

WHAT?

The City of Los Angeles is proposing to implement a **Reusable Bag Policy** to prohibit the distribution of single-use plastic and paper shopping bags in supermarkets and select retail stores.

WHY?

Quality of life requires consumer responsibility.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES Reusable Bag Policy PROPOSAL

HOW?

Stores will **only** offer or sell reusable bags to customers.

Customers will be encouraged to **use** their own reusable bags.

WHEN?

The effective date of the proposed Reusable Bag Policy has not been determined.

FACTS

That Support Changes

- **14% of roadside litter is paper** and over **30% is plastic**.
- Only **5%** of the **2.3 billion plastic bags** used in the City each year are recycled.
- Only **21%** of the **400 million paper bags** used in the City each year are recycled.
- **\$300 million** is spent each year by California agencies to pick up and dispose of litter along with countless hours provided by volunteers.
- An average American could avoid using **500 single-use bags per year** by switching to reusable bags.
- Plastic bags are among the **top 3 items** found littered on beaches and waterways.
- Paper bags consume **7 times more material** to produce than plastic bags and **33 times more material** than reusable bags.
- **A single 15-year-old tree** can make about **700 paper bags**, which a large grocery store can use in half a day.
- Plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, which can end up in our **food chain**. Also, marine life mistake **plastic debris in the ocean** for food, which can harm them.
- Approximately **12 million barrels of oil** go into the US supply of plastic bags.
- It takes **14 million trees** to produce the 10 billion paper grocery bags used every year by Americans.
- **11% of the country's energy consumption** is used to make paper products.
- **Over 40 cities and counties in California** have adopted single-use bag policies, including Los Angeles County (unincorporated areas), Long Beach, Pasadena, and Santa Monica.

CHANGES

Benefits to Environment and Quality of Life

STRENGTHENS - Citywide use of reusable bags at supermarkets and select retail stores helps to protect our environment and quality of life against neglect and pollution.

PROTECTS - Up to 95% of plastic and 79% of paper single-use disposable bags will no longer be a source of waste and litter.

SUSTAINS - More than 2 billion plastic and paper single-use disposable bags will be removed from the City's waste stream that helps preserve our environment and quality of life for future generations.

UPHOLDS - Citywide responsibility in environmental protection helps conserve natural resources for use by future generations.

ENSURES - Removal of a significant source of pollution from plastic and paper single-use disposable bags on City sidewalks, streets, parks, waterways, lakes, storm drains, and the ocean.

For more information visit:
www.zerowaste.lacity.org