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Steven C Eberly  
4264 Linden Hills Blvd  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
952 201 6294  
seberly@att.net

**From:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**To:** [Menshek, Peggy Y](#)  
**Subject:** FW: plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 4:33:39 PM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: steve ulrich [<mailto:sulrich@botwerks.org>]  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 5:39 PM  
To: Palmisano, Linea  
Cc: Gordon, Cam A.; Warsame, Abdi  
Subject: plastic bags

dear CM palmisano -

just a quick note to let you know that i am in favor of the proposed 'bring your own bag' ordinance being proposed by CMs cam gordon and abdi warsame. while i don't necessarily view this as a critical issue facing our city, it's certainly a notable step in the right direction and consistent with many of the progressive measures that our city has taken (e.g.: source separated organic composting and single sort recycling.) in improving the livability of our city and certainly in alignment with the city's larger green initiatives.

i hope that you'll support CMs gordon and warsame in moving this ordinance forward.

thanks!

--

steve ulrich (sulrich@botwerks.\*) - 4536 zenith ave s, minneapolis, mn 55410

**From:** [Susan Daughtry](#)  
**To:** [Bender, Lisa](#); [Council Comment](#); [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Warsame, Abdi](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 6:41:30 AM

---

Dear Lisa,

I'm writing to express my support for the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance coming up for discussion on Monday at the Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee meeting. I believe a ban like this had been passed in San Francisco during a time when I traveled there frequently. It was a great way to get retailers and consumers to work together to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags. Our family supports this measure!

Thank you for all you do to help Minneapolis be a great place to live and a great place to raise kids.

----

Susan Daughtry

**From:** [Susan Lacek](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 2:06:55 PM

---

Hello, I wanted to let you know that my family supports the proposed ban on single use plastic bags. We think this would be such a good thing for our environment and it's time to follow other counties, states and countries who have already done this. We hope -- based on what you hearing from constituents like us -- you will vote in favor of the ban.

Sincerely,  
The Lacek Family  
4533 Fremont Ave South  
Minneapolis

**From:** [Susan Tapp](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Linea Palmisano](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 12:30:00 PM

---

I am in favor of eliminating plastic bags. I hope that the City Council will do whatever can be done to eliminate, or at least minimize, their use. I almost always take reusable bags when I shop. It's not hard to do once you get in the habit.

Susan Tapp  
4031 Vincent Avenue South

**From:** [Tammi Cheever](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** plastic bags  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 6:11:50 PM

---

I support banning plastic bags. Plastic bags are an environmental nightmare. I'm happy to see our city moving to ban the bags.  
Tammi Cheever  
5112 Dupont Ave South  
Minneapolis 55419

bag  the ban.



the truth

# About Plastic Bags

Despite the facts, plastic bags have gotten a bad rap. Here's the truth about your plastic bags and why they are the right choice for the environment, your wallet and your community.

## Litter and Composition



### RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic bags are 100% reusable and recyclable. Recycle your plastic bags in the bins outside your local grocery store.

That's why banning bags won't reduce overall litter.

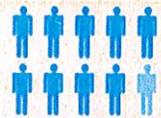
# the truth... About Plastic Bags



## Reusing and Recycling

100%

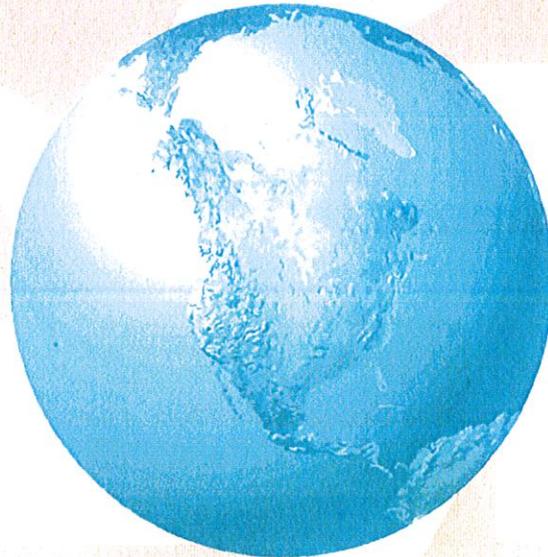
Plastic bags are  
100 percent recyclable  
and reusable.

 Nine Of  
**TEN**

Plastic bags are  
not "single-use". More  
than 9 out of 10 of Americans  
reuse their plastic bags at least  
once, for everything from  
storage to waste disposal  
to packing material.

 1  
BILLION

In 2011, an estimated 1 billion  
pounds of post consumer plastic  
bags and films were collected for  
recycling in the United States.  
The same report showed that  
plastic bag and film  
recovery has increased  
by 55 percent  
since 2005.



30,000

There are over 30,000  
locations for plastic  
bag recycling across  
the country!



Recycled plastic bags are used  
to make new plastic bags and  
products, such as backyard decks,  
playground equipment, plumbing  
pipes and fencing.

 91-93%

91 to 93 percent of the U.S.  
population has access to nearby  
plastic bag recycling.

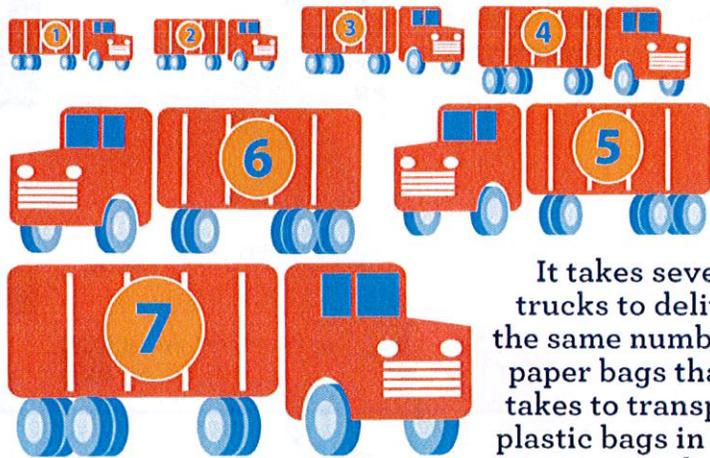


# the truth... About Plastic Bags

## The Real Green Bag

A brown paper bag with yellow lightning bolts and blue water splashes coming out of the top.

Plastic grocery bags require 70% less energy to manufacture than paper bags. The production of plastic bags consumes less than 4% of the water needed to make paper bags.



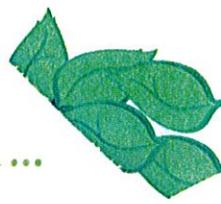
It takes seven trucks to deliver the same number of paper bags that it takes to transport plastic bags in only one truck.

# 9.3x

Reusable and paper bags take up more space than a plastic bag in a landfill. Paper bags take up 9.3x as much space as a plastic bag.



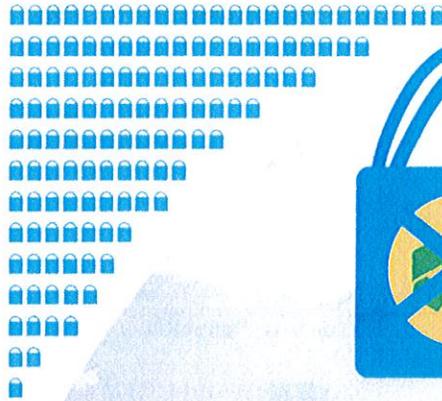
# the truth... About Plastic Bags



## The Not So Green Reusable Bags

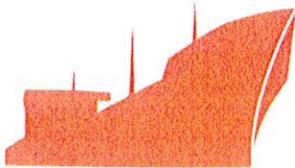
# 131x

A reusable cotton bag must be used no less than 131 times before having a "greener" environmental impact than a common plastic grocery bag!

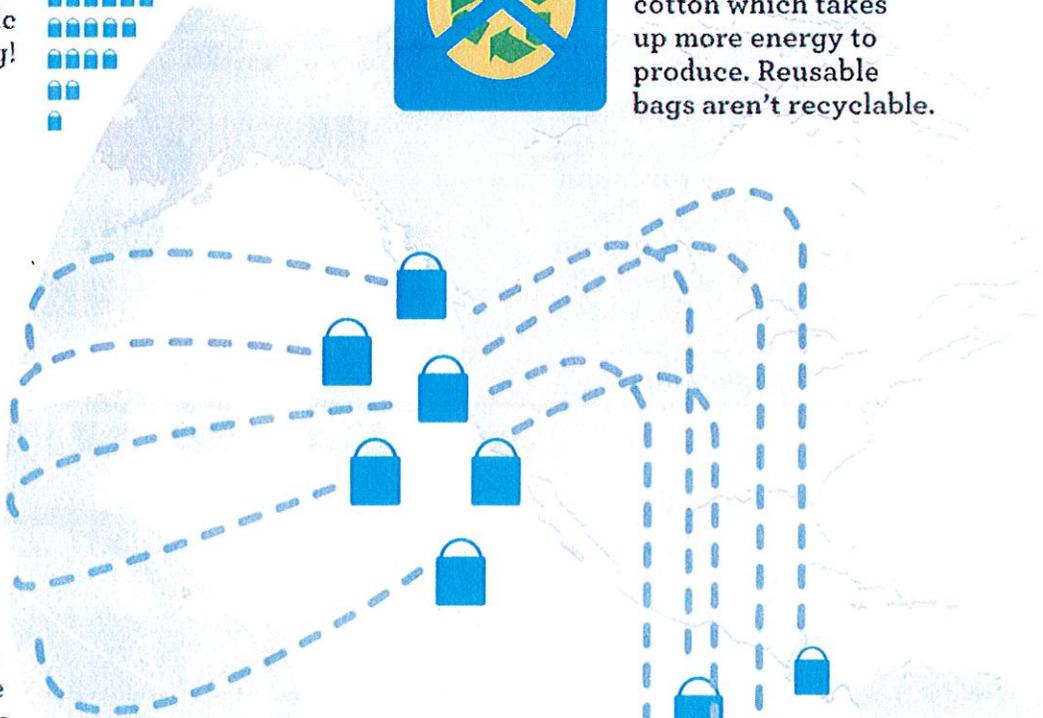


# MORE

Many reusable bags are made from heavier and thicker plastic or cotton which takes up more energy to produce. Reusable bags aren't recyclable.



The U.S. ITC reports that hundreds of millions of reusable bags are imported to the United States each year. It takes more energy to transport a reusable bag from overseas than it does to manufacture and transport an American-made plastic bag.



# TRASHED

Reusable bag giveaways are environmentally costly when unwanted bags end up in the dumpster, often after only one use.





the truth...  
About  
**Plastic  
Bags**

## Bag Bans Hurt Businesses

**-25%** ↓

Some stores have seen declines in business. One Solana Beach business saw a 25 percent decline in business following the implementation of the ban.

**-\$10,000** ↓

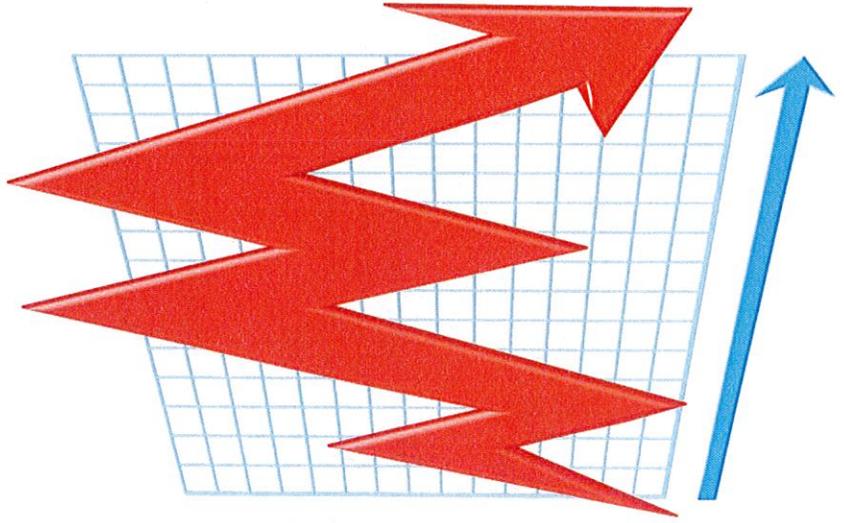
A Grocery Outlet Store told a Portland newspaper that they have lost over \$10,000 to shoplifters using reusable bags.

**300** ↑

One store found that 300 plastic grocery baskets have been stolen by customers since the bag ban was announced.

**40%** ↑

Following Seattle's ban on plastic bags, nearly 40 percent of storeowners surveyed post-ban reported seeing their costs for carryout bags increase between 40 and 200 percent.





**From:** [themad0706@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:themad0706@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Cam.gordon@minneapolis.gov](mailto:Cam.gordon@minneapolis.gov)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:14:05 AM

---

I support plastic bag ban.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [thodor0510@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:thodor0510@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:15:13 AM

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Sent from my iPad

Let's ban plastic! Whoohoo! I support the plastic bag ban.

**From:** [G. Travis Norvell](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:20:47 PM

---

I am writing to offer my support on the planned banning of plastic bags.

thanks

Travis Norvell  
5428 Columbus Ave  
Mpls, 55417

**From:** [ty\\_tay1512@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:ty_tay1512@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [cam.gordon@minnesolidmn.gov](mailto:cam.gordon@minnesolidmn.gov)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:14:17 AM

---

I support

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Veronika Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:04:53 PM

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Minneapolis,

Please Ban Plastic Bags.

--

Veronika Phillips  
901 S. 2nd St. #301  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
952-454-8428

**From:** [vickie\\_cyr](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Banning plastic bags  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 11:03:50 AM

---

I think this is an excellent idea.

Minneapolis should adopt an ordinance banning plastic bags and join the other progressive cities!

I also support a 5 cent deposit on plastic and glass drink bottles and aluminum cans. When I lived on Long Island (NY) there were machines at every grocery store where you could take the bottles, deposit them and get the money.

Vickie Cyr  
5800 Emerson Ave S

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [ginny templeton](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#); [Yang, Blong](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:45:09 PM

---

I support measures that reduce plastic bag use, therefor I support the "Bring your own bag" proposed ordinance.

Thank you,  
Virginia Templeton  
43rd and Abbott S.

**From:** [Wilma Rahn](#)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic Bags  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 12:39:56 PM

---

I think we have way too many regulations on businesses now, this should be up to each retailer and consumer to use the bags or not. I am a person who often uses my own bags but at times use plastic at the grocery store for frozen items or meat. The bags are then used in my yard pick-up as you have to have the dog waste placed in bags and I hate to buy more bags for garbage. In most cases they are repurposed and/or taken to a recycling drop off place. Paper bags are a renewable resource (as are trees) and see no problem with them, many retailers are already offering a 5 cent discount if you reuse bags. Mine, again when I don't use my reusable bags, are used for recycling containers in my kitchen.

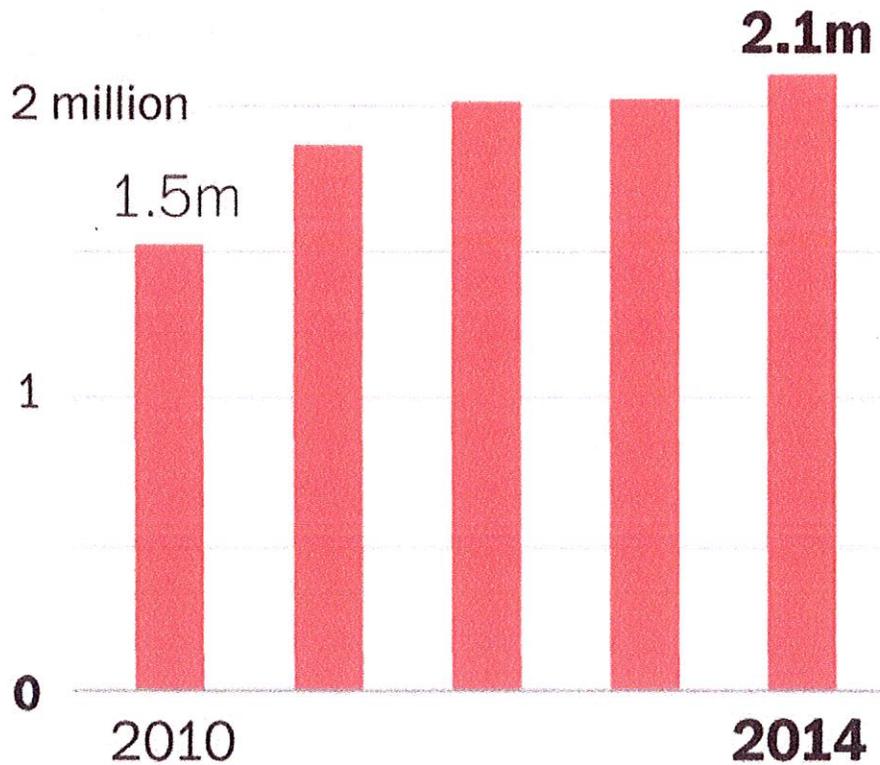
I don't think further restrictions are necessary. As it has been said, you can't legislate morality, and add to that stupidity and eco consciousness. You can educate but not legislate.

**From:** [wyages2305@carondelet-mpls.org](mailto:wyages2305@carondelet-mpls.org)  
**To:** [Council Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Gordon, Cam A.](#)  
**Subject:** Plastic bags  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:13:34 AM

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I support plastic bag ban.

## Yearly bag-fee revenue from the program's first five years



Note: FY2010 is a partial year, and D.C.'s population has increased by about 55,000 people in five years.

Source: FOIA request filled by the District Department of the Environment

THE WASHINGTON POST