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Energy & Environment Commission - Plastic Bag Working Group

Merchant Carryout Bag Ordinance

Recommendation



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- Businesses charge a \$0.05 bag fee for all merchant carryout bags
- Fee is kept by the retailer and is not a tax
- Create a robust education and outreach program ahead of a June 2024 effective date
- EEC and City staff launch a robust outreach and education program to generate awareness before and after the ordinance takes effect

Goals



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- Reduce the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
- Meet City goals as set out by the Climate Action Plan
 - Strategy WM 1: Decrease total per capita municipal solid waste handled 5% by 2030
 - WM 1-5: Eliminate petroleum-based, single-use products through phasing out the use of single-use plastics, including plastic bags, by 2025
- Reduce negative impacts on health and the environment
- Behavior change

What is a merchant carry out bag?



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Plastic

Paper



Compostable



Reusable



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Why an Ordinance?

Why now?

Why place a fee on all merchant carry out bags?

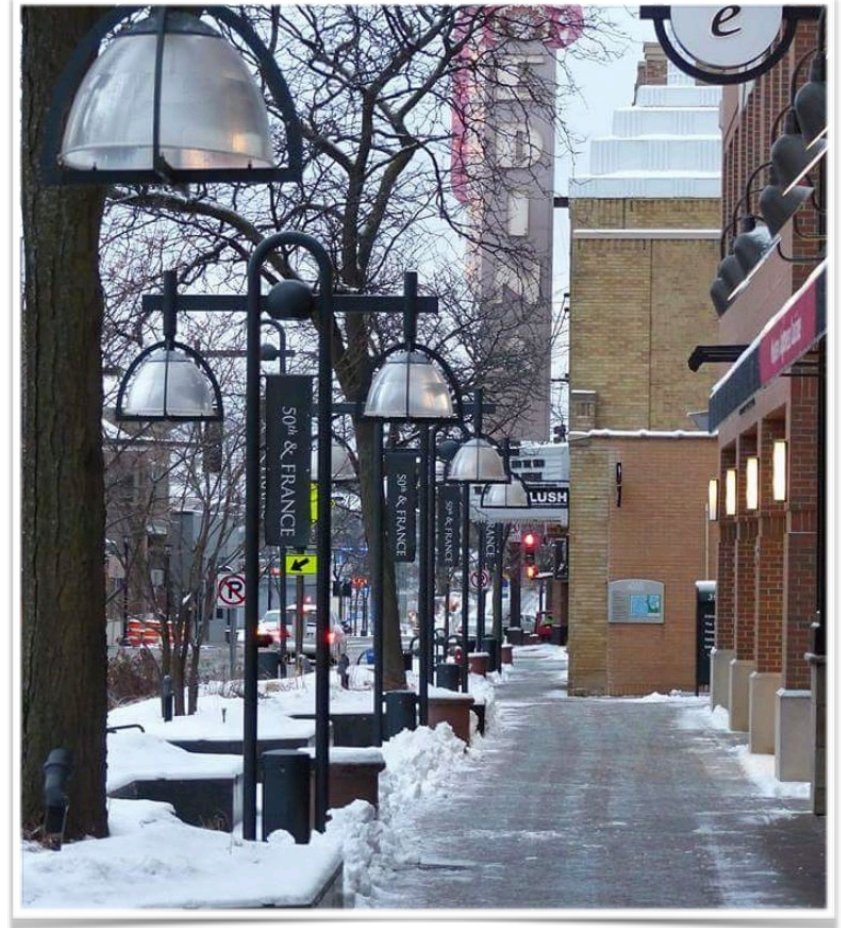
- Plastic
 - Made from fossil fuels
 - Litter
- Paper and Compostable
 - Resource intensive
 - Methane producing
- Reusable bags, if not reused multiple times, can have a more negative climate impact



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Who will this affect?





Excluded Merchants

- Food banks

Excluded Customers

- Anyone with a voucher or electronic benefit card issued under Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) support programs
- Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) also known as Basic Food
- Any recognized Minnesota food assistance program



Merchant carry out bags do not include:

- Produce, bulk goods, and unpackaged food bags
- Bakery bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper and door hanger bags
- Litter clean up bags
- Secondhand bags
- Personal belonging bags
- Flower wrap bags
- Prescription drug bags
- Bags brought by a customer
- Bags in packages with multiple bags

Stakeholder feedback

- Edina residents
- Edina merchants from all sectors
- Minneapolis businesses

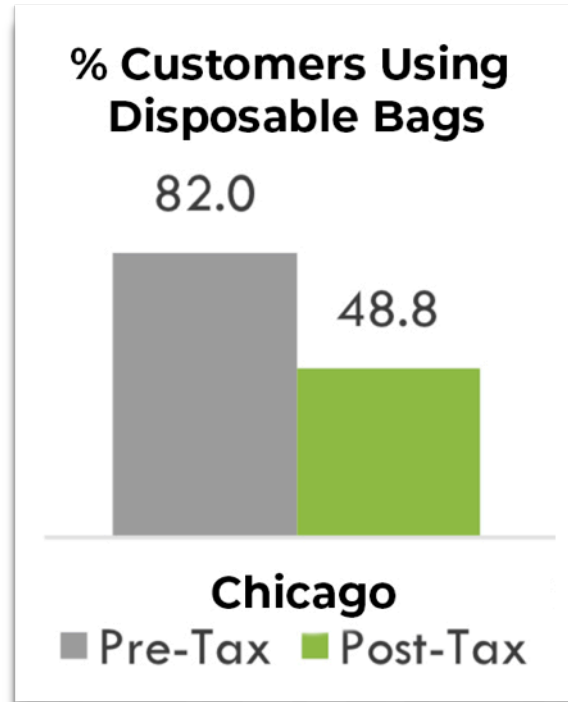


Other Cities

- Chicago
 - Action: \$0.07 tax on all single-use bags
 - Result: 28% reduction of single-use bag usage in first year
- Seattle, WA
 - Action: \$0.05 fee on paper bags and ban on plastic bags
 - Result: Reduction of plastic bags in both residential (48%) and commercial (76%) waste
- Montgomery County, MD
 - Action: \$0.05 fee on paper and single-use plastic bags
 - Result: Single-use bag use dropped from 82% to 40%



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Minneapolis:
October 2021, retailers must charge a
minimum \$0.05 fee per carryout bag

Best Buy:
\$0.10 charge on
plastic carry out bags



Duluth:
October 2021, retailers
must collect a \$0.05 fee
for each plastic carryout
bag provided



Target:
Piloting Goatote, a
reusable bag rental
system

Timeline

Passage of Ordinance (Early 2023)

Extensive community and business education and outreach

- Business information sessions
- Resources
 - Flyers
 - Signs
 - Website and Social Media
 - In-person

Formal implementation (June 2024)

- Business post signs
- Enforcement



Recommendation Revisited



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Thank you

Questions?