



BAG THE BAGS in Austin

www.BagTheBags.com

We support a measured ban that does the most to reduce our consumption of plastic shopping bags.

- Ban the distribution of plastic shopping bags by large grocers and pharmacies
 - Large grocers and pharmacies comprise more than 2/3rd of all plastic bags distributed
- Require large grocers and pharmacies to report the number of paper, plastic, compostable, and reusable bags they distribute.
- Reward retail stores that distribute fewer bags per customer with recognition
- Require large grocers and pharmacies that distribute compostable bags to include a large label about how to dispose of compostable bags.
- Require the City of Austin to institute a plastic reduction plan for City facilities and employees.
 - No use of plastic trash can liners or plastic bags
 - No distribution or use of plastic wrapping
- Require the City of Austin to move towards a modern Materials Recovery Facility that can recycle all types of plastic, compostable, and paper bags.
- A large-scale public education about the negative consequences of plastic bags and the value of shifting towards reusable bags.
- Distribution of 500,000 free reusable bags paid for by private sponsors

Partial List of Bag the Bags Coalition Partners

Austin Eco Network	Austin Green Art	Capital Area Asian American Democrats	Central Austin Democrats	
Clean Water Action	Ecology Action	Latinos for Texas	Save Barton Creek Association	
Sierra Club - Austin	Texas Campaign for the Environment	Texas Community Project	Texas Environmental Democrats	
Fidel Acevdeo	Andy Brown	David Butts	Hon. Valinda Bolton	Colin Clark
Kitty Clark	Rick Cofer	Cecilia Crossley	Hon. Maria Canchola	Alicia del Rio
Hon. Sarah Eckhardt	Hon. Bruce Elfant	Hon. David Escamilla	David Foster	Marguerite Jones
Hon. Jackie Goodman	Hon. Glen Maxey	Elliott McFadden	Hon. Elliott Naishtat	Hon. Bob Binder
Sandra Ramos	Chris Riley	Hon. Eddie Rodriguez	Virginia Schilz	Robin Schneider



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What's Wrong with Plastic Bags?

“The most ubiquitous consumer item on Earth, the lowly plastic bag is an environmental scourge like none other, sapping the life out of our oceans and thwarting our attempts to recycle it.”

– Slate Magazine, August 10, 2007

“All the plastic that has been made is still around in smaller and smaller pieces.”

– Stephanie Barger, executive director of the Earth Resource Foundation

- Plastic bags are a petroleum product, the use of which contributes to our dependence on foreign oil
- Plastic bag production creates greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming
- Plastic bags never degrade or decompose
- 500 Billion to 1 Trillion plastic bags consumed worldwide annually¹
- 100 Billion plastic bags consumed in the United States alone
- Throwing away 100 billion plastic bags is equivalent to dumping 12 million barrels of oil²
- 9% of waste in landfills is plastic³
- 4.5% of waste in landfills is plastic bags and films⁴
- It takes 430,000 gallons of oil to manufacture 100 million bags⁵
- Only about 2% of plastic bags are recycled in the US, and only 1% worldwide
- To clean up plastic bag litter, it costs 17 cents per bag in San Francisco⁶
- More than a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die every year from eating or getting entangled in plastic.⁷
- There are 46,000 pieces of plastic litter floating in every square mile of ocean⁸

¹ www.reusablebags.com/facts.php

² Mieszkowski, Katharine. “Plastic bags are Killing Us”, August 10, 2007. Salon.com

³ <http://www.progressivebagalliance.com/background.html#facts>

⁴ <http://www.progressivebagalliance.com/background.html#facts>

⁵ Goodyear, Charlie. “S.F. First City to Ban Plastic Shopping Bags”, March 28, 2007. San Francisco Chronicle.

⁶ http://www.cawrecycles.org/plastic_campaign/plastic_bags/problem

⁷ <http://www.blueoceansociety.org/research.htm>

⁸ United Nations Environment Program