

Montgomery County Bag Law Update

Leslie Wilcox

Department of Environmental Protection

The Basics

- ▶ Passed by council on May 3, 2011 and implemented on January 1, 2012
- ▶ Requires all retailers to charge 5 cents for plastic and paper disposable carryout bags
- ▶ Paper bag exemption allows restaurants to give out only paper bags for free
- ▶ All fees collected from the tax go to the Water Quality Protection Fund



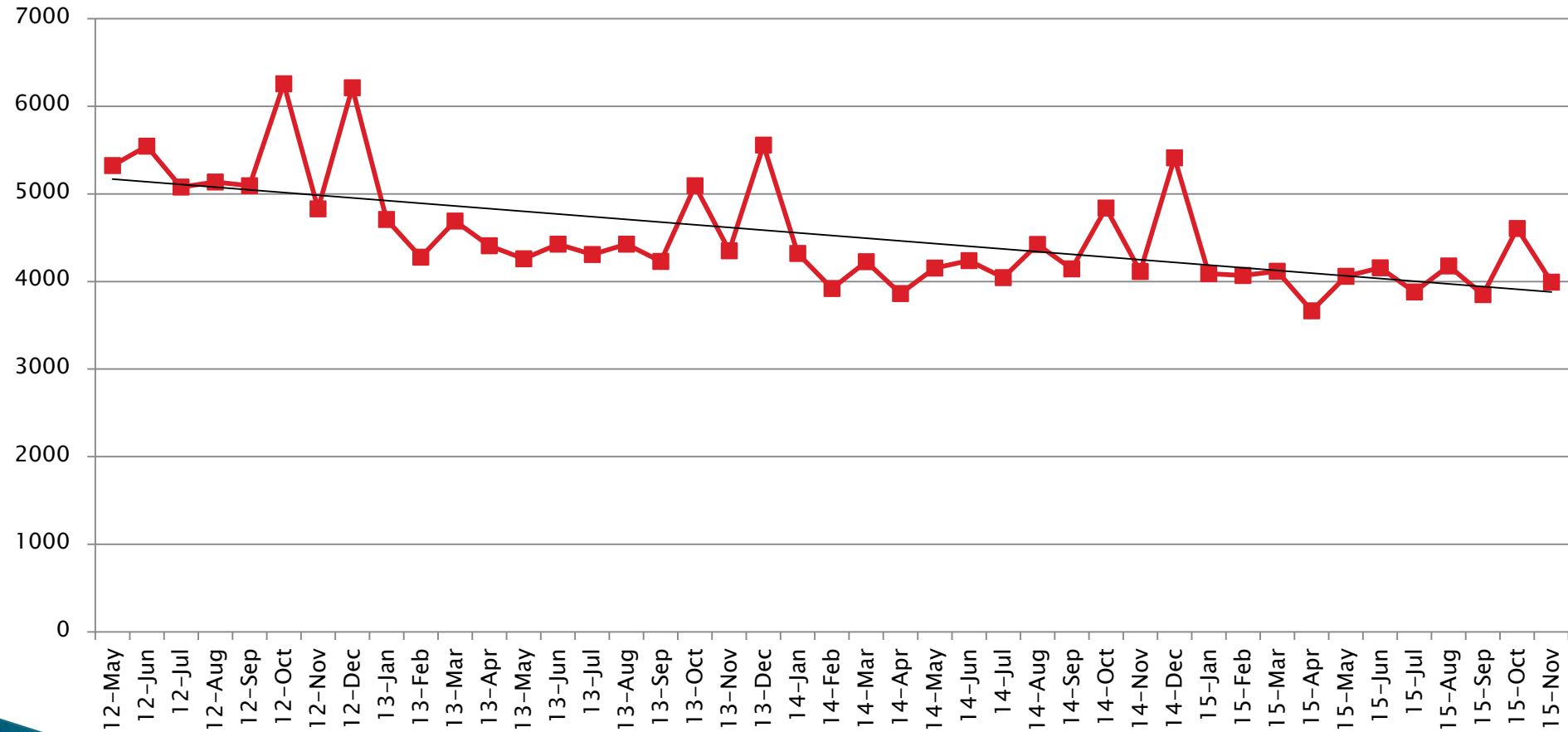
Program Development

- ▶ First years of implementation focused on educating businesses about the bag law
- ▶ More active outreach program designed to maintain contact with businesses and offer resources for compliance
- ▶ Ensure all retail establishments are in compliance with the bag law




Bag law data

#bags/retailers



Current Outreach

- ▶ Contact retail businesses who should be in compliance with the bag law, ensure they are registered
 - ▶ Offer resources for the store such as flyers, posters, and training resources
 - ▶ Add business information to database and maintain contact to check in on compliance over time
 - ▶ Continue general public outreach and follow up on citizen complaints
 - ▶ Provide reusable bags as giveaways when possible
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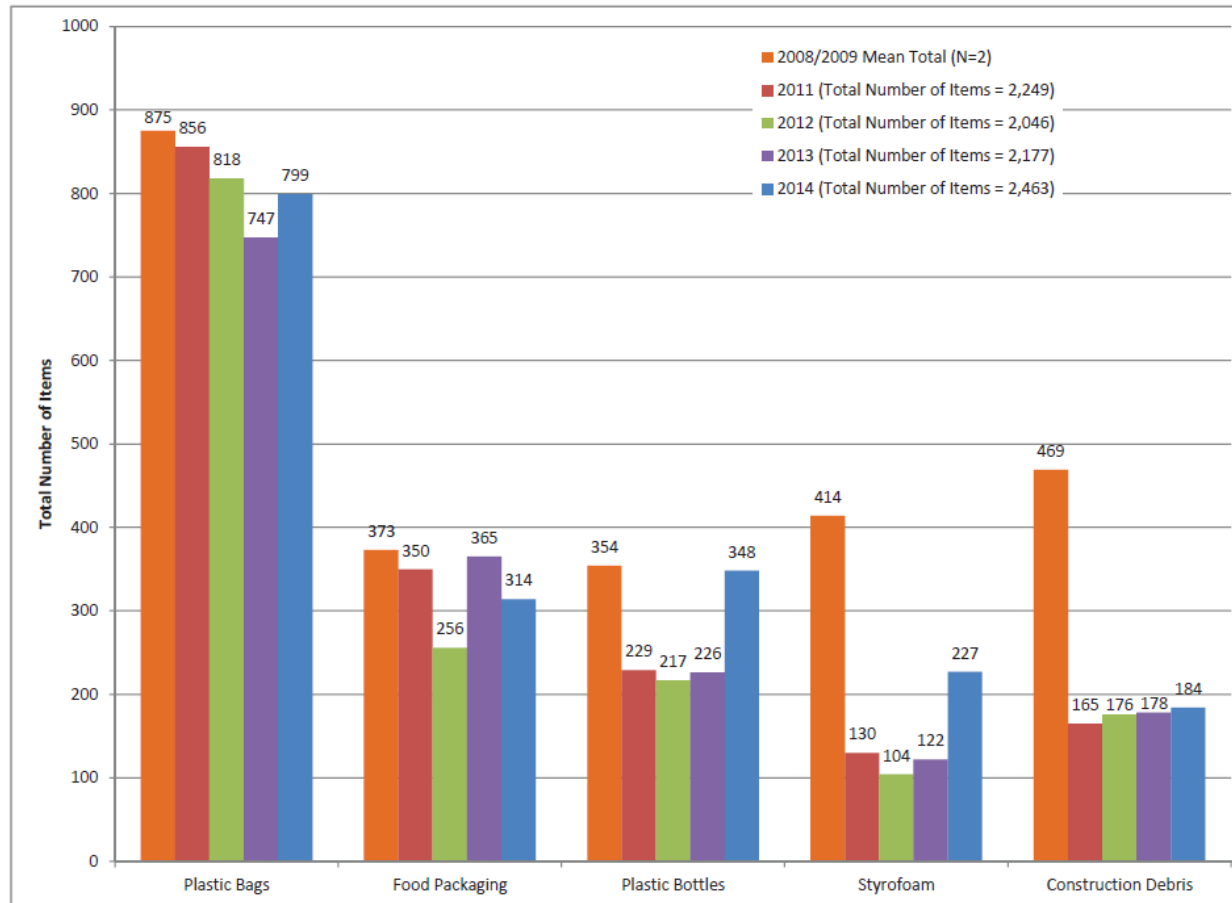
Reusable bag giveaway

- ▶ DEP has ongoing reusable bag giveaways at events and fairs
- ▶ Conducted 2 larger reusable bag giveaways
 - One leading up to the law implementation
 - Current bag giveaway
 - Bags available for residents to pick up at all county libraries, 8 HHS benefit locations, and Manna Foods
 - Also giving away bags at events



Plastic bags in County streams

Figure 4. Stream Summary - Total Top Five Trash Categories



Questions?

- ▶ Contact Leslie Wilcox

leslie.wilcox@montgomerycountymd.gov

240-777-7780