

A to Z Recycling

Green Tips



10 Reasons to Ban Plastic Bags

Fact: between 500 billion - 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed each year, yet less than 1% of them are recycled

- National Geographic News, Christian Science Monitor Newspaper

Fact: plastic bags account for over 10% of the debris washed up on US Coastlines

- National Marine Debris Monitoring Program

Fact: the real reason landfills aren't overflowing with plastic bags is because most are dumped in ocean-fills

- US National Academy of Sciences

Fact: bags photodegrade, meaning they break down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers

- CNN.com/technology

Fact: these petro-polymers eventually contaminate soils and waterways, sending microscopic particles into the food chain

- World Wildlife Fund Report, 2005

Fact: nearly 200 different species of sea life die due to plastic bags because they ingest them, mistaking them for food

- World Wildlife Fund Report, 2005

Fact: plastic bags are banned in over a dozen countries, including Canada, South Africa and Bangladesh

- PlanetSave.com, 2-16-08

Fact: China banned free bags, and Ireland reduced consumption 90% by taxing them in 2002

- BBC News, August, 2002

Fact: reducing bag consumption reduces our dependence on foreign oil b/c bags are made from polyethylene, a thermoplastic made from oil

- CNN.com/technology

Fact: using cloth bags will save 6 bags a week, 24 a month, 288 a year and 22,176 a lifetime