

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

July 17, 2014



Single-use Carryout Bag Ban & Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban

City of Santa Monica

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City of Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan



City of Santa Monica: 8.3 square miles
City of Santa Monica Residents: 91,000
Daily Visitors & Tourists: 150,000-250,000





CITY OF SANTA MONICA
A Sustainable Community

celebrating
20 years
of progress
sustainableism.org

A sustainable community
meets its current
economic,
environmental
and **social**
needs
without compromising
the ability of future
generations
to do the same.



SUSTAINABLE SANTA MONICA



SUSTAINABLE CITY REPORT CARD

9 Goal Areas

1. Resource Conservation
2. Transportation
3. Environmental & Public Health
4. Economic Development
5. Open Space & Land Use
6. Human Dignity
7. Housing
8. Arts & Culture
9. Community Education & Civic Participation



Purpose of Single-Use Bans: Cleaning Our Coastline & Cutting Waste Eliminate Non-Recyclable Single-Use Bags & Food Containers

Primary Reason: protect the Santa Monica Bay and marine environment from plastic pollution.

Secondary reasons: zero waste strategic plan goals, petroleum issues, protection of human health, impact on community and visitors

Santa Monica's residents and other **taxpayers pay** the clean-up costs and landfill fees



Purpose of Bans: Cleaning Our Coastline & Cutting Waste

The intent of the
**Single-use Carryout Bag Ban & the
Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban**
is to significantly **reduce the environmental impacts**
related to these throw-away products.



Protecting the Santa Monica Bay: All drains lead to the Ocean

With CDSs/Diversions/SMURRF/Baffle Box/Vortechnics/Catch Basin Inserts/All City Catch Basins



Plastic Bags & Foam Polystyrene: non-recyclable, light weight & harmful to marine environment



Prior to plastic bag bans:
19 billion bags used per year in California



Are Plastic Bags Recycled? only 5% & plastic bags clog recycling machinery



**Plastic bags caught daily
in Sunnyvale SMaRT trommel**



**Same trommel after
nightly cleaning**

Pictures courtesy of Mark Bowers,
Solid Waste Programs Division Manager, City of Sunnyvale



Paper Mill



Timeline: Single-use Carryout Bag Ban & Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban

Jan 2007:
Adopted:
Non-Recyclable
Food Service
Container Ban

February 2008:
Non-Recyclable
Food Service
Container Ban

February, 2011:
Adopted:
Single-Use
Carryout Bag Ban

September, 2011:
Single-Use Carryout
Bag Ban



**Non-Recyclable
Food Service
Enforcement Begins**



**Bag Ban
Enforcement Begins**



What defines a: “Non-Recyclable Plastic Food Service Container”?

Polystyrene food containers (both foam and clear) are derived from petroleum and are non-recyclable and non-compostable; meaning they stay in the environment for hundreds to thousands of years.

Foam polystyrene is lightweight nature allows it to float in water & blow in wind. It does not break down, only breaks apart into ever smaller pieces, but is still plastic

Take Out Has Never Tasted So Good



 plastic take out food containers, whether foam or clear, are banned in all Santa Monica food establishments. Have you seen any lately?

Let us know at sustainable.sm.org/container
or call 310.458.4925



Who must comply?

Any establishment, located or providing food within the City of Santa Monica, which provides prepared food for public consumption on or off its premises

Food containers purchased by city staff, food programs sponsored by the city, city-sponsored events, city-managed concessions, and city-permitted events.



Banned Polystyrene

#6 plastic food containers (foam & clear)



Utensils, straws, and cup lids are exempt



Compliant: Compostable Food Containers paper & plant fiber



Compostable in back yard composting and City of Santa Monica food collection



Compliant: Compostable Food Containers paper & plant fiber



Compostable in back yard composting and City of Santa Monica food collection



Compliant:

Recyclable Food Containers

#1-5 plastic, #7 plastic & aluminum



Compostable? #7 Bio-Plastics



Not compostable in back yard composting and City of Santa Monica food collection programs. Bio-plastic food containers and bags are landfilled.



Compostable? #7 Bio-Plastics

“When purchasing products for events, meetings, or your business, the City of Santa Monica recommends that you specify “compostable and recyclable”, non-bioplastic containers, if possible. Coated and uncoated paper food containers should also contain a minimum of 90% paper.

Currently, bio-plastic products cannot be effectively composted in home composters or municipal composting operations used by the City of Santa Monica. Even though certain bio-plastic containers are labeled as compostable, the existing composting facility currently used by the City of Santa Monica is unable to process these bio-plastics. Any bio-plastic container which is placed in a compost or recycling bin will be removed and sent to a landfill. The City is exploring opportunities which will one day allow residents and businesses to dispose of their bio-plastics in the composting bin. Until then, bio-plastic products should be disposed of in the black trash bin.”



Outreach Support: Community & Retailers

Distributors List Compostable/Recyclable Food Service Products

Santa Monica Office of Sustainability & the Environment



City of Santa Monica
Office of Sustainability & the Environment
200 Santa Monica Pier
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: 310.458.4925
Email: environment@sm.gov.net
Website: www.sustainableism.org/container



Take Out Has Never Tasted So Good



Sure, the photo on the left was taken after the storm drains were flushed by a major rain, and the one on the right is just another beautiful day in Santa Monica, but you get the picture – our take out should never leave such a bad after taste. And, although we have a long way to go to address the problems from food related litter, we have come a long way.

Eat well, buy locally and protect our valuable natural resources by never littering. To learn more, visit us on the web at sustainableism.org/container.

Thank you to the over 600 food establishments and countless community members that have successfully participated in Santa Monica's Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban. Now in place for one year, the ban is an important first step in eliminating plastics from our beaches.



Food Containers Distributors List: sustainableism.org/container

In 2007: 16 distributors/manufactures

In 2009: 76 distributors/manufactures

In 2014: over 100 distributors/manufactures



Outreach Support: Workshops & Presentations for Food Vendors & Box Stores

Think Outside the Box

Sustainable Food Service Just Got Easier - Compliant Food Service Containers on Display

See and touch product samples, learn about the issues, and enjoy a savory treat



Event #1

When: January 29, 2008; Anytime between 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Where: Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., MLK Auditorium.

Event #2

When: January 30, 2008; Anytime between 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Where: Wednesday Farmers' Market - Third Street Promenade @ Arizona Ave.

Who: Santa Monica Environmental Programs Division, Heal the Bay, Border Grill, Farmers' Market, Bayside District & Chamber of Commerce.

What: Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban takes effect February 9, 2008. Staff and community leaders are waiting to assist you in the transition.

Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban



New & Future Products



Bamboo



Bottle Box



Algae Plastic

- Algae as a potential fuel source
- In 3-5 years, a product that is 100% algae and 100% compostable could be ready.
- Algae plastic would be cheaper and more cost-effective than traditional plastics.



Switchgrass fiber

Others: banana leaves,
tapioca, bull rush cattails



Room for Improvement



Outreach to food trucks and new businesses

Encourage more distributors, manufactures & stores to supply and label inexpensive, compliant food containers

Work with restaurants to develop “bring your own container” campaign



Develop a bring your own container (BYOC) campaign



What defines a “Single-use Plastic Bag” ?

Violation: “A site visit was made and a non-compliant plastic single-use carryout bag (<2.25 mil) was identified as being distributed at your retail establishment. This banned plastic bag was photographed.”

“Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags” are defined as light-weight bags made from petroleum or bio-based plastic. Plastic film thickness less than 2.25 mil.

Prior to the Bag Ban, Santa Monica retail establishments distributed more than twenty six million (**26,000,000**) single-use carryout bags each year

















This ban does NOT prohibit the distribution of plastic “product bags” for bagging produce, meat and dairy products.



Retailers affected by the Bag Ban


- All **1875** total retail stores required to ban plastic bags
- Tier 1 Retailers: 93 of these retailers are required to pass-through minimum 10 cent cost for recycled paper bags
 - 40** Grocery, Convenience, Mini-marts
 - 23** Liquor stores
 - 14** Pharmacies
 - 8** Drug stores
 - 8** Gas stations w/ Mini-marts
- 402 Restaurants , 144 Food trucks allowed to distribute plastic bags for the transportation of **take-out** food

Santa Monica Single-Use Bag Ban at a Glance

| | Plastic Bags* less than 2.25 mil | Paper Bags Recycled Content All Sizes | Product Bags** | Reusable Bags |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| TIER 1 Retail Grocery Stores Convenience Stores Mini Marts Liquor Stores Drug Stores/Pharmacies |  NO |  10¢ <small>40% post-consumer recycled content</small> |  OK |  YES |
| TIER 2 Retail Department Stores Clothing Stores Hardware Stores Durable Goods City Facilities |  NO |  OK |  OK |  YES |
| TIER 3 Retail Restaurants Food Vendors Food Trucks |  NO <small>Take Out Food Exempt</small> |  OK |  OK |  YES |
| TIER 4 Retail Farmers Markets |  NO |  NO <small>Mushroom Sales Exempt</small> |  OK |  YES |

* Tier 3 Retailers are permitted to use all bag types for takeout foods and liquids only.

**Product bags, made from both paper or plastic, for the sale of grocery store produce and meats, prepared take-out foods and liquids, are exempt from the ban for public health and safety reasons.



www.sustainable-sm.org/bag



Exemption: Single-use Carryout Bag Ban

Restaurants and other food service providers for the transportation of hot prepared take-out foods and liquids. This exception is included as a public health safeguard.

“Product bags” such as those distributed within a grocery store or Farmers’ Market for bagging produce, meat and dairy products.

Free bag provided for low-income consumers: California Special Supplemental Food program for Women, Infants & Children, and Supplemental Food program.



Santa Monica's Farmers Markets

Distribution of all single use bags (paper and plastic) is not allowed at all 4 Farmers' Markets.

Exemption: Product bags for the purchase of produce and small paper bags for the purchase of mushrooms.



What defines a “Recycled Paper Carryout Bag” ?

A “**Recycled Paper Carry Out Bag**” means any paper carryout bag provided at the point of sale:

- Made with a **100% recycled content** and contains a minimum of **40% post-consumer recycled material**
- Except: Smaller (8 lbs or less) recycled paper bag shall contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer recycled material
- **Distributors list** for recycled content paper carry out bags on website at **sustainablem.org/bag**



“Pass Through” the Cost for a Recycled Paper Carryout Bag



Cost of a Recycled Paper Carryout Bag to Customers in an amount not less than **\$0.10 cents** at the point of sale

Why?

- To provide a disincentive to customers to request paper bags and promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags.
- To reimburse retailers for additional cost related to the bag ban.

Where does the money go?

- The proceeds of the sale of recycled paper carryout bags to customers would be retained by the retailer; no portion of the cost pass-through would be received by the City.



Point of Sale purchase of Paper Bags

3.5 million paper bags purchased at the point of sale in 1st year

5.29% reduction of paper bag purchased in 1st year

Increase: double bagging & small bag usage in 2nd year

86% of paper bags purchased were at grocery stores



93 Tier-1 Retailers

74 Small Mom & Pop Retailers

- Neighborhood Market Assoc.
- Site visits: signage & posters
- Distribute reusable bags
- Promote customer education

6 National Chain Retailers

- California Grocers Association
- Collaborate with headquarters
- Support operational efficiency
- Promote leadership role

13 Natural Foods Retailers

- Collaborate with headquarters
- Promote leadership role

**Partner with Los Angeles County and other California Municipalities



What is a “Reusable Bag”?



Ask Yourself: **Will I use this bag over and over again?**

A **“Reusable Bag”** is a bag made of cloth or durable material that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.



Reusable Bag Ordinance Definition

“Reusable bag” means a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) has a minimum lifetime of 125 uses, which for purposes of this subsection, means the capability of carrying a minimum of 22 pounds 125 times over a distance of at least 175 feet;
- (2) has a minimum volume of 15 liters;
- (3) is machine washable or is made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected;
- (4) does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts, as defined by applicable state and federal standards and regulations for packaging or reusable bags;
- (5) has printed on the bag, or on a tag that is permanently affixed to the bag, the name of the manufacturer, the location (country) where the bag was manufactured, a statement that the bag does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts, and the percentage of postconsumer recycled material used, if any; and
- (6) if made of plastic, is a minimum of at least 2.25 mils thick.



Green Vets LA: Sustainable Reusable Bags

All 42,000 reusable bags purchased by the City of Santa Monica were produced by Green Vets LA.

“The manufacturing process is done in Los Angeles which helps our local economy.

Short shipping distances reduces the need for fossil fuels and production is done in environmentally regulated facilities.

The program uses discarded fabrics from military sources and the local garment based industries, which eliminates the need to process fully recycled materials.”
- greenvetsla.com



Outreach: Reusable Bag Giveaway

Since 2009 the City purchased **42,000** locally made reusable bags from **Green Vets LA** and distributes them at over **100** community events and festivals, homeless shelters, senior centers, schools, retail establishments, places of worship and low income communities.

Rosie's Girls Santa Monica provided bag decoration workshops. Rosie's Girls is based on a national program designed to build self-esteem, leadership and physical confidence in middle school girls through an exploration of trades and non-traditional activities.

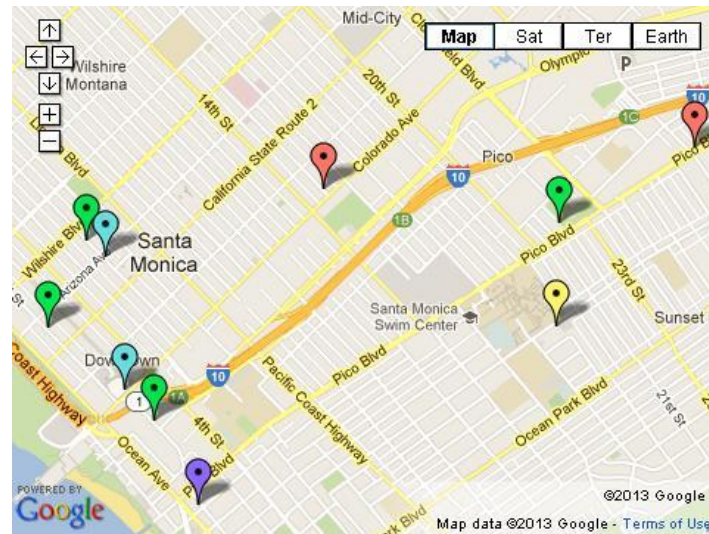


“Share a Bag” Program

Creating an exchange for durable, reusable bags in the community
The idea is simple enough. If you have an extra reusable bag, leave it with a participating locations. If you need a bag pick one up **free of charge**.



Share A Bag Partners



Share A Bag Container



Signage



Giving Back



Community Outreach: “My Bag”

20 community members share their favorite reusable bag



1st Year of Enforcement

1875 retailers affected by the ban
eliminated single-use plastic bags
21 million single-use plastic bags
eliminated from circulation at
grocery stores, liquor stores, drug
stores, mini marts and pharmacies
3.5 million paper bags were
purchased at the point of sale
at Tier 1 stores



Formal Complaints

98 formal complaints:

- 3 “My business still needs plastic bags”
- 10 “Governments should not implement Ordinances”
- 3 “People will steal from my store”
- 6 “I can’t locate where to purchase paper bags”
- 7 “I can’t afford reusable bags”
- 12 “Farmers Market needs to ban produce bags”
- 15 “Farmers Market needs to allow all plastic bags”
- 6 “Reusable Bags cause a hygiene issue and bacteria”
- 25 “Why didn’t this retailer charge 10 cents?”



Collaboration & Outreach

140 presentations

local retail staff /headquarters, community groups, business districts & California Grocers Association, manufacturers/distributors of single-use and reusable bags, schools & universities, webinars & conferences, international, national & local municipalities

28 media & radio interviews

18 interns

from SM High School, SM College, Crossroads, Loyola Marymount, UCLA, UC Berkeley, RAND, USC, USF & Smith College



Santa Monica Plastic Ban websites:

sustainablesm.org/bag

sustainablesm.org/container

Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban

Share a Bag Program

Single-Use Carryout Bag Ban

Zero-Waste Events

News & Networks

As of September 1, 2011, ALL 1,875 retail establishments are prohibited from providing light-weight, single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale. This includes any plastic bag less than 2.25 mil thick, including bio-based plastic bags made from plant sources such as corn.

The goal of the Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance is to eliminate the use of single-use bags in order to reduce marine debris and limit waste sent to the landfill.

[Learn about the Bag Ban's key points by using R-E-D-U-C-E](#)

- March 9, 2011 The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance takes effect.
- September 1, 2011 The Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance will be enforced.
- [Bag Ban Summary](#)
- [Single-use Carryout Bag Ordinance \(S.M.M.C. 5.45\)](#)

Click on any of the bags below for more information and support.

Retailer Guidelines & Support

Frequently Asked Questions

Media, Policy & Education

share a BAG Santa Monica

Reusable Bag Giveaway Events

City Services





City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment

josephine.miller@smgov.net

310.458.4925

Single-use Carryout Bag Ban

sustainablem.org/bag

Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban

sustainablem.org/container



Photographs by: Anastasia Sonkin
www.rootsandstems.com

