



SANTA FE BAG ORDINANCE

THE SHOPPING BAG DIFFERENT

Why a Plastic Bag Ban?

- Reduce tonnage to landfill?
- Reduce greenhouse gas production?
- Conserve resources?
- Create circular economy? Sustainable materials management?
- Achieve Zero Waste?
- Demand Producer Responsibility?
- Eliminate giant plastic gyres in the oceans??

Why a plastic bag ban.



Why a Plastic Bag Ban in Santa Fe?

- From the Ordinance:
 - To Reduce Waste, Litter, and pollution
 - To address soil and water contamination
 - Protect public health and welfare
 - Manage negative impacts on tourism, wildlife, and aesthetics

Santa Fe Bag Ordinance

- Single use plastic bags banned February 2014
- Sustainable Santa Fe Commission support
- Citizen and youth activists



Santa Fe Bag Ordinance

- Bans single-use shopping bags
- Plastic bag exceptions:
 - Dry cleaning bags
 - Newspaper bags
 - Produce bags
 - Floral bags
 - Trash bags
 - Heavy “reusable” shopping bags
- Applies to retail, not to non-profits
- Restaurants allowed to use for take-out

Initial Results of Bag Ban

- One-year required study conducted by ESD to assess impacts of ordinance found:
 - Plastic bag litter reduced
 - Low use of reusable bags; shoppers just used available paper bags
 - Smaller retail stores not affected financially
 - Grocery stores were highly impacted by higher bag costs
 - Surveyed shoppers ok with a potential paper bag fee

Paper Bag Fee

- Paper bag fee ordinance in effect June 2015
- 10 cent fee charged by retailer to consumer for paper grocery bags 1/8 barrel or larger
- 1 cent retained by retailer for admin costs
- Receipt to show number of bags charged
- Remainder remitted to City on monthly or quarterly basis through self-reporting
- Funds in restricted account for use to buy reusable bags and waste reduction outreach/education

Santa Fe Bag Fee Ordinance

- Enforcement is light
 - Annual letter to retailers
 - Consumer reports to ESD;
personal experiences
 - Visit by ESD staff



BYOB- Bring Your Own Bag

- Resources:
 - Website-
www.santafenm.gov/esd
 - Retailer letter and ordinance
- Free reusable bags at ESD, Libraries, Tourism, and City Hall



Impacts:

Who shops in Santa Fe?

- Local population about 85,000
- State capital brings many New Mexicans
- High housing costs result in many commuters
- (How many) Tourists a year visit Santa Fe
- Daytime population can average 150,000 during peak seasons



Bag Fee Results

- Bag Fee Fund results:
 - 2015- \$100,000
 - 2016- \$160,000
 - 2017- \$200,000
 - To present- ~200K/year on average
- Robust funding of advertising/outreach for waste reduction/recycle right
- Purchasing and distributing reusable shopping bags

Results-Unanswered Questions

- Less Litter?-
 - Observation says yes. No stats, but Litter Index Survey may show something
- How many paper bags are used a year?
 - Based on income, 2M paper bags used in Santa Fe (charged)
 - No specific reporting is required
- Decrease in Waste Tonnage?
 - No stats on waste tonnage, but a previous recycling audit shows less contamination than other cities at same MRF
- Has Ban/Fee Changed Consumer Behavior?
 - Fee may be largely paid by tourists and commuters
 - Unable to determine behavior change among locals without further study

BRING YOUR OWN BAG!

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