LI Sound Futures Fund 2011 - Education & Small Grants - Submit Final Programmatic Report (Activities)

Grantee Organization: Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment, Inc.

Project Title: Reducing Plastic Pollution in Waterways through "Bring Your Own Bag" Campaign (NY)

**Project Period** 12/01/2011 - 12/01/2012

Award Amount\$25,000.40Matching Contributions\$30,000.00

Project Location Description (from Proposal) The

The project will take place within the LIS watershed in the communities of Huntington, The village of Northport, and the Village of Port

Jefferson.

**Project Summary (from Proposal)** 

Implement a pilot campaign to reduce plastic pollution into waterways by encouraging 500 residents to use reusable bags instead of throw-a-way disposable plastic bags in two communities in the Long Island Sound Watershed. The project will produce a short video PSA, distribute 2,500 brochures in targeted areas, work with local businesses to ensure "prompts" are displayed in local shops, and encourage residents to pledge to stop using plastic bags.

**Summary of Accomplishments** 

CCFE kicked off the campaign in January. We conducted research in the three downtown Target areas of Huntington, Northport, and Port Jefferson. CCFE staff surveyed 320 residents to establish baseline data that laid the framework for the project. In the Spring, CCFE secured partnerships with the Town of Huntington, Village of Port Jefferson and the Village of Northport. CCFE then canvassed businesses in the target downtown business districts and successfully obtained 50 stores to sign on to a pledge to kick the plastic bag habit. In addition, CCFE attended community events, festivals, and set up tabling events at supermarkets to educate residents on the importance of bringing their own bag. Through this, we achieved the goal of over 500 individuals to sign pledges to "kick the plastic bag habit" and disseminated over 500 reusable bags.

**Lessons Learned** 

- 1. It would have been helpful to stress the importance of completing the e-mail address field in the residential pledge forms and encouraged people to write legibly or have the ability to allow people to complete the pledge electronically, so deciphering handwriting is not a problem.
- 2. A tip for other conservation organizations would be to conduct more community presentations. CCFE found this part of the campaign to be most successful participants were engaged, asked questions, and were more likely to sign the pledge when part of a group.
- 3. We would have liked to conduct a better follow-up mechanism. We opted to email the survey out, but as previously stated we only 20 participants respond. We would have liked to conduct follow-up phone calls, but due to constrained costs and time this was not an option.

Conservation Activities	Collect 500 pledges from members of the public to use reusable bags
Progress Measures	# of participants in activity
Value at Grant Completion	500
Conservation Activities	Gain participation from local businesses
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (# of buisnesses)
Value at Grant Completion	50
Conservation Activities	Distribution of literature
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (# of pieces distributed)
Value at Grant Completion	7500
Conservation Activities	Production of 1 PSA

Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (# psa)
Value at Grant Completion	1
Conservation Activities	production of 1 You Tube Video
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (# You Tube video)
Value at Grant Completion	1
Conservation Activities	design and production of brochure
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (# brochure)
Value at Grant Completion	1
Conservation Activities	production of 1 sign template
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (#of sign template)
Value at Grant Completion	1
Conservation Activities	Outreach to 3 municipalities
Progress Measures	Other Activity Metric (# of municipalities)
Value at Grant Completion	3





### **BYOB** statistics

- Frequency of grocery shopping
  - Slightly more than half go grocery shopping once a week
- Use of reusable bags
  - o 19% always bring their reusable bag
  - o 35% never do
- Reason for not using reusable bags
  - o 55% forget their bags at home or in their car
- Use of grocery store plastic bags
  - Almost 70% use them as garbage bags
  - o 40% pick up pet waste
  - o 25% do nothing with them
  - o 20% throw them away
- Would you use a reusable bag more often if...
  - For each question, the majority of people would use a reusable bag under the new condition, however there are 48 people+ who refuse to use the bags
- Did you know...
  - People were knowledgeable with most questions
  - o 233 out of 320 did not know that Americans use 1 billion plastic bags a year
  - 208 out of 320 did not realize the cost of producing paper and plastic bags is placed on the customer
- Does this change how you use plastic bags?
  - o After learning the facts, 90% said they will change their bag usage

### **BYOB** statistics

- City
  - About a 1/3 response rate in each town- Port Jefferson, Huntington and Northport
- Surveyor
  - Jen surveyed a 1/3 of the total people surveyed
- Date surveyed

- o Period between Feb. 2 and Feb. 21, mostly on Feb. 21
- AGE
  - Of the 319 questions asked, the age group of 18-25 had the greatest response rate with 23.8%
- Gender
  - 47% male 53% female
- Residency
  - o About half those surveyed are from a town other than the three listed
  - Equal distribution of about 17% with Port Jefferson, Huntington and Northport
- Frequency of grocery shopping
  - Slightly more than half go grocery shopping once a week
- Use of reusable bags
  - 19% always bring their reusable bag while
  - o 35% never do
- Reason for not using reusable bags
  - 55% forget their bags at home or in their car
  - Almost a quarter responded with other, some popular examples include: plastic and/or paper bags are used for garbage, haven't purchased a reusable bag yet, don't carry them around with them
- Shops most frequented
  - o 62% use Stop & Shop
  - o 24% Target
  - o 23% Trader Joe
  - o 21.5% King Kullen
  - Majority of other category was wither BJs or Costco (12%)
- Use of grocery store plastic bags
  - Almost 70% use them as garbage bags
  - o 40% pick up pet waste
  - o 25% do nothing with them
  - 20% throw them away
- Would you use a reusable bag more often if...
  - For each question, the majority of people would use a reusable bag under the new condition, however there are 48 people+ who refuse to use the bags
- Did you know ...
  - People were knowledgeable with most questions
  - 233 out of 320 did not know that Americans use 1 billion plastic bags a year
  - 208 out of 320 did not realize the cost of producing paper and plastic bags is placed on the customer
  - HOWEVER 254 out of 319 DO KNOW that plastic bags are deadly to marine life
- Does this change how you use plastic bags?
  - After learning the facts, 90% said they will change their bag usage
  - 9 people skipped this question

- Additional comments
  - Majority of positive comments about both the survey and the change in views on use of plastic bags.
  - o Some people stated they will still not change their ways



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# BRING Y OWN B









□ 188 East Post Road, Suite #404 • White Plains, NY 10601 914-358-9840

☐ 744 Broadway • Albany, NY 12207 518-772-1862

□ 733 Delaware Road, Box 140 • Buffalo, NY 14223 716-831-3206

466 Westcott Street, 2nd Floor • Syracuse, NY 13210 315-472-1339

2404 Whitney Avenue, 2nd Floor • Hamden, CT 06518 203-821-7050

### www.citizenscampaign.org

### Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

June 20, 2012

RE: Help Us Fight Plastic Bag Pollution!

Dear Friend,

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization founded in 1985 with 80,000 members throughout New York State and Connecticut CCE works to empower communities and advocate solutions to protect public health and our natural environment.

CCE is writing to invite your business to participate in a new and important campaign to increase reusable shopping bag use throughout the Long Island Sound and thereby reduce pollution caused by single-use shopping bags. Preventing pollution is the cheapest and easiest way to protect our environment. Plastic shopping bags frequently become unsightly litter that cling to trees and fences, cover our parks and beaches, accumulates along roadways, harms and kills wildlife, and clogs storm drains. There is a simple solution to plastic bag pollution – **BYOB or Bring Your Own Bag.** CCE is advancing programs to encourage members of the public to use reusable bags. But we need your help!

CCE asks you to voluntarily "kick the plastic bag habit" and pledge to participate in an educational campaign to replace disposable bags with reusable bags at your store. You can chose from several options that will help; from increasing public education with signs, to banning plastic bags you're your business. By taking the pledge, your business will be part of the solution to prevent unnecessary plastic pollution. CCE will present a certificate to your business recognizing your leadership and commitment in protecting our environment. Your business will also be featured as a good environmental steward on CCE press materials and on our website at www.citizenscampaign.org

CCE looks forward to working with your business to reduce litter and protect marine life by reducing harmful plastic bag pollution. For any reason, please feel free to contact either Maureen Dolan-Murphy or Tara Bono at

(516) 390-7150.

Thank you for your consideration,

Edvicine Sprito

Best Regards,

Adrienne Esposito Executive Director



516-390-7150 ☐ 188 East Post Road, Suite #404 • White Plains, NY 10601 914-358-9840

☐ 744 Broadway • Albany, NY 12207 518-772-1862

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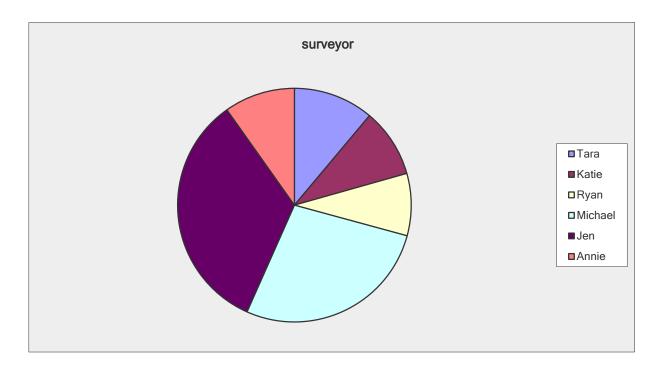
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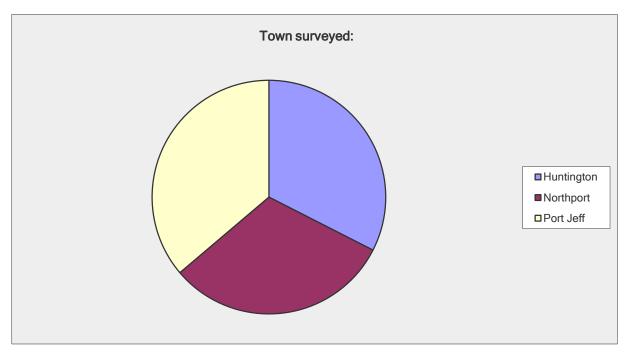
# Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

	formally pledge	es to join Citizens Campaign for the Environment	
in kicking the plastic	bag habit.		
environment. Plastic cover our parks and	shopping bags frequently becombeaches, accumulates along road	e cheapest and easiest way to protect our ne unsightly litter that cling to trees and fences, dways, harms and kills wildlife, and clogs storm tion – BYOB or Bring Your Own Bag.	
Starting reusable bags using t encourage consumer	the checked methods. This store v	ressively pursue replacing plastic bags with will offer reusable bags at a reasonable price and	
This business	pledges to take the following ac	tions to reduce plastic bag consumption:	
		inding consumers to bring their own bag	
Educate staff to ask consumers if they want/need a bag with their purchase  Provide reusable bags for sale in the store			
Sto	Stop offering plastic bags in the store		
Cha	arge consumers for the plastic bag	gs they use	
Pro	vide reusable bags for free as pro	omotional items	
Print Name		Date	
Signature		Business Name	
E-mail address		Address	
Phone number		City, state, zip	

surveyor		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Tara	11.1%	36
Katie	9.5%	31
Ryan	8.6%	28
Michael	27.4%	89
Jen	33.5%	109
Annie	9.8%	32
an	swered question	325
5	skipped question	0



Town surveyed:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Huntington Northport Port Jeff	32.5% 31.3% 36.2%	105 101 117
	nswered question skipped question	323 2



Date surveyed: 00/00/00	
Answer Options	Response Count
	324
answered question	on 324
skipped question	<i>on</i> 1

Number	Response Date		Response Text	Categorie s
	1	Feb 21, 2012 10:55 PM		
	2	Feb 21, 2012 8:48 PM		
	3	Feb 21, 2012 8:47 PM		
	4	Feb 21, 2012 8:44 PM		
	5	Feb 21, 2012 8:40 PM		
	6	Feb 21, 2012 8:38 PM		
	7	Feb 21, 2012 8:36 PM		
	8	Feb 21, 2012 8:35 PM		
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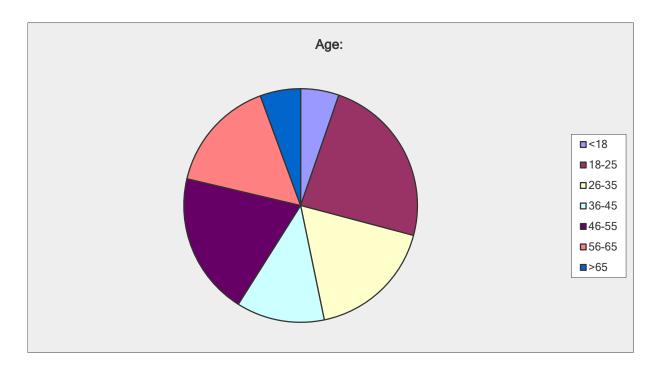
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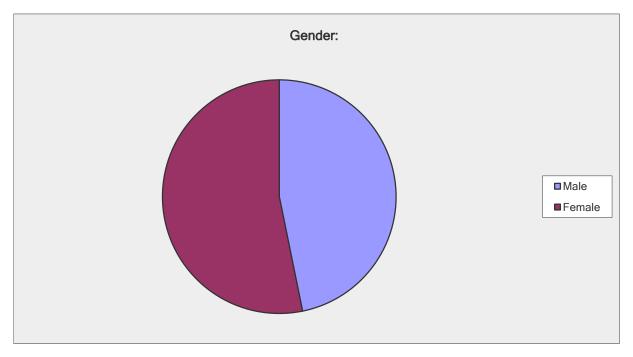
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266	Feb 10, 2012 4:47 PM	12/17/2011
267	Feb 10, 2012 4:45 PM	12/17/2011
268	Feb 10, 2012 4:43 PM	12/17/2011
269	Feb 10, 2012 4:42 PM	12/17/2011
270	Feb 10, 2012 4:39 PM	12/17/2011
271	Feb 10, 2012 4:33 PM	12/17/2011
272	Feb 10, 2012 4:32 PM	12/17/2011
273	Feb 10, 2012 4:31 PM	12/17/2011
274	Feb 10, 2012 4:29 PM	12/17/2011
275	Feb 6, 2012 4:17 AM	12/17/2011
276	Feb 6, 2012 4:00 AM	12/17/2011
277	Feb 6, 2012 3:48 AM	12/17/2011
278	Feb 6, 2012 3:39 AM	12/17/2011
279	Feb 6, 2012 3:36 AM	12/17/2011
280	Feb 6, 2012 3:31 AM	12/17/2011
281	Feb 6, 2012 3:21 AM	12/17/2011
282	Feb 6, 2012 3:19 AM	12/17/2011
283	Feb 6, 2012 3:14 AM	12/17/2011
284	Feb 6, 2012 3:11 AM	12/17/2011
285	Feb 6, 2012 3:09 AM	12/17/2011
286	Feb 6, 2012 3:06 AM	12/17/2011
287	Feb 6, 2012 3:04 AM	12/17/2011
288	Feb 6, 2012 3:00 AM	12/17/2011
289	Feb 6, 2012 2:56 AM	12/17/2011
290	Feb 6, 2012 2:53 AM	12/17/2011
291	Feb 6, 2012 2:48 AM	12/17/2011
292	Feb 6, 2012 2:43 AM	12/17/2011
293	Feb 6, 2012 2:40 AM	12/17/2011
293 294	Feb 6, 2012 2:38 AM	12/17/2011
29 <del>4</del> 295	Feb 6, 2012 2:36 AM	12/17/2011
296 296	•	12/17/2011
	Feb 6, 2012 2:35 AM	
297	Feb 6, 2012 2:33 AM	12/17/2011
298	Feb 6, 2012 2:30 AM	12/17/2011
299	Feb 6, 2012 12:49 AM	12/17/2011

300	Feb 6, 2012 12:47 AM	12/17/2011
301	Feb 6, 2012 12:08 AM	12/17/2011
302	Feb 6, 2012 12:06 AM	12/17/2011
303	Feb 6, 2012 12:01 AM	12/17/2011
304	Feb 5, 2012 11:59 PM	12/17/2011
305	Feb 5, 2012 11:58 PM	12/17/2011
306	Feb 5, 2012 11:56 PM	12/17/2011
307	Feb 5, 2012 11:54 PM	12/17/2011
308	Feb 5, 2012 11:52 PM	12/17/2011
309	Feb 5, 2012 11:48 PM	12/17/2011
310	Feb 5, 2012 11:45 PM	12/17/2011
311	Feb 5, 2012 11:38 PM	12/17/2011
312	Feb 5, 2012 11:33 PM	12/17/2011
313	Feb 5, 2012 11:30 PM	12/17/2011
314	Feb 5, 2012 11:27 PM	12/17/2011
315	Feb 5, 2012 11:25 PM	12/17/2011
316	Feb 5, 2012 11:22 PM	12/11/2017
317	Feb 5, 2012 11:10 PM	12/17/2011
318	Feb 5, 2012 11:08 PM	12/17/2011
319	Feb 5, 2012 11:07 PM	12/17/2011
320	Feb 5, 2012 11:02 PM	12/17/2011
321	Feb 5, 2012 10:59 PM	12/17/2011
322	Feb 5, 2012 10:53 PM	
323	Feb 2, 2012 5:56 PM	12/17/2011
324	Feb 2, 2012 5:48 PM	01/26/2012

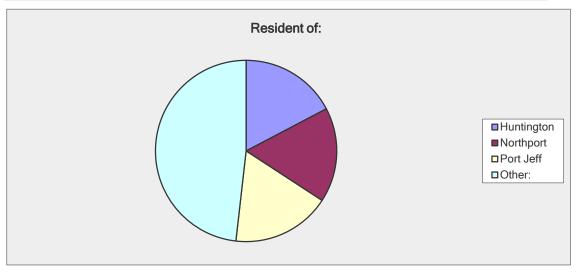
Age:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
<18	5.3%	17
18-25	23.8%	76
26-35	17.6%	56
36-45	12.2%	39
46-55	19.7%	63
56-65	15.7%	50
>65	5.6%	18
an	swered question	319
5	skipped question	6



Gender:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male Female	46.8% 53.2%	138 157
	nswered question skipped question	295 30



Resident of:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Huntington Northport Port Jeff Other:	17.3% 16.9% 17.6% 48.2%	54 53 55 151
	answered question skipped question	313 12



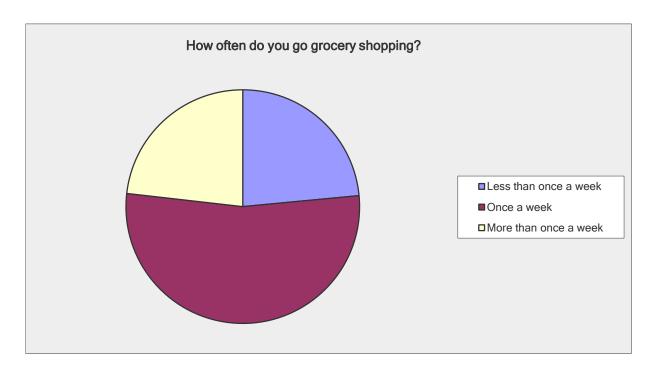
Number	Response Date			Other:	Categories	
Nullibei	nesponse Date	Feb 21, 2012 10:5	e DM		Categories	
2		•		•		
		Feb 21, 2012 8:4			January Carlos NING	
3		Feb 21, 2012 8:4		•	dent, in INY on vac	cation
4		Feb 21, 2012 8:4		•		
5		Feb 21, 2012 8:3				
$\epsilon$		Feb 21, 2012 8:3	7 PM	Seaford		
7	7	Feb 21, 2012 8:34	4 PM	East Northport		
8	3	Feb 21, 2012 8:33	2 PM	Sufflolk County		
9		Feb 21, 2012 8:3	2 PM	Suffolk County		
10	)	Feb 21, 2012 8:30	Mq 0	Seldon		
11		Feb 21, 2012 8:28	B PM	Smithtown		
12	2	Feb 21, 2012 8:24			on vacation	
13	}	Feb 21, 2012 8:23				
14		Feb 21, 2012 8:20		· ·		
15		Feb 21, 2012 6:3				
16		Feb 21, 2012 6:2				
17		Feb 21, 2012 6:20				
18		Feb 21, 2012 6:24				
19		Feb 21, 2012 6:23				
		•				
20		Feb 21, 2012 6:22				
21		Feb 21, 2012 6:19	9 PM	Miller Place		

22	Feb 21, 2012 6:07 PM Mt. Sinai
23	Feb 21, 2012 5:53 PM Brookhaven
24	Feb 21, 2012 5:52 PM Brookhaven
25	Feb 21, 2012 5:51 PM Setauket
26	Feb 21, 2012 5:47 PM Holbrook
27	Feb 21, 2012 5:21 PM Port Jefferson Station
28	Feb 21, 2012 5:20 PM Miller Place
29	Feb 21, 2012 5:19 PM Miller Place
	·
30	Feb 21, 2012 5:18 PM Commack
31	Feb 21, 2012 5:16 PM St. James
32	Feb 21, 2012 5:06 PM Mt. Sinai & North Manchaster, IN
33	Feb 21, 2012 5:00 PM Miller Place
34	Feb 21, 2012 4:59 PM Conneticut
35	Feb 21, 2012 4:57 PM Rocky Point
36	Feb 21, 2012 4:56 PM St. James
37	Feb 21, 2012 4:55 PM Mt. Sinai
38	Feb 21, 2012 4:54 PM Not specified
39	Feb 21, 2012 4:51 PM Garden City, NY
40	Feb 21, 2012 4:50 PM Middletown, CT
41	Feb 17, 2012 2:51 PM Port Jeff. Sta.
42	Feb 17, 2012 2:23 PM Setauket
43	Feb 17, 2012 1:16 PM Nassau County
44	Feb 17, 2012 1:14 PM Central Islip
45	Feb 17, 2012 1:14 FM Stony Brook
46 46	
	Feb 17, 2012 1:12 PM Rocky Point
47	Feb 17, 2012 1:08 PM Miller Place
48	Feb 17, 2012 1:06 PM W. Babylon
49	Feb 17, 2012 1:03 PM E. Setauket
50	Feb 17, 2012 1:02 PM E. Setauket
51	Feb 17, 2012 1:01 PM Manorville
52	Feb 17, 2012 12:52 PM E. Moriches
53	Feb 17, 2012 12:51 PM Lindenhurst
54	Feb 17, 2012 12:50 PM Lake Grove
55	Feb 17, 2012 12:49 PM E. WIlliston
56	Feb 17, 2012 12:48 PM E Williston
57	Feb 17, 2012 12:46 PM Port Jeff Sta
58	Feb 17, 2012 12:45 PM Port Jeff Sta
59	Feb 17, 2012 12:44 PM Port Jefferson Station
60	Feb 17, 2012 12:41 PM Rocky Point
61	Feb 17, 2012 12:40 PM Bayshore
62	Feb 17, 2012 12:37 PM Miller Place
63	Feb 17, 2012 12:36 PM E. Islip
64	Feb 17, 2012 12:35 PM Shoreham
65	Feb 17, 2012 12:31 PM Lake Grove
66	Feb 17, 2012 12:30 PM E. Setauket
67	·
	Feb 17, 2012 12:28 PM Stony Brook
68	Feb 17, 2012 12:25 PM Seldon
69	Feb 17, 2012 12:23 PM Setauket
70 - 1	Feb 17, 2012 12:21 PM Port Jefferson Station
71	Feb 17, 2012 12:16 PM Orange County
72	Feb 17, 2012 1:27 AM Commack
73	Feb 17, 2012 1:24 AM East Northport

74	Feb 17, 2012 1:20 AM Queens
75	Feb 17, 2012 1:13 AM Nassau County
76	Feb 17, 2012 1:07 AM East Northport
77	Feb 17, 2012 1:02 AM Smithtown
78	Feb 17, 2012 12:58 AM East Northport
79	Feb 17, 2012 12:55 AM Smithtown
80	Feb 17, 2012 12:53 AM Northport Village
81	Feb 17, 2012 12:52 AM East Northport
82	Feb 17, 2012 12:51 AM East Northport
83	Feb 17, 2012 12:48 AM Smithtown
84	Feb 17, 2012 12:47 AM Seaford
85	Feb 17, 2012 12:45 AM West Islip
86	Feb 17, 2012 12:43 AM Hicksville
87	Feb 16, 2012 5:39 PM Suffolk County
88	Feb 16, 2012 5:38 PM Suffolk County
89	Feb 16, 2012 5:35 PM Greenlawn
90	Feb 16, 2012 5:32 PM East Northport
91	Feb 16, 2012 5:22 PM Merrick
92	Feb 16, 2012 5:19 PM Brooklyn
93	Feb 16, 2012 5:18 PM Virginia
94	Feb 16, 2012 5:17 PM East Northport
95	Feb 16, 2012 5:09 PM East Northport
96	Feb 16, 2012 4:56 PM Centerport
97	Feb 16, 2012 4:54 PM Not specified
98	Feb 16, 2012 4:50 PM East Northport
99	Feb 16, 2012 4:41 PM Greenlawn
100	Feb 16, 2012 4:41 FM Careemawn
101	Feb 16, 2012 4:23 PM East Northport
102	Feb 10, 2012 7:15 PM Bayshore
103	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
104	Feb 10, 2012 7:13 PM Massapequa
	Feb 10, 2012 7:12 PM Nassau County
105	Feb 10, 2012 7:10 PM Deer Park
106	Feb 10, 2012 7:01 PM Cold Spring Harbor
107	Feb 10, 2012 6:57 PM Brentwood
108	Feb 10, 2012 6:53 PM Smithtown
109	Feb 10, 2012 6:52 PM Bayshore
110	Feb 10, 2012 6:49 PM Babylon
111	Feb 10, 2012 6:48 PM Babylon
112	Feb 10, 2012 6:46 PM North Babylon
113	Feb 10, 2012 6:39 PM East Northport
114	Feb 10, 2012 6:37 PM Smithtown
115	Feb 10, 2012 6:07 PM South Huntington
116	Feb 10, 2012 6:05 PM Huntington Station
117	Feb 10, 2012 6:01 PM South Huntington
118	Feb 10, 2012 5:57 PM Syosset
119	Feb 10, 2012 5:55 PM Syosset
120	Feb 10, 2012 5:40 PM Melville, NY
121	Feb 10, 2012 5:38 PM Huntington Station
122	Feb 10, 2012 5:33 PM Huntington Station
123	Feb 10, 2012 5:32 PM Dix Hills
124	Feb 10, 2012 5:31 PM Deer Park
125	Feb 10, 2012 5:23 PM Levittown

126	Feb 10, 2012 4:57 PM Seaford
127	Feb 10, 2012 4:54 PM Levittown
128	Feb 10, 2012 4:52 PM levittown
129	Feb 10, 2012 4:51 PM Levittown
130	Feb 10, 2012 4:49 PM 25 Peony Rd, Levittown
131	Feb 10, 2012 4:47 PM Worester, MA
132	Feb 10, 2012 4:45 PM Massachusetts
133	Feb 10, 2012 4:42 PM Dix Hills
134	Feb 10, 2012 4:39 PM Huntington Station
135	Feb 10, 2012 4:32 PM Huntington Station
136	Feb 10, 2012 4:31 PM Cold Spring Harbor
137	Feb 6, 2012 4:17 AM Cold Spring Harbor
138	Feb 6, 2012 4:03 AM Brentwood, NY
139	Feb 6, 2012 3:49 AM Huntington Station
140	Feb 6, 2012 3:40 AM Centerport
141	Feb 6, 2012 3:37 AM Nassau County
142	Feb 6, 2012 3:21 AM Setauket
143	Feb 6, 2012 2:56 AM Huntington Station
144	Feb 6, 2012 2:51 AM Huntinton Station
145	Feb 6, 2012 2:37 AM Huntington Station
146	Feb 6, 2012 2:33 AM Long Beach
147	Feb 6, 2012 12:48 AM Cold Spring Harbor
148	Feb 6, 2012 12:02 AM Goshyn, NY
149	Feb 5, 2012 11:34 PM Syosset
150	Feb 5, 2012 11:02 PM Syosset
151	Feb 2, 2012 5:48 PM Setauket

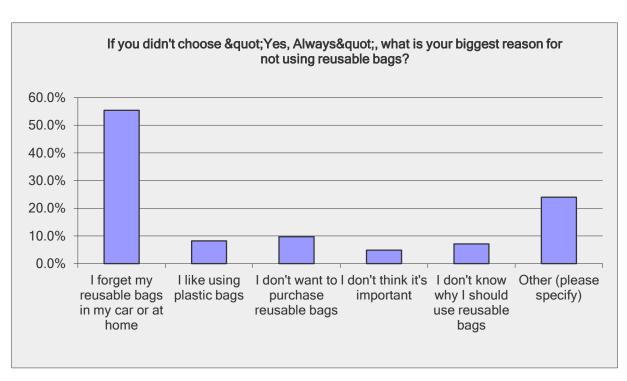
How often do you go grocery shopping?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than once a week Once a week More than once a week	23.5% 53.3% 23.2%	75 170 74
	answered question skipped question	319 6



Do you bring your own reusable bags when you go grocery shopping?				
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count		
Yes, always	19.0%	61		
Most times	21.8%	70		
Sometimes	23.7%	76		
No, never	35.5%	114		
ai	nswered question	321		
	skipped question	4		



If you didn't choose "Yes, Always", what is your biggest reason for not using reusable bags?				
Answer Options	Response Percent	Respon Coun		
I forget my reusable bags in my car or at home	55.4%	148		
I like using plastic bags	8.2%	22		
I don't want to purchase reusable bags	9.7%	26		
I don't think it's important	4.9%	13		
I don't know why I should use reusable bags	7.1%	19		
Other (please specify)	24.0%	64		
	answered question			
	skipped question			

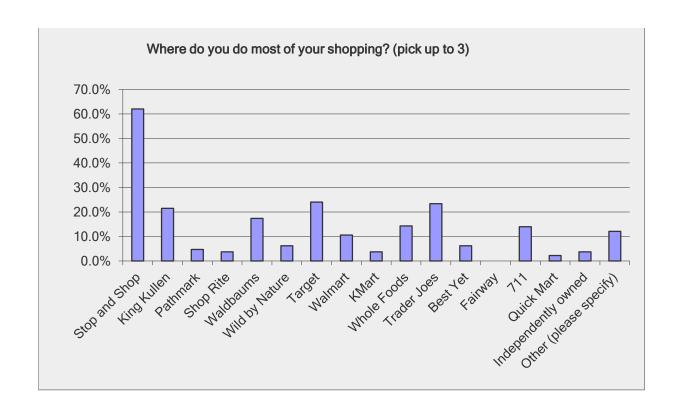


Number	Response Date		Other (please specify)	Categories
	1	Feb 21, 2012 8:46 PM	I use plastic bags at home	
	2	Feb 21, 2012 8:40 PM	I'm always in a rush/I don't plan ahead	
	3	Feb 21, 2012 8:37 PM	I don't plan ahead	
	4	Feb 21, 2012 8:36 PM	I reuse paper/plastic bags at home	
			It's one less thing to pack, when I go shopping I	
	5	Feb 21, 2012 8:34 PM	don't plan ahead	
	6	Feb 21, 2012 8:31 PM	I haven't purchesed one	
	7	Feb 21, 2012 8:29 PM	I've never purchased one	
	8	Feb 21, 2012 8:27 PM	I reuse paper/plastic bags, and I don't drive	
	9	Feb 21, 2012 8:25 PM	I don't think about it	
	10	Feb 21, 2012 8:24 PM	I use brown bags for garbage at home	
	11	Feb 21, 2012 8:22 PM	I use paper bags for garbage bags at home	
	12	Feb 21, 2012 6:37 PM	I like paper bags	

		I often don't bag groceries becasue I can carry them
13	Feb 21, 2012 6:35 PM	• •
14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	I can't be bothered to bring my own bag.
15	Feb 21, 2012 5:53 PM	
16	Feb 21, 2012 5:50 PM	
17	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	I don't have any good reason
18		I use them for garbage bags at home
19		I re-use plastic bags as garbage bags at home
19	1 GD 21, 2012 4.32 FW	Tre-use plastic bags as garbage bags at nome
20	Feb 17, 2012 1:42 PM	I use plastic bags to scoop cat litter and need them
21	Feb 17, 2012 1:22 PM	No car, not going to carry re-usable bags at all times
22	Feb 17, 2012 1:14 PM	Not specified
23	Feb 17, 2012 1:00 PM	I haven't thought about it
24	Feb 17, 2012 12:41 PM	I don't have any
25	Feb 17, 2012 12:29 PM	Sometimes I need garbage bags for home
26	Feb 17, 2012 12:27 PM	I don't have any
		Specificall get plastic bags to re-use as garbage
27	Feb 17, 2012 12:26 PM	bags
28	Feb 17, 2012 12:22 PM	I only have 1 and don't always fit everything in it
29	Feb 17, 2012 12:17 PM	I forget to purchase them
30	Feb 17, 2012 1:28 AM	
31	Feb 17, 2012 1:26 AM	
32	Feb 17, 2012 1:23 AM	Spontaneous shopping
		Last minute shopping at supermarket, cashier bags
33	Feb 17, 2012 1:19 AM	withou asking
34	Feb 17, 2012 1:12 AM	
35	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	I get plastic bags specifically to pick up cat liter
		I only take plastic bags if I can't carry everything in a
36	Feb 17, 2012 12:48 AM	
37	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	I need the paper & plastic bags for use at home
38	Feb 16, 2012 5:36 PM	Wife does the shopping
39	Feb 16, 2012 5:34 PM	Get plastic bags specifically for garbage bags
		I get the plastic bags so I don't hae to purchase
40	Feb 16, 2012 5:20 PM	
41	Feb 16, 2012 4:23 PM	
42	Feb 10, 2012 7:16 PM	I reuse them at least 4 times

43	Feb 10, 2012 7:14 PM No answer
44	Feb 10, 2012 7:13 PM I reuse the plastic bags for a number of things
	Always coming or going from somewhere, I don't
45	Feb 10, 2012 7:11 PM carry one/any wiht me
46	Feb 10, 2012 7:04 PM Last minute shopping, I don't think about it
	My wife uses reusable bags when she does
	shopping. I do last minute shopping and don't think
47	Feb 10, 2012 7:00 PM about bringing a reusable bag
	I bring reusable bags for grocery shoppibng, but
48	Feb 10, 2012 6:51 PM forge for other types of shopping
49	Feb 10, 2012 6:45 PM I don't have one and forget to purchase one
50	Feb 10, 2012 6:44 PM I don't have to, plastic bags are provided for free
51	Feb 10, 2012 6:40 PM I don't have any
52	Feb 10, 2012 6:38 PM Don't have any
53	Feb 10, 2012 6:36 PM I just don't think about it
54	Feb 10, 2012 4:53 PM I don't have a reusable bag
55	Feb 10, 2012 4:52 PM I do not like plastic bags
56	Feb 10, 2012 4:30 PM Germs, sanitary issues
57	Feb 6, 2012 3:13 AM Germs/sanitary issues
58	Feb 6, 2012 12:50 AM I didn't think of it
	Haven't purchased reusable bags, but not becasue I
59	Feb 6, 2012 12:32 AM don't want
60	Feb 5, 2012 11:35 PM I recycle all my plastic bags
61	Feb 5, 2012 11:29 PM I'd like to have a disposable natural bag
62	Feb 5, 2012 11:26 PM Not specified
63	Feb 5, 2012 11:12 PM Sometimes I need paper to recycle newspapers
64	Feb 2, 2012 5:49 PM I don't shop often

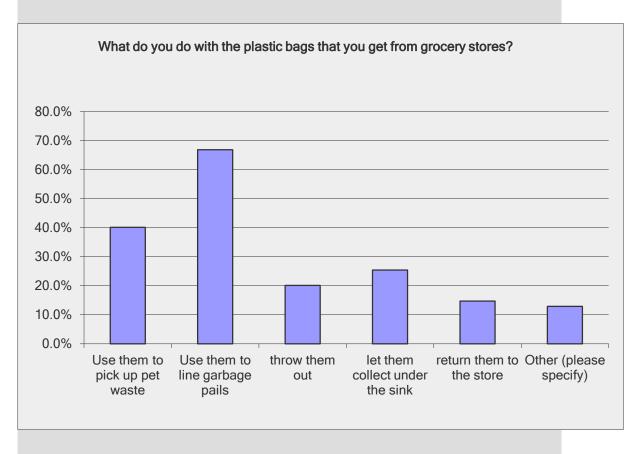
Where do you do most of your shopping? (pick up to 3)			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	
Stop and Shop	62.0%	199	
King Kullen	21.5%	69	
Pathmark	4.7%	15	
Shop Rite	3.7%	12	
Waldbaums	17.4%	56	
Wild by Nature	6.2%	20	
Target	24.0%	77	
Walmart	10.6%	34	
KMart	3.7%	12	
Whole Foods	14.3%	46	
Trader Joes	23.4%	75	
Best Yet	6.2%	20	
Fairway	0.0%	0	
711	14.0%	45	
Quick Mart	2.2%	7	
Independently owned	3.7%	12	
Other (please specify)	12.1%	39	
an	swered question	321	
	skipped question	4	



Number Response Date Other (please specify)	egories
1 Feb 21, 2012 10:59 PM costco	
2 Feb 21, 2012 8:46 PM Costco	
3 Feb 21, 2012 8:44 PM Costco	
4 Feb 21, 2012 8:28 PM Food pantries	
5 Feb 21, 2012 6:38 PM BJ's, Meat Farms	
6 Feb 21, 2012 6:37 PM Costco	
7 Feb 21, 2012 6:31 PM Costco	
8 Feb 21, 2012 6:26 PM Costco	
9 Feb 21, 2012 6:07 PM Costco	
10 Feb 21, 2012 6:06 PM Costco	
11 Feb 21, 2012 5:20 PM Costco	
12 Feb 21, 2012 5:17 PM Meat Farms	
13 Feb 21, 2012 5:07 PM Meat farms	
<b>14 Feb 21, 2012 4:59 PM</b> Back To Basics	
15 Feb 17, 2012 1:22 PM CVS	
16 Feb 17, 2012 1:00 PM Uncle Guisseppe's	
<b>17 Feb 17, 2012 12:34 PM</b> BJ's	
18 Feb 17, 2012 1:25 AM Costco	
19 Feb 17, 2012 1:12 AM My wife does the sho	pping
20 Feb 17, 2012 12:59 AM Pat's MEats	
21 Feb 17, 2012 12:57 AM I.G.A.	

22	Feb 17, 2012 12:56 AM Costco
23	Feb 16, 2012 5:20 PM Key Food
24	Feb 16, 2012 4:23 PM IGA, Costco
25	Feb 10, 2012 7:16 PM Costco
26	Feb 10, 2012 7:14 PM Costco
27	Feb 10, 2012 7:04 PM Rite Aid
28	Feb 10, 2012 7:00 PM Grand market
29	Feb 10, 2012 6:55 PM Uncle Guisepee's
30	Feb 10, 2012 6:44 PM Costco
31	Feb 10, 2012 6:03 PM Cosco
32	Feb 10, 2012 5:37 PM Costco
33	Feb 10, 2012 5:33 PM BJ's
34	Feb 10, 2012 4:48 PM Wegmans
35	Feb 10, 2012 4:43 PM BJ's
36	Feb 6, 2012 3:05 AM Costco
37	Feb 6, 2012 12:49 AM Cosco
38	Feb 6, 2012 12:07 AM Wegman's
39	Feb 6, 2012 12:06 AM Wegman's

What do you do with the plastic bags that you get from grocery stores?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Use them to pick up pet waste	40.1%	128
Use them to line garbage pails	66.8%	213
throw them out	20.1%	64
let them collect under the sink	25.4%	81
return them to the store	14.7%	47
Other (please specify)	12.9%	41
ar ar	nswered question	319
	skipped question	6



Number	Response Date		Other (please specify)	Categories
	1			yclables then put them out for
	2			to carry lunch, gym clothes,
	3	Feb 21, 2012 8:35 PM		
	4	Feb 21, 2012 8:31 PM	•	
	5	Feb 21, 2012 8:27 PM	-	_
	6			r recycling wiht the town
	7	•		thrifts stores at Mother Memo
	8	Feb 21, 2012 6:26 PM		<u> </u>
	9	Feb 21, 2012 5:53 PM	_	
	0	Feb 21, 2012 4:56 PM		
	1	Feb 17, 2012 2:46 PM	-	and crochet
	2	Feb 17, 2012 1:10 PM		
	3	Feb 17, 2012 12:55 PM		purpose
	4	Feb 17, 2012 12:50 PM		
	5	Feb 17, 2012 12:34 PM		hoose to get any
	6	Feb 17, 2012 1:26 AM		
	7	Feb 17, 2012 1:01 AM		
	8	Feb 17, 2012 12:51 AM		
	9	Feb 17, 2012 12:49 AM		
	0	Feb 17, 2012 12:38 AM	•	
	:1	Feb 16, 2012 5:39 PM	•	
	2	Feb 16, 2012 5:34 PM		ousehold items
	3	Feb 16, 2012 5:20 PM	-	
	4	Feb 16, 2012 4:58 PM	•	
	5	Feb 16, 2012 4:57 PM		
	6	Feb 16, 2012 4:49 PM	-	
	7	Feb 16, 2012 4:23 PM		as possible
	8	Feb 16, 2012 4:21 PM	_	
	9	Feb 10, 2012 7:13 PM		
	0	Feb 10, 2012 7:04 PM		
	1	Feb 10, 2012 6:56 PM	•	town
	2	Feb 10, 2012 6:51 PM		
	3	Feb 10, 2012 6:40 PM		
	4			get plastic bags soley to reus
	5			stic [ick-up through town
	6	Feb 6, 2012 2:57 AM		
	7	Feb 6, 2012 2:55 AM		g centers
	8	Feb 6, 2012 2:38 AM	•	
	9	Feb 5, 2012 11:58 PM		leable bottles
	0	Feb 5, 2012 11:55 PM		
4	1	Feb 5, 2012 11:35 PM	Recycle	

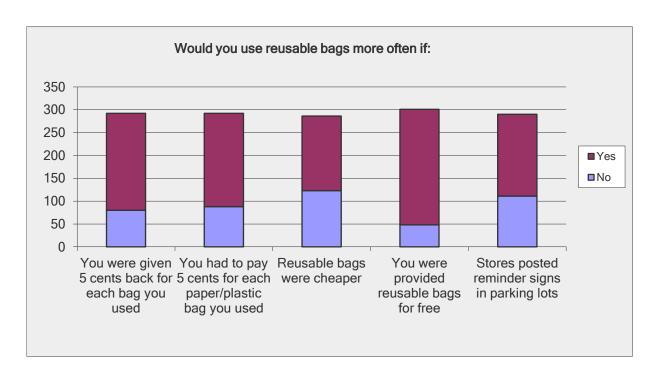
Page 37 of 50	

Town to recycle lirty laundry

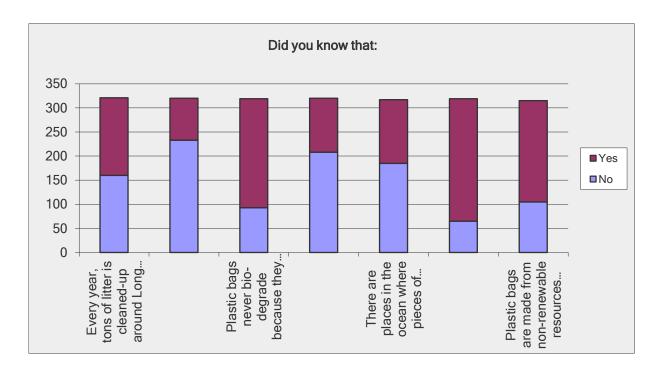
rial Hospital

e as a garbage bag

Would you use reusable bags more often if:			
Answer Options	Yes	No	Response Count
You were given 5 cents back for each bag you used You had to pay 5 cents for each paper/plastic bag you Reusable bags were cheaper You were provided reusable bags for free Stores posted reminder signs in parking lots	212 204 163 253 179	80 88 123 48 111	292 292 286 301 290
		answered question skipped question	311 14

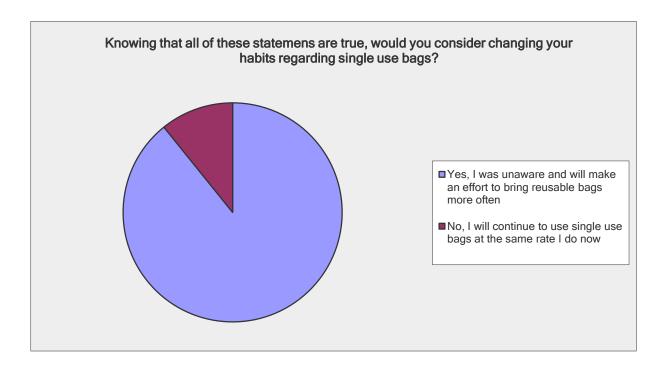


Did you know that:			
Answer Options	Yes	No	Response Count
Every year, tons of litter is cleaned-up around Long	161	160	321
The average person uses and disposes over 300 plastic	87	233	320
Plastic bags never bio-degrade because they are made	226	93	319
Plastic bags cost the store 1-2 cents and paper bags can	112	208	320
There are places in the ocean where pieces of plastic are	132	185	317
Plastic bags kill birds, sea turtles, seals, dolphins,	254	65	319
Plastic bags are made from non-renewable resources	210	105	315
		answered question	321
		skipped question	4



Knowing that all of these statemens are true, would you consider changing your habits regarding single use bags?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I was unaware and will make an effort to bring No, I will continue to use single use bags at the same	89.2% 10.8%	282 34
	answered question	316
	skipped question	9



Any other comments regarding single use/reusable bags?		
Answer Options	Response Count	
	47	
answered question		
skipped question		

Number	Response Date		Response Text
			I would use reusable bags more often if the checkout people we
			start packing in plastic without EVER ASKING if you have reusa
			,
	1	Feb 21, 2012 10:59 PM	Money speaks to everyone.
			I will make an effort to use less plastic bags and use or bring the
			more often. The seven questions to part seven are very disturbi
	2	Feb 21, 2012 8:46 PM	survey is an eye opener
			Make notifications in the stores, at check outs. Put more respon
			stores to TRAIN their cashiers to ask if you want to but a reusab
	3	Feb 21, 2012 8:40 PM	
			The store I work at uses paper bags made from 60 - 100% recyc
	4		cheaper for the store than the all new paper bags
	5		If I was awareof the cost of plastic bags, I would use them less.
	6		"If plastic bags are outlawed, that would be good."
	7		They're [plastic bags] are depressing and wasteful.
	8	Feb 21, 2012 5:53 PM	•
	0	Fab 04 0040 E.E0 DM	I use glass containers instead of Tupper-Ware. There should be
	9	Feb 21, 2012 5:50 PM	piasiic.
	10	Eab 21 2012 5:40 DM	"I haliava naanla dan't usa plastia hags hagasua tha incentiva is
	11		"I believe people don't use plastic bags becasue the incentive is Thank you for this information!
	11	1 60 21, 2012 0.22 PW	We only have one ocean and one Earth. I want to leave someth
	12	Feb 21 2012 4:50 DM	destructive for future generations.
	14	1 60 21, 2012 4.39 PM	destructive for ruture generations.

		eb 21, 2012 4:55 PM	
1	14 F	eb 21, 2012 4:53 PM	Thank you.
			I have made a significant improvement in my reduction and awa
			particular problem but will continue to work towards using more
Ī	16 F		How will I scoop my cat's litter?
			I try but I just keep forgetting to use my re-usable bags and this v
	I7 Fe	eb 17, 2012 12:55 PM	
	I8 Fe	sh 17 2012 12:44 DM	Negative incentives would work to get me to use re-usable bags incentives would not work
	io re	· ·	All people, within reason, like to be conscious and respectable to
	I9 Fe		environment. Marketing eco-friendly ways to conserve will ultim
	19 19		Working in a small business, it would be a lot easier to get the re
			onboard, but necessacary to get the small business onboard. Si
2	20 Fe		NEED to get involoved and NEED incentive
-			I would always use re-usable bags if there were another option f
2	21 Fe		bags. I use the plastic bags for my garbage bags
			Forgetting is the big issue.
		·	
			I have 7 re-usable bags, but I won't carry them all with me. The
2	23 F	eb 17, 2012 1:23 AM	some people don't care about money and some people just don'
			Responsability and accountability must be on both business and
			end(s), both need to change their habbits and reinforce the move
			use to re-usable on each other's side. Supermarkets should cor
			monetary incentives for customers to use re-usable bags, and in
			incentives - higher credit for each re-usable bag and a higher ch
			plastic bag. A no-cost solution is that supermarkets should get i
,	24 F		training their cashiers to offer re-usable bags at check out. At the
4	2 <b>4</b> F	eb 17, 2012 1:19 AM	customers who sincerely care, shouldn't shop with irresponsable
			Simply, if I don't need a bag then I don't take one. As a small bu
			notice there is no rhyme or reason why people buy things when
			partially accounts for the plastic bag epidemic. Also, if there we
			financial reprocusions to using plastic bags, or if re-usable bags
2	25 F		free, then the amout of plastic bags distributed would be greatly

26	Feb 17, 2012 1:07 AM	I utilize all the plasti bags I get from stores, and am aware I do g time I bring a re-usable bag with me. It's not about the money. I planet safe fro my children and my children's children. More res be put on the stores because customers don't need bags for eve need to train the cashiers to remind customers to purchase a resparingly use plastic bags.
27	Feb 17, 2012 12:59 AM	If I didn't have a cat, I'd never accept plastic bags from stores.
28	Feb 17, 2012 12:56 AM	Grocery stores give out too many plastic bags.
29	Feb 17, 2012 12:54 AM	"We really should ban them"
30	Feb 16, 2012 5:12 PM	I was aware of how awful plastic bags are
31	Feb 16, 2012 4:21 PM	This is a great survey
32	Feb 10, 2012 7:09 PM	Surveyer's Note: Person had several plastic bags en tote. I don't do much grocer shopping, if I did I'd keep a resuable bag minute shopping at convience stores, or shopping for clothes, sh must also be taken into consideration when working to decrease
33	Feb 10, 2012 7:04 PM	plastic bags consumers aquire.
34	Feb 10, 2012 6:55 PM	It's crucial to stay educated
		I don't take into consideration the plastic bags I get from shoe, b
35	Feb 10, 2012 6:51 PM	shopping. I'm forgetful. many people are. There doesn't seem to be a goo to use reusable bags becasue nothing outweighs convinence, but how low the coast of a reusable bag was, I would consider purch stores already do provide monetary incentives for the use of reusable bag was.
36	Feb 10, 2012 6:44 PM	post reminder signs in parking lots.
37	Feb 6, 2012 3:43 AM	Find ways to make similar bags from less toxic materials that wil
38	Feb 6, 2012 2:55 AM	* Sex/location not given
39	Feb 6, 2012 2:46 AM	*No age/sex/location given They do it in Europe -look at that as a model. Eberyone uses re-
40	Feb 6, 2012 2:43 AM	no one seems to be suffering too terribly.
41	Feb 6, 2012 2:40 AM	N/A
42	Feb 6, 2012 2:38 AM	I am just into the environment
43		Good survey, raises awareness.
44	Feb 6, 2012 12:06 AM	Wish I had the motivation to use them (re-usable bags) more
45	Feb 5, 2012 11:50 PM	Thanks
46		I give them to recycling in my town
47	Feb 2, 2012 5:58 PM	They're good - help the environment

## There are Solutions!

Public education paired with legislation has proven effective around the world to help wean unaware consumers off plastic bag consumption.

From the national to the local level, legislation that either bans or places a fee on single use bags has dramatically reduced litter and disposable bag consumption up to 90% in some regions.

- Westport, CT
  - Rye, NY
- Washington, DC
- Village of East Hampton, NY
- Village of Southampton, NY





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733 Delaware Road, Box 140 Buffalo, NY 14223 (716)-831-3206

744 Broadway, Albany NY 12207 (518) 772-1862

















#### TAKE ACTION!!

WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ELECTED LEADERS.

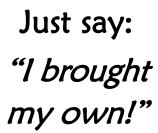
#### **TELL THEM:**

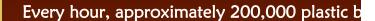
"ELIMINATING PLASTIC BAGS SAVES MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

I ALWAYS BRING MY BAG BUT SOME PEOPLE NEED A REMINDER!"

When asked:

"paper or plastic?"





Plastic resin production has doubled in the past 20 ye 120 billion pounds.

In the U.S. half a million plastic bags are used every minute.

Every reusable bag can prevent 1,000 plastic bags over the life of the reusable bag.

Each plastic bag has an average lifespan of 12 minutes.

According to the EPA, between 500 billion a consumed worldwide each year.

Each American typically use around 330 disposable plastic shopping bags annually.

It is estimated that plastic bags take 1,000 years to break down, if at all.

225 million tons of plastic are produced annually around the world.

Tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals, and turtles are killed annually from plastic bags.

Ocean currents and floating plastic waste have replastic waste vortexes that pan thousands of square



# B.Y.O.B. – Bring Your Own Bag Save Money and the Environment

## When asked: "Paper or Plastic?" Just say: "I brought my own."



In the few short decades that we have been using them, disposable plastic bags have devastated our environment and polluted our waterways. Plastic bags clog storm drains and sewers, and pollute our streets, parks, and beaches. Eventually they make their way into rivers, estuaries, lakes, bays, and oceans where they endanger and kill marine life.

The 100 billion plastic bags thrown away by Americans every year have significant impacts on our environment and marine life. Plastics do not biodegrade, but rather photo-degrade, meaning that the plastics break into smaller pieces from exposure to UV light. It is estimated that plastic bags take 1,000 years to break down, if at all.



### Plastic Pollutes Oceans

The mass consumption of plastic products has created a plastic wasteland in our oceans. Plastic pollution is carried from local streets with storm water to creeks and rivers, eventually reaching the ocean. Ocean currents, combined with large amounts of floating plastic waste, have resulted in several swirling plastic waste vortexes that, in the Pacific Ocean, span thousands of square miles.

These areas are now referred to as "plastic islands." Test samples have documented plastic in every single sample and many contained significant quantities of marine debris, most of which was plastic. As research continues, it is being realized that the amount of plastic in our oceans is significantly larger than first presumed.

The International Coastal Clean-up reported that in the last several years, plastic bags were second only to cigarette butts as the most common debris item collected on beaches worldwide. Plastic bag pollution continues to grow. In just one year, the U.S. saw an increase of 16% more plastic bags collected in coastal cleanups. Yet, countries that have committed to reducing plastic bags saw plastic bag debris significantly drop. Ireland, which implemented a plastic bag fee in 2002, found only 499 bags along its coast, while neighboring UK retrieved 8,633 plastic bags along its coast. In the same year, the U.S. plastic bag total was an astonishing and embarrassing 268,166.



## Plastic Bags Kill Wildlife

Plastic waste in waterways threatens and kills fish and wildlife. Marine animals often mistake plastic bags for naturally occurring food sources, such as jellyfish. Once eaten, the bags cannot be digested resulting in starvation. According to a recent report, at least 267 different species of marine life are adversely affected by plastic bag pollution and countless numbers of whales, birds, seals, and turtles are killed annually from plastic bags. Fish and wildlife mortalities can be caused not only when species ingest the bags, but also when they become entangled in them, causing strangulation and restricted mobility. Since plastic bags do not biodegrade, once the animal dies, the plastic bags will be re-released in the environment destined to repeat this tragic reality.



#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Bring your own bags and encourage others to do the same.

Write to your elected officials—tell them to incentivize reusable bags.





## Plastics Bags Are Unsustainable

Plastic bags are made from petroleum and natural gas. The energy used in the production and transportation of the bags results in further natural resource consumption and increased greenhouse gas emissions.





## Plastic Bags Cause Infrastructure Failure

When released on our streets and neighborhoods, plastic bags are washed towards storm drains during rain events. Since plastic bags are malleable they easily spread out over the storm drains, creating a thin membrane that traps leaves and debris. This prevents water from entering the storm drain, causing localized flooding. When investigating the devastating floods that occurred in Bangladesh in 1988 and 1998 that submerged two thirds of the country, plastic bags were found to be the main culprit. Since Bangladesh banned plastic bags in 2002, there have been no floods of that caliber.



### The Solution to Pollution—Reusables!

Reliance upon disposable plastic bags is unsustainable and unnecessary. The good news is that using reusable bags is simple, sustainable, and fashionable. Bringing your own shopping bag decreases pollution. Every reusable bag can prevent 1,000 plastic bags from entering our environment.



## Reusable Bags Save Money

Bringing your own bag can save money on grocery bills. Many grocery stores are already implementing policies encouraging the use of reusable bags. Stop and Shop will refund .05 cents for every reusable bag used, Waldbaums and Pathmark refunds .02 cents and stores like Whole Foods will give .10 cents. Reducing both paper and plastic bags also saves money for grocery stores too. Grocery stores pay approximately 1.5 cents for each plastic bag, and typically more for paper bags.



### **FAST FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC BAGS**

- Every hour, approximately **200,000** plastic bags are land filled.
- Plastic resin production has doubled in the past 20 years from 60 billion to 120 billion pounds.
- In the U.S. half a million plastic bags are used every minute.
- The average family uses about 60 plastic grocery bags every month.
- The plastic bag has an average useful lifespan of 12 minutes.
- 225 million tons of plastic are produced annually world wide.
- According to the EPA, between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic
   bags are consumed worldwide each year.



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why should I make the switch to reusable bags?

Single use bags have been voted "the most ubiquitous consumer item in the world," they are unsustainable, and harmful to the natural environment. Plastic Bags kill wildlife, clog infrastructure, and litter our beaches and bays. Paper bags are resource intensive and environmentally costly in production. Reusable bags save resources and prevent pollution and the destruction of wildlife.

#### Plastic bags are so thin, don't they just break down?

Plastic bags never biodegrade, they photo degrade – breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic which are toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways. The process for them to break down completely can take 1,000 years.

#### What about bio-degradable or compostable bags?

Bio-degradable bags are only able to decompose under specified conditions of light, moisture, and oxygen and degradation. These bags are not recyclable and cannot be mixed in with recyclable bag bins.

#### Where can I buy a reusable bag, are they expensive?

Reusable bags can be found in many retail stores and online. Reusable bags prices vary with in shapes, sizes, and feature and range in price from 75 cents to \$5. Since single use bags cost between 1.5 and 11 cents to produce, buying a reusable bag more than pays for itself in its multiple uses!

#### I heard reusable bags contain lead, is that true, and should I be concerned?

No, in 2010, a public relations alarm was sounded by the plastic industry that many reusable shopping bags contained lead. This is false. Just like any other product, shoppers have to be smart. There are plenty of reusable bag options available, such as organic cotton, hemp, recycled bottles and other nontoxic materials.

### Why can't we just switch back to using paper shopping bags?

Neither paper nor plastic bags are good for the environment. Paper bags might not be mistaken for jelly fish, but they do have their own set of problems; paper bags are energy intensive to create, are made from non-renewable resources, and are a substantial source of air pollution. Paper bags also consume a lot of energy.

#### I recycle my plastic bags. Isn't that good enough?

The sad truth is only a small percent of the population properly recycle their plastic bags. In 2008, legislation was passed in NY that required mandatory recycling bins be added to supermarkets. Unfortunately these programs have not been successful and many people remain unaware that they exist. Also, recycling doesn't address the fact that disposable plastic bags are made from dirty polluting fossil fuels. It's best to BYOB.

#### I need plastic bags to line my garbage bin and pick up my pet waste. What would I use instead?

The BYOB campaign extends beyond just reducing the use of disposable plastic bags. It is also about thinking about solid waste in general. There are ways to decrease your household waste and therefore your need for so many plastic wastebasket bags; reduce, reuse, compost, conserve, and choose items with less packaging. As for pets, newspaper sleeves, bread bags and other packaging offer great substitutes.

#### Are reusable bags safe? I'm concerned about them carrying germs.

Be smart. Designate one bag for meats & cheeses and wash the bag to avoid contamination. Almost all reusable bags are washable, just as dishtowels, sponges, and other household items are. The same reusable bags can be used for years without a problem.

Okay, I'm convinced! I won't use single use bags anymore, but where can I bring the ones I already have stockpiled? CCE highly encourages people to return plastic bags to grocery stores where they have bins to recycle only plastic bags. In New York, this is all supermarkets over 10,000 square feet. These bins collect plastic items other than just the average checkout bag; consumers can also return dry cleaning bags, sandwich bags, newspaper bags, etc.

## Examples of Government Actions to Reduce Plastic Bag Use

Municipalities across the nation and the world are seeking innovative and common sense ways to reduce plastic bags. The following bans and surcharges mark good progress towards encouraging reusable shopping bags and reducing plastic waste into our environment.

**Ireland -** In 2002, Ireland implemented a 30 cent surcharge on plastic bags. Since implementation, consumption has dramatically reduced, resulting in a 90% decrease in plastic bag use. This equals eliminating 1 billion plastic bags annually.

Italy – Italy was the first European country to ban plastic bags completely. Ban took effect in January 2011.

Westport, CT - Westport was the first East Coast municipality to ban plastic bags. This took effect September 2008. Consumer use of reusable bags has increased 70% since the ban, resulting in a reduction of 600,000 bags annually. The Long Island Villages of East Hampton and Southampton followed Westport with similar legislation in 2011.

**Washington**, **DC** - Washington, D.C. implemented a 5 cent charge on plastic bags in January 2010. Before the charge, D.C. consumers used 22.5 million bags each month. After the first month it was 3 million, a reduction of 86%.

**San Francisco**, **California** - San Francisco was the first major city to ban plastic bags. San Francisco banned the use of plastic bags in supermarkets and chain drugstores, removing 100 million plastic bags from the waste stream since 2007.

China—China outlawed the free distribution of plastic bags in 2008. China banned super-thin bags and charges a fee for other plastic bags. After two years, China's plastic bag consumption has decreased 50%, an estimated 100 billion plastic bags.







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#### Western New York/Southern Tier

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#### Connecticut

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