

BYOCT Consensus Statement 2018

Stopping disposable checkout bag waste before it starts –

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What are we solving for?

Goals for BYOCT disposable packaging initiatives and ordinances are:

- Source reduction, not waste management
- Habitat preservation and protection
- Clean air, clean water, clean land
- Human health protection
- Municipality cost reduction related to waste, water management.



BYOCT solution to realize stated goals:

At this time, BYOCT Representatives are prepared to support:

- Individual CT towns/cities moving forward with their own bag ordinances.
- A State source reduction solution that looks similar to Honolulu's (pop. 325K) amended legislation, passed July 2018:
 - Ban on all plastic bags under 12 mil thick
 - 15cent fee, which is kept by the business, on all compliant paper bags and at least 15cent on all compliant reusable bags. With a 5cent increase every 3 years.
- "Business" means any commercial enterprise or establishment, including an individual proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity, whether for profit or not for profit, and includes any independent contractors associated with the business.

We believe the above outlines the optimal disposable checkout bag reduction solution for realization of stated goals.

BYOCT also supports:

- Parallel educational efforts to stop waste before it starts.
- Recycling initiatives of other plastic films that are not yet addressed, nor yet feasible to eliminate, in individual Town/City initiatives/ordinances or said State bill.
- State legislation equal to or stronger than the proposed BYOCT solution stated previously

Several Reasons for Disposable Checkout Bag Ordinances

- To stop waste before it starts, source reduction
- To reduce waste & public works management costs to Towns/Cities
- To reduce animal and habitat endangerment
- To protect Human Health
- To reduce dependence on natural resources



BYOCT is not in favor of a State bag tax:

For these reasons:

- it has short term realized waste reduction and no source reduction, as we have learned from DC
- it has high administrative and enforcement costs and higher number of non compliance fines, as we have learned from DC & Chicago
- it falsely funds programs with an unsustainable revenue model, if indeed the intent is to reduce waste at the source. A true conflicted model of a state revenue source vs. material source and system costs reduction
- it does not compensate the businesses and does not level the cost playing field of chains vs. mom & pops

Why is it important for CT Towns/Cities to continue with their own ordinances:

- A State Bag Bill has been considered for 10 years and as recently as Summer 2017 failed in committee
 - Proposed a 5cent tax
 - No consensus on where tax \$\$\$s went (general fund vs. programs)
- Every CT Town/City is different
 - Massachusetts has 83 Towns/Cities with their own ordinances, their State ban recently failed to pass

Why is 12 mil plastic checkout bag thickness important?:

- Because if your ordinance has anything less, your Town/City will be flooded with inferior, yet thicker, plastic checkout bags.
- The plastic bag industry has already figured out ways to get around ordinances with less than 12mil thickness requirements.
- The under 12 mil inferior plastic checkout bags:
 - Defy the “intent” of Town/City ordinances
 - DO NOT SOLVE SOURCE REDUCTION
 - Use more resources to produce, are still not recyclable, still endanger wildlife and human health and still cause municipalities \$\$\$\$s to manage and clean up the damage they cause.

This reusable bag is made from Low Density Polyethylene with a minimum thickness of 2.25 mil. It is partly made of post-consumer recycled material, at least 80%, it is a reusable bag and is designed for at least 125 uses. Please recycle this bag in participating stores. This product may not be recyclable in your area. This bag is ordinance compliant and does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other metals in toxic amounts. To clean, rinse bag with liquid dish soap on inside of the bag and hang upside down to dry. This bag is Made in France by TTPLAST sas and is distributed in the USA by Mettler Packacking LLC.

EXAMPLE OF INFERIOR UNDER 12mil PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAG FLOODING CALIFORNIA

Why is a 15cent fee on paper checkout bags important?

- It compensates businesses for paper checkout bag cost
- It evens the paper checkout bag cost playing field for mom & pops vs. big chain stores
- It discourages consumers from just switching from plastic to paper
- The hybrid model (ban/fee) has been shown to achieve larger source reduction numbers and a greater shift in consumer behavior to using reusable bags

CT Grocery Chain Model: Already implementing source reduction

Statement from a grocery chain operating 26 successful stores in the State of CT today.

- A cost-effective measure we employ is the reusable bag program. We encourage customers to bring their own shopping bags or they may purchase a reusable, long-lasting ALDI bag. Not only does this save our customers money, it also reduces the impact on the environment. Customers are also responsible for bagging their own groceries.
- Our reusable shopping bags are currently available in our stores. On your next visit to your local ALDI, please feel free to ask the store manager or another employee for assistance in finding this item.
- Lastly, according to our product retail database, as of the close of business last night, the retail price for our Plastic Shopping Bag is \$0.10; however, prices at ALDI are subject to change and may vary by store location. Please visit your local ALDI store for retail price verification.

Let's work together!

TO JOIN BYOCT,
VISIT OUR WEB PAGE - www.byoct.org



RESOURCES ON OUR WEB PAGE

www.byoct.org



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Plastic/Paper checkout Bags



Ordinance Reference Sites

[Plastic Bag Laws](#)
[Bag Laws](#)

Local/State/National Groups Plastic Pollution Reduction Guides

[Bag It Movie Tool Kit](#)
[Citizens Campaign for the Environment](#)
[Plastic Pollution Coalition](#)
[Rethink Disposable](#)
[Surfrider Foundation](#)

Community Outreach Aids
[Bring an upcycle bag craft to schools and clubs](#)
[Run a Bag Drive](#)
[Run BYO Bag Design Contest](#)

Facts & Footnotes

[NY State Plastic Bag Impact Study](#)
[Plastic Bags](#)
[Plastics Breakdown](#)
[Why Paper Bag Fees are Important?](#)
[Why mils matter!](#)

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Breaking News

[Set up Bag Bans in your Google Alerts](#)

Bag Films & Videos

[Educational](#)
[Free Bags Aren't "Free"](#)
[Story of Solutions](#)

Ordinances from CT Towns & Others

[September 2008 - Westport](#)
[March 2018 - Greenwich - 12 mil](#)
[October 2018 - Stamford - ban/fee: hybrid model](#) (waiting for mayor signature)
[October 2018 - Weston - ban/fee - 4 mil: hybrid model](#)

[January 2018 - Boston, MA - ban/fee: hybrid model](#)
[April 2018 - Mansfield, MA - 4mil](#)
[August 2018 - Anchorage, AK - ban/fee: hybrid model](#) (\$.10 - \$.50 reusable & paper bag fee)

BYOCT appreciates being part of this conversation, we look forward to CT Towns individually taking charge of disposable packaging source reduction before, during and after State legislation is adopted.