

Single-Use Plastic Bags

WHY WE NEED TO BAN THE BAG

- Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, but can last for more than 500 years.
- Plastic bags are one of the top five items found during waterway cleanups.
- Plastic bags are one of the top contaminants in curbside recycling programs.
- Plastic bags are not just polluting our oceans, they're also clogging gutters, streams, rivers, lakes and ending up in our woods, roadsides, meadows, and trees.
- Experts predict that there will be 1 lb of plastic for every 3 lbs of fish in the oceans by 2025.
- Americans use 100 billion plastic bags per year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to produce.
- Every year, plastics add as much greenhouse gases to the atmosphere as 189 new coal plants.
- Half of all the plastics ever created were produced in the past 15 years.
- 91% of all plastics have *not* been and will never be recycled.
- There are microplastic particles in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink.
- Adults ingest roughly 100,000 micro-plastic particles each year with as yet unknown effects.

