



**BAN  
THE  
BAG**



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## Why should we ban single-use plastic bags?



Because they are so lightweight plastic bags can travel long distances by wind and water. They litter our landscapes, get caught in fences and trees, float around in waterways, and can eventually make their way into the world's oceans.

source-[Greentumble](#)

## *How the plastic bag affects the human population*

**Over a few decades, humans have managed to dump tons, upon tons, of garbage into the ocean. As a result, fish and wildlife are threatened by a noxious environment. Consequently, the toxins from the plastics have entered the food chain, threatening human health. In the most polluted places in the ocean, the mass of plastic exceeds the amount of plankton six times over. This is a large piece of evidence that leaves the problem of polluted oceans undeniable.**

source-Geology and human health

# How plastic bags affect animals

Tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals and turtles are killed every year from **plastic bag** litter in the marine environment as they often mistake **plastic bags** for food such as jellyfish. **Plastic bags**, once ingested, cannot be digested or passed by an **animal** so it stays in the stomach.



# What are the benefits of banning single-use plastic bags like our neighboring cities?

**A ban on single-use plastic bags will cut back on non-renewable fossil fuels and harmful chemicals in the environment.**

**Let's have Albany be a part of the solution and join our neighboring cities to help reduce pollution!**

Hawaii became America's first state to impose a full ban on plastic bags. Hawaii has a statewide ban on all of its most populous counties prohibiting non-biodegradable plastic bags at checkout, as well as paper bags containing less than 40 percent recycled material. Bans in Kauai, Maui and Hawaii counties took effect between 2011 and 2013, with Honolulu becoming the last major county to approve the ban in 2015. --ncsl.org

A handful of U.S. cities - including Portland, Corvallis and Eugene in Oregon - have banned plastic bags in response to concern from environmental activists.

# Why should we have reusable bags instead of single-use plastic bags?

1. The cost to recycle plastic bags outweighs their value, so most recycling facilities will not take them. Instead of being recycled, they are thrown out with the rest of the trash. (reusethisbag.com)
2. According to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), which has been collecting plastic bag statistics for more than a decade, roughly 2% of plastic bags are recycled in the United States. The rest are left to live on indefinitely in landfills or decompose in our oceans, where they leach toxins into the water and soil. (reusethisbag.com)
3. When it comes to the cost of using plastic bags, facts don't lie. Public agencies in California alone spend more than \$300 million on cleaning up coastal litter every year. (reusethisbag.com)
4. It takes 12 million barrels of oil to produce the plastic bags that the U.S. uses every year. (reusethisbag.com)
5. Reusable bags help businesses cut down on costs and pollution!



Thank you for letting us have your time to present the concerns we have for our future. We hope you will take the single-use plastic bag ban into consideration and keep Albany great!

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