



Mission: To reduce the harm single-use waste has on our health, the environment, and the local economy.

Vision: Resusables every day, everywhere, everyone

www.bringyourownglen-ed.org

ORIGIN STORY | In late 2016, a grassroots group called Action Metro East formed as a way for constituents living within Illinois' 12th, 13th, and 15th congressional districts to connect and organize in support of progressive policies, people, and practices. Within this large group, working groups formed around specific areas of concern, including health care, education, civil rights, and the environment. Within the Environmental Working Group, an even smaller, more focused group started to form, driven by the interest of one of its members, Stephanie Malench, to tackle the issue of single-use waste. In May 2017, this small group launched as **Bring Your Own Glen-Ed**. Committed to collective action and solutions, its members began meeting regularly – in libraries, YMCAs, coffee shops, and personal kitchens – and still do to this day.

STRATEGIES:

1. Engage, educate, and activate the community around alternatives to single-use items in everyday life.
2. Seek out best practices and data from across the U.S. and world.
3. Shine a light on local businesses and other community organizations taking action to reduce single-use waste.
4. Pursue systemic, collective solutions that work for and benefit Edwardsville and Glen Carbon.

EXECUTIVE TEAM:

Peg Flach, Mary Grose, Cartney James, Kathy Krieg, Stephanie Malench, Toni Oplt, Rachel Tompkins, Sheila Voss

BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACTIVITIES:

- Conducted research, gathered data, and phone-interviewed retailers and other groups in cities that have implemented successful bag policies and practices
- Developed an Executive Summary packet, complete with background information on the local and global issue of single-use waste, case studies from across the U.S. and world, a draft ordinance, answers to frequently asked questions, and proposed timeline for ordinance approval, implementation, and data-collection
- Met multiple times and communicated with elected officials and staff from the City of Edwardsville and the Village of Glen Carbon to work through various components of the ordinance
- Convened a Small Business Task Force made up of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon retailers to gather input and feedback, identify issues and concerns, and discuss common-ground solutions and compromises
- Met with the Edwardsville Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce and Republic Services to discuss the proposed ordinance and gather input
- Collected signatures for the Ordinance Statement of Support from individuals and businesses; As of October 2019, Bring Your Own Glen-Ed has collected 408 signatures from Edwardsville and another 456 from surrounding towns
- Participated in group conference calls with Springfield-based Illinois Environmental Council, in alliance with other grassroots groups across the state, to inform and shape state-wide legislation on bag fees
- Became an official Illinois Environmental Council affiliate member

PROGRAMS:

- Launched “Community Bag Share” program at six Edwardsville-based locations (2019)
- Collaborated with SIUE to support the SIUE Suzuki/Terracycle “Recycle Your Strings” program (2019)
- Applied to be an organizational participant in the Illinois Department of Transportation “Adopt a Highway” program (application pending as of October 2019)



Take a bag. Leave a bag.
 Inspired by the growing nation of our own countries, Bring Your Own Glen-Ed's Community Bag Share Program goes a little further to reduce single-use waste and keep each other out of the same line. Launched in partnership with local community retailers and institutions, the program can be implemented anywhere across the state. If interested in bringing the Community Bag Share program to your organization or business, message us on Facebook: Bring Your Own Glen-Ed or visit www.bringyourownglen-ed.org

Participating locations for 2019:
 • C2U - Edwardsville
 • Edwardsville Children's Museum
 • Edwardsville Public Library
 • Edwardsville YMCA
 • Jean-Marcel Bistrot, Edwardsville
 • Land of Szechuan Community Market



RECYCLE YOUR STRINGS!
 The SIUE Suzuki Program is now a 100% Recycled Plastic String Bag Center, joining a global movement to reduce waste and keep our world healthy, clean and green.
FACT: 1.5 million strings end up in the landfill every year in the U.S. Since its launch in 2016, the Plastic Bag program, in partnership with Terracycle, has recycled 1.5 million.

Recycle your strings at the SIUE Suzuki Office. Not all metal string originated from all string manufacturers - guitar, tennis, volleyball, piano, utility, etc.
 Questioned Contact: Mary Grose at mgroseg@siue.edu

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH:

- The Land of Goshen Market tabling and activities – Edwardsville, IL (Summers of 2017, 2018, and 2019)
- Earthtones Festival – Alton, IL (September 2017 and 2018)
- Leclair Park Fest – Edwardsville, IL (October 2017 and 2018)
- “Bag It” film screenings – Edwardsville Public Library (September 2017), Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (November 2017), Glen Carbon Centennial Library (January 2018)
- Criterium Recycling Crew – Edwardsville, IL (August 2018)
- “Recycle Responsibly: The Truth About Plastic Bags” public event – Forest Park, St. Louis, MO (November 2018)
- “Normal is Over” film screening and discussion – AMC12, Edwardsville, IL (January 2019)
- “Make a Reusable Bag” tabling activity – Holistic Approach, Glen Carbon, IL (March 2019)
- Republic North County Recycling Tour – Hazelwood, MO (April 2019)
- Edwardsville Art Center children’s activity – Edwardsville, IL (2019)
- Edwardsville Children’s Museum children’s activity and discussion – Edwardsville, IL (2019)
- Edwardsville ArtFest – children’s make-a-bag activity (September 2019)

DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT:

- Launched website: www.bringyourownglen-ed.org (2017)
- Created online petitions (2017)
- Launched a Bring Your Own Glen-Ed Facebook page (2018, weekly postings, up to 287 followers)
- Launched a Bring Your Own Glen-Ed Instagram site (2018)
- Initiated retailer “Shout-Out” recognition program for voluntary actions on Facebook (2018)

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- League of Women Voters – Glen Carbon, IL (October 2017)
- League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area (January 2019)
- Edwardsville City Council presentation (February 2019)
- “Let’s Talk Bags!” presentation to SIUE Young Democrats (February 2019)
- Illinois Bag Fee Discussion with Indivisible Bluecoats – Granite City, IL (March 2019)
- Madison County Retired Teachers Association – Alton, IL (June 2019)
- Edwardsville ACS Committee presentation (September 2019)
- Southern Illinois Democratic Women’s Association – Fairview Heights, IL (October 2019)

ARTICLES:

- “City purchases reusable tote bags,” *Intelligencer* (April 26, 2018)
- “Grassroots Glen-Ed group proposes plastic bag fee,” *Riverbender* (June 27, 2018)
- Answers to Bag Usage questions, *Intelligencer* (July 31, 2018)
- “Would you pay 10 cents for a plastic bag? You might have to if this group gets its way,” *BND* (September 12, 2018)
- “Paper for plastic: Why one group wants to charge for shopping bags in the Metro East,” *KSDK* (September 15, 2018)
- “Plastic bags could start costing money in some Illinois cities,” *BND* (September 2018)
- “Glen Carbon presentation set to encourage people to give up single-use bags,” *Intelligencer* (December 18, 2018)
- “Group asking Edwardsville, Glen Carbon to pass 10-cent fee for single-use bags in stores,” *Intelligencer* (Feb. 20, 2019)
- “Bring Your Own Glen-Ed proposes 10-cent ‘green fee’ on single-use bags,” *Riverbender* (February 20, 2019)
- “Shopping bag fee pushed by Edwardsville-Glen Carbon group could go statewide,” *BND* (February 22, 2019)
- “Legal setback causes local group to press for state instead of local fees on plastic bags,” *BND* (April 1, 2019)
- “Bring Your Own Glen-Ed focuses on Illinois bag fee in light of legal barrier,” *Intelligencer* (April 3, 2019)
- “Glen Carbon, Edwardsville back support letter for making straws optional,” *Intelligencer* (June 17, 2019)
- “Group gives out 400 donated reusable bags at Market Basket,” *Intelligencer* (July 11, 2019)
- “Vadalabene Park gains beauty, flowers,” *Intelligencer* (July 12, 2019)