
THE 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?
 - Demands Producer Responsibility?
 - Eliminate giant plastic ocean gyres???
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WHY A PLASTIC BAG BAN?

- 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
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WHY A PLASTIC BAG BAN?



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



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- Bans single-use plastic shopping bags
 - Plastic bag exceptions:
 - Dry cleaning bags
 - Newspaper bags
 - Produce bags
 - Floral bags
 - Trash bags
 - Heavier “reusable” shopping bags
 - Applies to retail stores, not non-profits
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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
 - Shoppers ok with a potential paper bag fee
 - Smaller retail stores not affected financially
 - Grocery stores highly impacted by higher bag costs
 - Recommendation to implement a fee on paper bags
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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 to be used for environmental education/outreach purposes
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SANTA FE BAG ORDINANCE



- Enforcement
 - Letter to retailers in April 2016
 - Reports to ESD; personal experience
 - Visit by ESD Code Enforcement

BAG TO DIFFER

- Resources Provided
 - Website- www.santafenm.gov
 - Bag to Differ graphics
 - Retailer letter and ordinance
 - Reusable bags from City for residents



BAG TO DIFFER

- Bag Fund collected about \$100,000 in first year
- Funds planned in conjunction with new curbside recycling campaign
- Reusable bags for cart distribution
- Reusable grocery bags





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