



## Why Support A Reusable Bag Ordinance?

**It makes sense:** Why waste something that doesn't need to be wasted? When stores routinely hand out an unlimited number of single-use disposable bags, we end up creating a lot of unnecessary waste.

**It offers a significant opportunity:** Single-use disposable shopping bags are one of the most commonly used and quickly discarded items in our communities.

**It helps stop litter and protect wildlife:** Single-use disposable shopping bags sometimes end up blowing around, getting caught in trees, landing in waterways, and harming creatures large and small. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable. When more people use reusable bags there'll be less bag litter in the environment.

**It creates an effective incentive:** A fee or ban on disposable bags creates an incentive for people to remember their reusable bags when they shop. Over time, this becomes second nature: Just like you remember your car keys, your glasses, and your cellphone, you remember your bags. The more towns have bans or fees on disposable bags, the more people will remember to bring their bags with them. And, if people forget, they can always buy a reusable or disposable bag inexpensively.

**Reusable bags conserve resources:** Manufacturing, shipping, and disposing of disposable paper and plastic bags take a toll on our environment. This harm can be avoided by a major shift to reusable bags.

**Voluntary efforts aren't as effective:** Experience shows that fee-based ordinances are far more effective than education and awareness campaigns alone.

**Easily avoidable fee:** A fee on disposable bags is easily avoidable. Anyone who brings his or her own bag does not pay. This encourages shoppers to use reusable bags and leaves every shopper with a choice: to pay for a disposable bag or use a reusable bag for free.

**Reusable bags are readily available:** Reusable bags are affordable, abundant, stronger, and far more durable than their disposable counterparts.

**Strong, safe and clean:** Reusable bags are stronger than disposable ones, breaking less often, and they can be laundered too. Most grocery items are already packaged to prevent spills or leaks.

**Get bags you want or need:** Many people use plastic bags a second time after carrying goods home: This is one step better than throwing them away after shopping, but most bags are tossed after just one use. There are alternatives readily available for lining waste bins, storing food, or cleaning up pet waste.

**Reusable bag ordinances work.** Hundreds of cities around the world have adopted successful policies that significantly reduce the number of single-use disposable bags in their communities.