

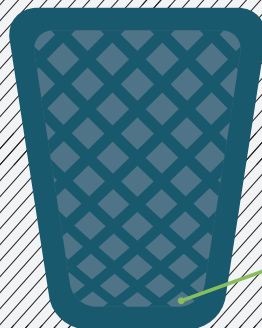
# Get the Facts



Plastic Bags make up only

0.3%

of the municipal solid waste stream!



28.4% Paper + paperboard

14.2% Food

12.2% Other plastics

8.9% Metals

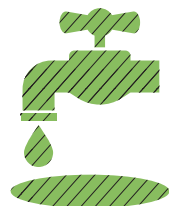
4.6% Glass

0.3% Plastic bags and sacks

31.4% Other

<1% of overall litter according to Statewide Surveys?

Compared to the production of plastic bags...



Paper bag production uses

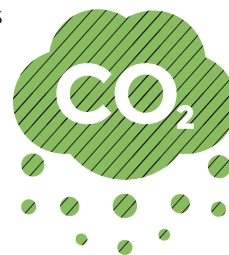
17.3x

more water<sup>3</sup>

Paper bag production emits

2x as many

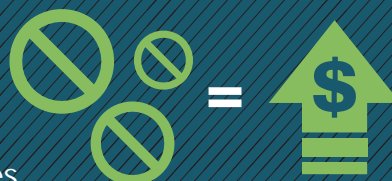
Greenhouse Gases<sup>3</sup>



To have a lower environmental impact than a typical plastic bag, cotton or canvas bags require between **100 to 2,954 uses**, and non-woven polypropylene or reusable bags must be used between **11 to 59 times**.<sup>4</sup>

Bag bans and taxes affect everyday people — low-income families in particular.

Bag ban or tax policies directly add costs to grocery bills by charging customers for each bag or by forcing them to buy other, more expensive bags. And with **15 million U.S. households food insecure in 2017**,<sup>5</sup> many can't afford a **tax on plastic bags** when they struggle to feed their families.





**Bag regulations increase costs for small businesses to comply, raise operational costs, and even direct profits elsewhere.**

A study by the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) found that banning plastic bags **negatively impacted retail sales and employment<sup>6</sup>** in the ban area, shifting business to stores just outside the bag ban region.

**Cities often adopt bag bans, fees, or taxes to try to address solid waste and sanitation costs. However, in cities that have adopted bag restrictions, there is no evidence proving the efficacy of these measures.**



- A NCPA study examined six city budgets and found that plastic bag **restrictions did not result in savings for even one city<sup>7</sup>**.
- In Austin, Texas, **bag laws led to more landfill waste<sup>8</sup>** due to people throwing away their reusable bags.

According to the government of Québec, plastic bags are **reused at a rate of 77.7%<sup>4</sup>**, most often as small trash can liners or to pick up pet waste. **12.8% are recycled on average.<sup>1</sup>**



**Plastic bag and film recycling has more than doubled since 2005**

**Plastic retail bags are 100% recyclable and highly reused.**

*Plastic bags are being recycled more than ever before.*

**IN 2017**

**1,000,000,000**

pounds of plastic bags and film were collected for recycling.<sup>9</sup>

**81%**

of plastic bags and film returned for recycling were recycled in the **U.S. and Canada.<sup>9</sup>**

**NEARLY**

**30,000**

grocery stores and retailers across the U.S. with in-store drop-off points **where shoppers can return their 100% recyclable plastic bags.**

1. *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2015 Tables and Figures*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, July 2018.  
 2. *2018 New Jersey Litter Survey*, Environmental Resources Planning, LLC, July 2018; *2015 Anacostia Watershed Litter Survey*, Environmental Resources Planning, LLC, January 2015; *2014 Rhode Island Litter Survey*, Environmental Resources Planning, LLC, June 2014.  
 3. *Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags - Recyclable Plastic, Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic, and Recycled, Recyclable Paper*, Boustead Consulting & Associates Ltd., 2014.  
 4. *Environmental and Economic Highlights of the Results of the Life Cycle Assessment of Shopping Bags*, RECYC-QUÉBEC, December 2017.  
 5. *Food Security Status of U.S. Households in 2017*, United States Department of Agriculture, 2017.  
 6. *A Survey on the Economic Effects of Los Angeles County's Plastic Bag Ban*, National Center for Policy Analysis, August 2012.  
 7. *Do Bans on Plastic Grocery Bags Save Cities Money?*, National Center for Policy Analysis, December 2013.  
 8. *Environmental Effects of the Single Use Bag Ordinance in Austin, Texas*, Austin Resource Recovery & The Zero Waste Advisory Commission, June 2015.  
 9. *2017 National Post-Consumer Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Report*, More Recycling, July 2019.



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