

City

Council

A Few Plastic Facts

- Gulf of Mexico has one of the highest concentrations of plastic of any body of water (http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/08/gulf_of_mexico_plastics_concentration.html)
- Almost 90% of teens tested had Bisphenol A in their bodies (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5351661/Chemicals-plastic-90-teenage-bodies.html>)
- 93% of bottled water tested contained microplastic in large (>100,000 fibers/bottle)
- 94% of tap water tested contained microplastic in much lower amounts (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/03/15/does-bottled-water-you-paid-3-contain-tiny-particles-plastic-study-says-yes/427210002/>)

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT WITHOUT
CHANGES IN OUR CONSUMER
HABITS BY **2050** THERE WILL BE
MORE
PLASTIC
THAN FISH
IN THE
OCEAN.



(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/01/20/by-2050-there-will-be-more-plastic-than-fish-in-the-worlds-oceans-study-says/?utm_term=.b7305efe5d8c)

FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

Worldwide, **500 BILLION - 5 TRILLION** plastic bags are produced and used annually, that's **1-10 MILLION** bags/minute



7% - 10% of annual petroleum consumption is used in the US and worldwide to make plastics



FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

US consumes **100 billion** plastic bags/year

12 million barrels of petroleum used in the
US to make plastic bags

The energy needed to make **13** plastic bags
will power a car **1** mile

FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

The average family takes home **15** bags from a typical shopping trip

These bags are used an average of **12** minutes

Plastic bags can take **20 to 1000** years to degrade

FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

88% of plastic bags are sent to landfills or end up in the environment in Florida



FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

They float in the air and in the water.



They're on the bottom of the sea and top of Mount Everest

FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

They litter, clog waterways & sewers.

They contaminate compost and hinder recycling efforts.

They cost hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to clean up.



FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

An estimated **100,000** turtles and marine animals and up to **1 million** sea birds die each year after ingesting or being entangled in plastic marine litter.



FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...



FREE PLASTIC BAGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE...

Tiny bits of plastic have been found in shellfish along the Oregon shore.

Tiny bits of plastic were recently found in waters around Anna Maria Island by high school students in south Florida.

In 2002 Ireland placed a **28** cent levy on plastic bags and experienced a **95%** reduction in plastic litter.



San Francisco

first American city to ban the bag

California

first US state to ban the bag

Bangladesh

first country to ban the bag after plastic bags plugged drainage systems causing floods

Single-use plastic bag legislation

- At least:
 - 15 countries in Africa
 - 7 countries in Asia
 - 5 countries in Europe
 - Several states in Australia
 - 4 countries in South America
 - Mexico and several Canadian provinces in NA
- 9 states and many cities have enacted single-use plastic bag legislation
- 8 states single-use plastic bag legislation pending
- Many states have pre-emption banning the ban

Florida!

In 2008 legislators enacted statute 403.7033

...no local government, local governmental agency, or state government agency may enact any rule, regulation, or ordinance regarding use, disposition, sale, prohibition, restriction, or tax of...

basically, single use plastic bags until DEP has studied the issue.

2010 DEEP report

“...bags are not inherently bad but they have terrible consequences in a throw-away society”

Contained:

strategies to discourage use of plastic bags

strategies to encourage use of reusable bags

meanwhile...

What to do?

- Choose reusable bags rather than single use plastic bags
- Choose refuse, say “I don’t need a bag”
- Support legislation for home rule.

Just say no



B.Y.O.B.



BRING YOUR OWN BAG!

Sources

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Plastic Oceans Foundation
- United Nations Environmental Program
- 5 Gyres Institute
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- Conservation Biology
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Surfrider Foundation
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- EPA
- The Economist
- Conservation Now
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Earth Policy Institute
- EIA – Energy Information Agency
- National Geographic
- Outdoor Conservation
- Portland State University
- Mote Marine Teaching Lab
- NY Times
- Scientific American
- BBC