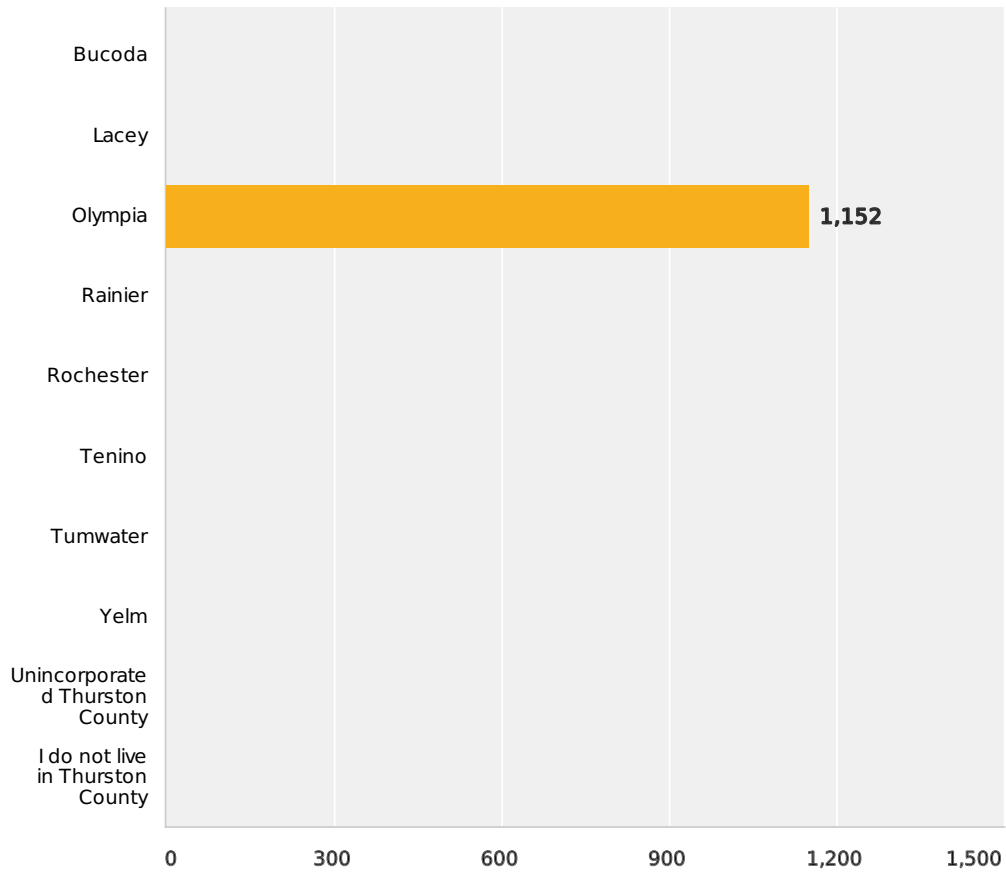


Q1 Check the box that best describes where you live.

Answered: 1,152 Skipped: 0



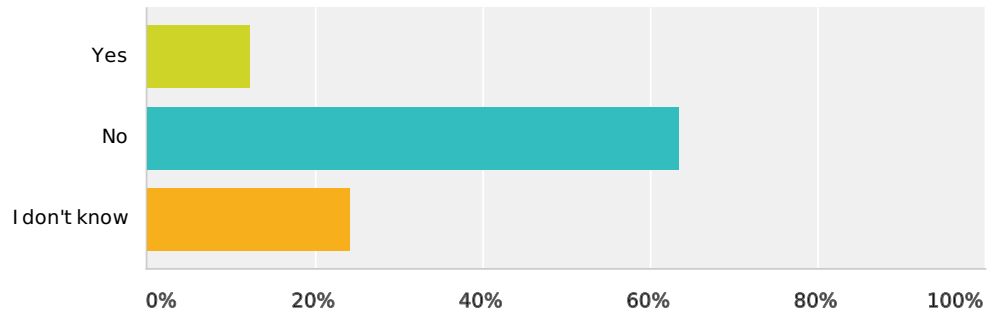
Q2 Please rate the following statements:

Answered: 1,128 Skipped: 24

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Total	Average Rating
I always recycle my plastic grocery bags.	40.05% 447	32.97% 368	9.77% 109	9.41% 105	5.11% 57	2.69% 30	1,116	2.04
I am concerned about the amount of litter and trash plastic bags create.	64.21% 714	24.10% 268	7.28% 81	2.16% 24	2.07% 23	0.18% 2	1,112	1.54
I always use reusable bags when I shop.	21.33% 237	38.07% 423	20.61% 229	13.68% 152	5.13% 57	1.17% 13	1,111	2.43
Making plastic bags uses too many resources.	49.00% 540	22.23% 245	17.97% 198	5.54% 61	3.63% 40	1.63% 18	1,102	1.91
I always reuse my plastic bags for other purposes, like picking up pet waste or lining my trash can.	64.85% 727	26.05% 292	5.00% 56	1.87% 21	0.80% 9	1.43% 16	1,121	1.46
I am concerned about marine animals and birds being injured or killed by plastic bags.	66.67% 742	21.92% 244	6.92% 77	2.25% 25	2.07% 23	0.18% 2	1,113	1.51

Q3 Are plastic bags recyclable in your curbside recycle cart?

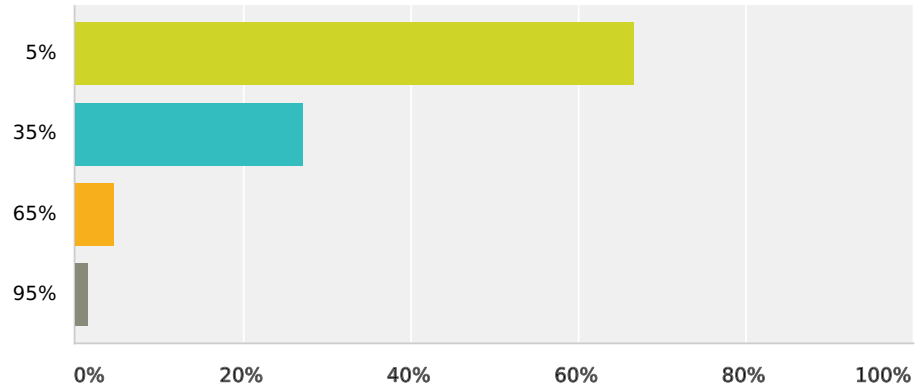
Answered: 1,126 Skipped: 26



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	12.26% 138
No	63.50% 715
I don't know	24.25% 273
Total	1,126

Q4 The average American uses 350-500 plastic shopping bags each year. How many of these actually get recycled?

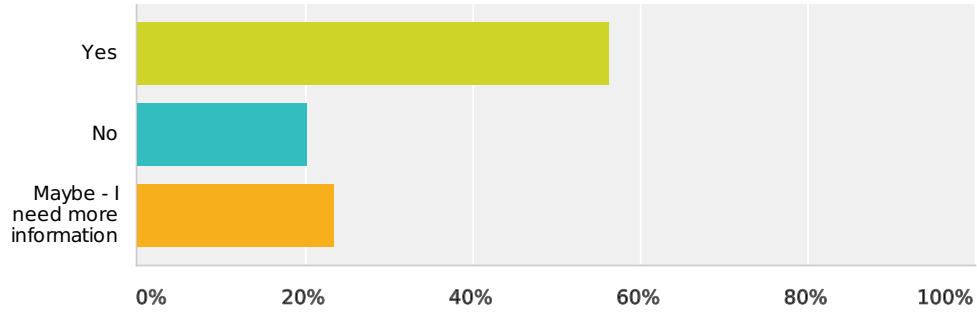
Answered: 1,098 Skipped: 54



Answer Choices	Responses	
5%	66.76%	733
35%	27.14%	298
65%	4.55%	50
95%	1.55%	17
Total		1,098

Q5 Would you support an ordinance in Thurston County that bans plastic "check-out" bags in retail stores and allows stores to charge a fee for paper bags?

Answered: 1,134 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	56.35% 639
No	20.19% 229
Maybe - I need more information	23.46% 266
Total	1,134

Q6 We would like to know your thoughts about plastic bag use in Thurston County! (ex: What do you like about plastic bags? How can we increase bag recycling? What are some arguments for or against a ban on plastic bags?)

Answered: 520 Skipped: 632

#	Responses	Date
1	Being able to recycle at curbside.	10/15/2012 7:35 AM
2	I hate plastic bags but don't want to create new challenges for low-income folks related to fees.	10/12/2012 3:18 PM
3	I like using plastic bags to line my trash cans and to carry items to and from home.	10/12/2012 2:46 PM
4	I avoid them and use paper or reusable when possible.	10/12/2012 12:23 PM
5	-am not in favor of cutting old growth for paper bags. -if paper gags come from recycled products-for sure.	10/8/2012 11:05 AM
6	We all shold return them to the place where they shopped!	10/8/2012 9:36 AM
7	Plastic bags are hazardous to the environment and should no longer be available for use. I use paper bags.	10/5/2012 3:34 PM
8	It's good that some grocery bags now give discounts for bringing your own bags.	10/5/2012 3:18 PM
9	Ban packaging	10/5/2012 3:02 PM
10	Humanity has surpassed the planetary carrying capacity, and it makes sense according to the precautionary principle, to take immediate and urgent actionto lessen our impact.	10/5/2012 2:49 PM
11	No more plastic bags.!	10/5/2012 2:27 PM
12	Reusable, but these bags are reusable to the max!	10/5/2012 1:58 PM
13	My DD clients reuse them and they're free for them.	10/5/2012 1:52 PM
14	But they make great poop bags for dogs.	10/5/2012 11:43 AM
15	Plastic bags can be useful when you need a cheap waterproof container.	10/5/2012 11:41 AM
16	Not a whole lot. Make recycling easier for people . Cost. Landfill.	10/5/2012 11:09 AM
17	It can be frustrating to be charged a monthly fee to recycle.	10/4/2012 9:07 AM
18	I would like to see more plastic bags recycling, and more recycling of all that we use, paper, food, etc.	10/4/2012 9:00 AM
19	We reuse plastic bags alot in our house, but we also recycle them.	10/3/2012 10:02 AM
20	Store signs in parking lots.	10/2/2012 2:58 PM
21	Sometimes plastic is useful for chicken at the grocery store. Need reusable options for that.	10/2/2012 9:53 AM
22	How about an incentive to not use plastic bags and use reusable containers?	10/2/2012 8:34 AM
23	How about an incentive to not use plastic bags and use reusable containers?	10/1/2012 8:56 AM
24	I use my plastic bags for pet litter. Otherwise I recycle them.	10/1/2012 6:22 AM
25	I use plastic bags for pet waste. I'll have to buy them if I don't get them via shopping. I use reusable bags for a portion of my shopping. Having recycling of plastic bags at curbside would help with recycling. The stores don't always recycle the ones that you take there. They sometimes throw them in the trash. If they were biodegradable it would help with ones that get loose in the environment (it won't matter in a landfill). I wish people weren't so irresponsible with disposal.	9/30/2012 6:54 PM
26	Too much governmental regulatoins with zero accountability. Suggest a solution rather than a regulation. What about paper bags again that are automatically recycled regardless of the direction they go - paper goes back to the land they came from as trees. Less export of our lumber to other nations and cultures and more of that wood going to make paper bags. Back up the clock folks and the plastic bags go away in favor of paper. Thank you.	9/29/2012 7:43 PM
27	The imposition of bag fees would create a significant problem for those of us who use the Food Stamps program to feed ourselves, as well as other problems.	9/29/2012 3:49 PM
28	They are re-usable in many ways and I don't need to pay for other inconvenient methods to carry things.	9/29/2012 2:08 PM
29	The whole "green" thing is way to extreme. The problem is not the bags, it is irresponsible people,	9/29/2012 11:48 AM

	government always punishing all over the few.	
30	I believe it should be up to an individual whether or not to use whatever type bag they choose. If you are going to require people to bring their own bags, for a period of time give free bags to customers. Some people can't afford to buy them. Some elderly and low income people can't afford even the nickel to buy them. If an elderly person has \$50 to spend on groceries and forgets their bag and their bill is \$47.99, they don't have the nickel to pay for a bag.	9/28/2012 10:45 AM
31	I strongly support a plastic bag ban. I really wanted to attend some of the public meetings, but I was unable to do so. I think Thurston county should be amongst the other cities/counties in the country leading the way in sustainability. Such bans have been implemented successfully elsewhere with little difficulty and vast improvements in waste reduction. Plastic does some wonderful things for us, but we don't need plastic shopping bags!	9/27/2012 7:25 PM
32	I would look to what has been done in other communities regarding plastic shopping bags. What has worked and what hasn't? What are the forces that will oppose such a ban and do we have the political will to withstand those forces?	9/25/2012 12:32 PM
33	Accepting bags in our recycling bins would be the #1 way to increase bag recycling....no question. I think most folks don't recycle their bags because they have to gather them up somewhere, which takes space, then they have to transport them to a recycling collection area, usually a grocery store. Most often, we forget to take them with us, on our trips to the store, or they sit in the trunk for weeks before we remember them. I'm sure they often get thrown out at some point in this delivery system, before the recycling actually occurs. Even if you asked folks to gather them up for awhile and place them in the recycling as a bundle, many of us would be thrilled to do this, just to be able to put them in our bins. I think plastic bags certainly have their value. Many folks use them to line garbage, or carry things, etc. But, if we make these free, there is widespread abuse. They must be purchased for use, then people treat them with more respect, more conservation of their use. I would suggest if they ARE sold, that it wouldn't be as single bag use at grocery lines. A nickle or dime still isn't enough to avoid the abuse. BAN the BAGS!!! They are a public menace, and Thurston County is progressive enough to act smart on this one, especially since we are a waterfront community, the place many bags end up. Change most often is accompanied by a nudge to make people alter their habits. This is OK, when we are faced with the environmental degradation we perpetrate on this earth each and every day. Anything we can do to mitigate that is something we should try.	9/24/2012 9:27 AM
34	Making bags recycleable in curbside bins would be a huge step to helping reduce the number in landfills.	9/21/2012 4:01 PM
35	I do like re-using plastic bags to store veggies in my fridge and to use as packing materials. At the same time, I would rather they be banned to reduce trash entering the waste stream and because they are wasteful.	9/21/2012 11:18 AM
36	get rid of them. go all the way get rid of all bags. make people actually bring the million reusable ones they have at home or even sitting in their cars! maybe start with reminders at the front of all major grocery stores!	9/20/2012 7:46 PM
37	I reuse bags several times. If not available I'm not sure what I'd use.	9/20/2012 4:11 PM
38	What I like is using thme for doog poop clean up/juice pulp.	9/20/2012 3:18 PM
39	Provide more avenues for reuse or recycling. If plastic bags are banned those who douse/need them will then need to purchase them.	9/20/2012 1:36 PM
40	It would be nice if my neighborhood recycling receptacle would take them so I don't have to take them to the grocery store.	9/20/2012 10:53 AM
41	Come up with a better alternative (financial)	9/20/2012 9:28 AM
42	I like that we reuse them for trash bags, lunch bags, packing extra clothes-they have more than one use.	9/19/2012 3:32 PM
43	More often I reuse the plastic bags until they are totally gone or gross.	9/19/2012 1:06 PM
44	Ban them.	9/19/2012 11:44 AM
45	Plastic bags are easy and sometimes I forget to bring my own. However, I still think that we all need to be aware about all kinds of recycling and the county needs to educate better and provide convenient recycle place.	9/18/2012 4:37 PM
46	No comment	9/18/2012 2:11 PM
47	I need to be more dilligent about these bags!	9/18/2012 12:00 PM
48	More research needed. Keep containers on ships so bags not dropped by container full. Try corn based plastic, etc.	9/18/2012 11:59 AM
49	More stores recycling.	9/18/2012 11:49 AM
50	I want to change my plastic bag habits to reduce the enviromental impact-forcing me to will help.	9/18/2012 9:39 AM
51	Ilike getting plastic bags sometimes because I always reuse them at least once. I wouldn't mind paying a small fee for them at the grocery store.	9/18/2012 9:14 AM
52	I always try to ask for paper or bring my own. But sometimes I for get and get plastic. "Just Ban Them" Charge a \$1.00 a bag ! That will stop us all.	9/17/2012 7:14 PM
53	I don't like them at all. they rip too fast and nobody puts them in the recycling bins.	9/17/2012 3:42 PM
54	No	9/17/2012 2:49 PM

55	Plastic bags often wind up as litter and affect wildlife.	9/17/2012 2:48 PM
56	Folks need to hear why the plastic bags are harmfu. They need to see the connection to their choices and how it eventually harms all of us.	9/17/2012 2:47 PM
57	I never actually remember my re-usuable bags when I go shopping and I never want to buy more so plastic t-shirt bags come in handy.	9/17/2012 2:29 PM
58	Let individuals make the decision.	9/17/2012 2:28 PM
59	I'd like to be able to recycle bags in our mixed recycling container.	9/15/2012 4:21 PM
60	I like to use plastic bags as liners for my small garbage cans in the bathroom.	9/15/2012 10:35 AM
61	I like plastic bags though they need to be thicker/stronger so they don't break so easy. Love that they can be recycled for other uses. Hate this website Thurston County! Looking for something and it redirects you else where.	9/14/2012 9:37 AM
62	ban plastic bags	9/13/2012 1:55 PM
63	Plastic bags are convenient because they are so readily available.	9/13/2012 1:54 PM
64	They use petroleum which needs to be discontinued.	9/13/2012 1:41 PM
65	Recycle them.	9/13/2012 1:17 PM
66	I suppose one could recycle the bags as like some sort of lining for your recycling can.	9/13/2012 11:12 AM
67	I think we can and should be a leading couty for reducing the use of plastic bags to as little as possible.	9/13/2012 10:32 AM
68	I would support a plastic bag fee (5 cents) if a person wanted one from a store. Thank you!	9/13/2012 10:26 AM
69	We need lots of them.	9/13/2012 9:09 AM
70	They can be used as trash liners.	9/13/2012 9:08 AM
71	I use them daily in my public education classroom.	9/12/2012 4:51 PM
72	I think TC needs to get on board with Seattle and many other 1st world countries (GB) and charge for bags provided in stores. People will learn quickly.	9/12/2012 4:02 PM
73	Didn't know curside recycle included plastic bags.	9/12/2012 3:30 PM
74	Plastic bags don't rip as easy.	9/12/2012 3:14 PM
75	Bags don't last too long-they get brittle and usually get thrown away in the trash or burned.	9/12/2012 2:58 PM
76	I like the convenience of carrying plastic bags & the ability to use them multiple times.	9/12/2012 2:40 PM
77	Wish bag recycling could be in recycle container/curbside.	9/12/2012 11:40 AM
78	Meat needs to be in plastic. Food handling risk.	9/12/2012 10:28 AM
79	I feel that we don't support recycling as much as we could. I don't recycle nor do my friends, but I hate polluting. Fuck plastic bags. They are terrible.	9/12/2012 9:52 AM
80	I like them because I reuse them at my house for different things. I wouldn't be against banniing them in stores or charging for them. Peace Love & Rainbows.	9/12/2012 9:48 AM
81	I dont think that bag recycling necessarily needs to increase, as it encourages the use of plastic bags. I fully support a ban on plastic bags, or a fee for use. I already do not use plastic if I remember to bring my reusable bags with me, or if I only have a few items. Having a small fee brings the issue of plastic bag use, and the environmental impact from that use to your mind every time that you need to purchase the plastic bags.	9/11/2012 10:00 PM
82	A degradable bag would help.	9/11/2012 3:14 PM
83	curbside pick up	9/11/2012 1:52 PM
84	Convenience	9/11/2012 1:49 PM
85	Charge higher fee for bags, paper & plastic.	9/11/2012 1:47 PM
86	High taxes on plastic bags.	9/11/2012 12:40 PM
87	I like to reuse as garbage bags.	9/11/2012 12:34 PM
88	I do not like the use of plastic. I prefer paper.	9/11/2012 12:28 PM
89	I reuse them because I have them, which I like. I just have too many.	9/11/2012 12:07 PM
90	I reuse my plastic bags. They're hardy for shopping at the market.	9/11/2012 12:06 PM
91	There should be a small charge for each bag.	9/11/2012 12:05 PM
92	I'd be concernred that some small businesses would be hugley affected (but probably yes)	9/11/2012 12:04 PM
93	No more plastic bags! Use more reusable discount instead of charging for plastics!	9/10/2012 3:03 PM

Plastic Shopping Bag Survey

SurveyMonkey

94	Ban them!!!! It's not that hard to take your own bags to the grocery store.	9/7/2012 3:29 PM
95	Ambivalent	9/7/2012 2:28 PM
96	I like to have plastic bags to use as trash bags in my home, to keep in my car for when I pick up other people's litter at the beach or roadside, and other varied purposes. I think charging for them would be an excellent incentive, but that banning them completely is tricky because I hate to support companies making crappy plastic trash bags. I use my cloth bags about 95% of the time I shop, and when I forget them, i either juggle my purchases, or take a plastic bag for reuse purposes. It is a tough decision between encouraging companies to make bags that hold up better for reuse because they then take longer to break down. I just moved to Thurston County and have never lived somewhere that filmy plastic is recyclable. Paper bags are a huge waste of resources, wood and fuel for transportation, much heavier than plastic. More effort for letting people know that bags are recyclable (I know, you are probably already doing this, but I have not seen it). Encourage biodegradable plstic bags, or at least ones made from recycled materials... Long winded, but I will support any efforts to get these off our streets, out of the sound, and out of our trash.	9/7/2012 1:01 PM
97	Yes. Please allow for plastic bag recycling in curbside containers! Also, lids, ets.-all types of plastic!	9/7/2012 11:35 AM
98	I really haven't put enough thought into plastic bags to have a strong opinion on the matter. If it is a problem, perhaps better efforts to educate the public rather than ban them?	9/7/2012 9:49 AM
99	I like the idea of charging a small fee.	9/6/2012 4:36 PM
100	I am for banning plastic bags but against charging for paper. Stores already make \$ for their cheaper reusable bags.Unless they charge very small and the money goes towards direct social services like the food bank.	9/6/2012 4:35 PM
101	Limiting plastic bag use would be great, but I'm concerned that charging a fee for paper and banning them outright would disproportionately affect and pennialize lower income folk who may have limited access to other bags.	9/6/2012 4:09 PM
102	Encourage the use of recyclable bags by providing more incentives for them and making them ore accessible.	9/6/2012 4:06 PM
103	Plastic bags can be useful in other ways then just at the store. i think we could message the consciousness of our useage. This surveyhelped me realize that alone.	9/6/2012 3:02 PM
104	grocery stores could give a larger discount for bringing reusable bags. 10c a bag is an incentive	9/5/2012 4:03 PM
105	Get rid of them.	9/5/2012 11:51 AM
106	Begin taking plastic bags in recycling container.	9/5/2012 10:40 AM
107	For: rainy days plastic keeps groceries dry against. Too many tossed everywhere.	9/5/2012 9:58 AM
108	Printed handouts with details on how to re-use plastic bags without entering waste steam.	9/4/2012 4:30 PM
109	10 cent/bag charge	9/4/2012 4:11 PM
110	I think the city needs to check the science rather than spread untrue statements about plastic bags. The fact are that paper bags create more waste. Check it out on line or the Discovery Channel.	9/4/2012 3:54 PM
111	We would like to see it banned.	9/4/2012 3:11 PM
112	Would love to see them gone!	9/4/2012 2:37 PM
113	Use them for garbage but would use biodegradable bags if plastic were banned.	9/4/2012 11:46 AM
114	Trash liners!	9/4/2012 11:44 AM
115	I use for dog waste from my own yard and while out walking.	9/4/2012 11:12 AM
116	They fit my kitchen garbage container.	9/4/2012 10:47 AM
117	I would like to see plastic bags go away. there is no need for them	9/3/2012 12:34 PM
118	I am for banning plastic bags. I would like to help in any campaign for this. I rarely use plastic bags and when I do receive them I either reuse them or take them to the recycle center. Magen Blevins magenelizabeth@hotmail.com	9/1/2012 2:44 PM
119	Convience	8/30/2012 3:21 PM
120	Need to make recycling available at more sites and start a research project to develop and design "plastic" bags that will rot into compost after a specific time period.	8/29/2012 4:36 PM
121	Curbside plastic bag recycling from home would help. Educate school kids about it because they will care and nag their parents when they use them. hee hee!	8/29/2012 4:33 PM
122	Go TCSW - eliminate those bags!	8/28/2012 8:19 AM
123	More places to recycle!	8/27/2012 3:15 PM
124	Plastic bags are insignificant compared to packaging and needless products.	8/27/2012 2:14 PM
125	Banning plastic is fine. Paper should be free.	8/27/2012 2:11 PM
126	They are easy to use	8/24/2012 4:21 PM

Plastic Shopping Bag Survey

SurveyMonkey

127	More info. about where can recycle	8/24/2012 2:59 PM
128	Ability to clean cat box	8/23/2012 4:01 PM
129	I'd like to see curbside recycle of bags!	8/23/2012 3:01 PM
130	Too many resources need to manufacture them Harmful to aquatic life and wildlife Ban them	8/23/2012 2:59 PM
131	Banning bags can cause extreme expense. Instead we should reward recycling in some way, or at least make it easier.	8/22/2012 4:33 PM
132	I like easy - I always forget my reuseable bags and I like to use them for other things. I would like to be able to use the recycling bin at home.	8/22/2012 4:30 PM
133	I like the plastic back because I reuse them.	8/22/2012 4:20 PM
134	No, reuseable	8/22/2012 3:53 PM
135	more stores now have reusable bags for sale right at check out stand, good idea. I use maybe 1-2 plastic bags per week, which get reused or recycled.Prefer not to have them banned, but making other alternatives more and more available. Clerks asking "do you need a bag?" helps people think about it more.	8/22/2012 1:22 PM
136	Plastic bags are a detriment to the city, county, country, and world. Living in Africa and seeing the landscape glittering with plastic (a beautiful, but horrifying site) made me not want to touch another plastic bag. I have not taken one from a store since, and re-use the ones I acquire elsewhere as many times as possible, then put them in the pet pick-up containers around town. I fully fully support a ban (and will start a cloth bag making business if it passes!)	8/22/2012 12:31 PM
137	I think we should ban shopping bags and people can bring their own fabric bags or back packs to the stores like in some other countries. I like the idea of being able to wash them for reuse.	8/21/2012 4:48 PM
138	It is not governments business to interfer with how a store helps a customer take out purchased goods. What is this country coming to?	8/19/2012 3:09 PM
139	Plastic bags are clearly unhealthy for animals of many kinds, an environmental disaster of waste and oil use. I did not want reusable bags at first, but once I used them, they are a fashion statement, easy to clean, hold more and don't break, so are clearly superior. They do not pile up and make annoying full bags hanging around.	8/18/2012 9:16 PM
140	I have no idea why a MUCH higher percentage of plastic bags aren't recycled. The grocery stores, with the exception of Grocery Outlet, make it quite convenient. // Also, are plastic bags really essential for newspapers, especially when you have a curbside box for them?	8/18/2012 10:28 AM
141	I'd like to see plastic bags used more responsibly.	8/17/2012 5:41 PM
142	Bio bags are too expensive.	8/17/2012 2:57 PM
143	OK to ban plastic bags. Don't charge for locally manufactured paper bags. Jobs are created. Renewable resources - trees - can be used.	8/17/2012 1:21 PM
144	Plastic shopping bag are a disgraceful use of resources. In addition, they pollute our neighborhoods and are hazardous to many types of wildlife. At a minimum, users should be charged a fee for each bag that they request from retailers. At best, we should eliminate them entirely from our stream of consumption.	8/16/2012 3:23 PM
145	Thanks for promoting this issue in Thurston County! I think it's high time Olympia/Thurston County implements a ban on plastic bags for all the reasons that other cities in Washington state, the US, and around the world are doing it (largely due to the variety of environmental costs). The only way I can think of to increase bag recycling is to include them in curbside recycling pick-up. Having to regularly remember to collect them and drop them off at Safeway is inconvenient and, unless you're someone who strongly believes that recycling plastic bags is important, you're not going to bother. I think that sums up the mentality of the majority of people. If I had to choose between increasing bag recycling or banning them altogether, I would choose the ban.	8/15/2012 9:25 AM
146	too much plastic but so handy, I don't agree on the charge for a paper bag but I do think people are responsible for furnishing their own bags and recycling the plastic bags.	8/15/2012 8:50 AM
147	put a 25 cent tax on each one and let the market sort it out	8/14/2012 11:27 PM
148	Ban the damn bags! As soon as possible! I wrote the Olympia City Council a few years ago asking that they ban plastic shopping bags in Olympia and Mayor Mah wrote back declining to take any action at all, so I am thrilled at the prospect of the ban. They are not recyclable in Olympia so I can't recycle those which come to me. I personally use reusable bags for every type of chopping, not just grocery shopping. Being disabled, occasionally friends shop for me and often use plastic bags. I reuse those bags MULTIPLE times until they die. Even then I've often used torn bits of bag as plant ties in the garden. I plan to actually buy or make some reusable bags for my friends to use when helping me in the future. Seriously, there is no legitimate argument in this day and age for the continued use of plastic shopping bags. They are a waste of limited petroleum resources. They are unnecessary. They are expensive for governments (and their taxpayers) to dispose of. Businesses and customers were able to do without them for centuries. They are a horrible source of litter. They are a horrible source of environmental pollution that kill wildlife. Etc., etc. etc. And I'm sick to death of people who say this is not a government responsibility - it absolutely is! It has financial and environmental ramifications which are a government responsibility. Don't let these naysayers and right wing extremists, with their heads firmly buried in the sand, bully you out of banning single use plastic bags. It will be a great public service to ban them! Please get rid of the damn things! Thank you...Linda Donaldson	8/14/2012 8:33 PM
149	Hawaii has set some examples with the ban. Just go ahead. In the long run, all the whining won't mean a	8/14/2012 7:10 PM

	thing.	
150	I like because they are lightweight-I dislike that they are against most that I believe. Easier to recycle if grocery stores had their bins more visible.	8/14/2012 10:45 AM
151	I strongly support plastic bag recycling and plastic bag bans. They are harmful to the environment in many ways.	8/14/2012 10:32 AM
152	Customers should drop the used plastic bags back to the store, where they collect the used bags back!	8/13/2012 2:58 PM
153	reusable	8/13/2012 2:57 PM
154	I want to have bag recycle available at the curb.	8/13/2012 2:53 PM
155	A fee for using plastic or paper bags would make people think about it more. Stores should coach their employees to go easy on the bags, pack more efficiently. I'm sure you're following the results from some other programs regarding this - hopefully it's working well. There is way too much thoughtless and unnecessary waste. A small fee for bags might help. I would vote "yes" on a bag ban.	8/12/2012 9:49 AM
156	I believe we should choose, as a county and/or City of Olympia, to ban the plastic bags. We should do so in an informed, gradual way so that the public can prepare for it, mentally and physically. It will take some tolerance and the courage to rise above conventional habits....change always does. Short of a total ban, I would support a 'tax' on plastic and paper bags....with the funds going towards the clean-up necessary for their existence, and perhaps also tax breaks and/or grants for organizations that re-use or re-purpose the bags for other products. I absolutely believe that right now, we should be able to curbside recycle our plastic bags. Not being able to do so, and needing to take them to a grocery store, is the single greatest impediment to recycling them. There would be a huge spike in recycling this plastic, if this were made possible. Of course plastic bags are very useful....perhaps with a ban on their free use as grocery bags, we could allow them to be sold in packets....to be used more wisely, less often, and with a little sting to our pocketbook.	8/10/2012 9:44 PM
157	Ban them!!! It is ridiculous that we use so many of these bags, we have other options. We also need to ban the "produce" style plastic bags too! I don't like anything about the plastic bags, nothing at all. Increase recycling by charging 25 cents per bag (if not banned), and have bins at every store.	8/9/2012 2:24 PM
158	I bring my own shopping bags most of the time but like to have a supply of plastic bags on hand for many reasons - collecting trash, transporting wet or messy items, using for laundry when traveling, sorting and storing craft items, etc. I think emphasis on reducing use of plastic bags is more reasonable - maybe charging for them which might get people's attention more than the cents off for bringing a bag, or using more biodegradable bags. I read that somewhere in Ireland where plastic shopping bags were banned, sales of plastic trash bags and liners went up because people still needed bags.	8/8/2012 9:40 PM
159	Allow plastic bags in recycle bin in Olympia.	8/8/2012 9:11 AM
160	While plastic bags are convenient and light weight to use I feel that every store owner and store chain that uses plastic bags for bagging should be required to have a bag recycling container/program to collect and recycle the bags. (Not just a few grocery stores in the area). I also think the plastic bag industry should also be held responsible for helping to collect and recycle the product at the local level. Plastic bags should either be banned or made and certified from plant materials that can organically breakdown over time (or dissolve when submerged in water). In addition, I'd like to see the County ban the use of Styrofoam packaging materials (from food containers to shipping material).	8/8/2012 1:17 AM
161	i reuse the bags that i receive at the stores	8/7/2012 6:51 PM
162	I'm all for using reusable cloth bags whenever possible. I am concerned about environmental impact, the only drawback is, not everyone has a car, and it rains a good portion of the year here. Cloth bags are not water resistant, plastic is. If you have to get your purchases home on public transportation or by foot cloth bags have their drawbacks in inclement weather. If they could make reusable bags water resistant or sealable I think you would have a lot more support. I do try to use cloth bags as much as I can, but you don't always have one when you decide to go to the store.	8/7/2012 3:58 PM
163	Ban the bags. :)	8/7/2012 3:11 PM
164	i do use plastic bags to clean my cat's litter boxes. since i go to the co op with my own reusable bags, i ask my coworkers for the plastic bags from their houses. dog owners who walk their dogs around the neighborhood will need something to put their dog's waste into, but maybe i am unaware of alternatives to that situation. either way, this is awesome, and i support thurston county's idea to ban plastic bags! YAHOO! very cool.	8/7/2012 2:03 PM
165	I would strongly support a plastic bag ban in Thurston county. I was doing some research on starting a petition to ban the bag in Thurston county when I found this website. I think that plastic shopping bags are unnecessary, unhealthy, wasteful, and many other cities have already successfully proven that implementing bag bans is easy. Change can be instigated by the people but ultimately has to come from the laws and leaders. Please do the right thing and put Thurston county one step in the right direction- NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS! Thank you!	8/7/2012 12:49 PM
166	Mandate that grocery stores have a plastic bag recycle bin at the front of the store. Some already do but most do not.	8/7/2012 10:11 AM
167	Obviously, convenience, but that is highly shortsighted as it does not take into account the production of them and the (safe?) decomposition of them. Make them recyclable at every store and have bins in the mall too. I'm all for a ban. I need the help to resist the easy but ultimately destructive choice of plastic bags. We all do.	8/7/2012 9:49 AM

168	I like refusing plastic bags in some of my trash receptacles but they still end up in the trash eventually. Preaching at folks doesn't seem to change their behavior (except for young folkd) so how about pictures with short but factual captions of marine animals and birds caught in plastic bags and maps and photos of the plastic stews in the oceans. These could be posted in stores, on community bulletin boards...and on county websites and information sent to the public. No big deal made of them but where people can easily see them. In addition places that recycle the bags need to be more numerous. increased	8/6/2012 7:28 PM
169	I recently became aware that reusable bags often harbor bacteria and should be cleaned frequently. The ones I have cannot be machine washed, but can be wiped down with disinfectant. Consumers should be made aware of this and stores that "sell" their paper bags should be required to provide, for purchase, bags that can be sanitized.	8/6/2012 12:34 PM
170	We need to create incentive for businesses to reduce their use. So many times cashiers have bagged my purchase before I even have a chance to say I don't need them. If this cost businesses more money, I'm sure they would train their staff to ask. Plastic bags are a problem but there are a lot of other more concerning things that are ending up in our waste stream (e.g. electronics, hazardous materials, etc.).	8/6/2012 9:31 AM
171	If the plastic was compostable, or we had a plastic composting program, that was maybe a group being funded by grant money to use mycellium to consume plastic, that would be nice. Otherwise I do not support the production of resources that cannot be returned to the planet in their raw materials. Thank you for initiating this process in changing the way we incorporate our economy with the ecology.	8/5/2012 9:39 PM
172	if plastic bags can be recycled, that is news to me. i never see drop off places at grocery stores any more.	8/5/2012 4:07 PM
173	I don't necessarily agree with banning plastic bags because they have an enormous amount of secondary uses. I think the only way you can get people to stop using plastic shopping bags is if residents were afforded at set to accommodate their family size. Plastic shopping bags are free, reusable and arguably disposable after its secondary or tertiary use. Until reusable bags are just as easy to accumulate, I doubt people will fully utilize the alternatives. I wouldn't mind using cardboard flats previously used from the stock room, I think if you encourage people to make an alternative choice for maybe, material cost refund for not using plastic bags you can be able to break some bad habits and poor practice. You achieve the same goal without having to forbid anyone of anything.	8/5/2012 3:35 PM
174	As in much of Europe, plastic bags at check out should cost money. In Ireland and France, it really stings, so people have purchased reusable bags for shopping. I have one nylon fold up sack for my purse that I bought at Monoprix in Paris. I use it 4-5 times per week. For larger orders, I brought home some really large, strong bags from Carrefour supermarket in Nice. I can fit way more than our US reusables allow and that means fewer trips out to the car.	8/5/2012 3:12 PM
175	I very much dislike the overuse of plastic bags. I was unaware that they could be recycled, I think that getting the knowledge out there will increase bag recycling. The one thing I do like about plastic bags, are their varied uses. I pick up pet waste, transport wet clothing and use them instead of plastic wrap. I have never thrown away a plastic bag without getting multiple uses out of it.	8/5/2012 3:10 PM
176	I like to reuse plastic bags for garbage bags and do NOT need to buy plastic garbage bags, ever. However, I would gladly pay 10 cents or 20 cents for a plastic bag whenever we need them. Please, please make plastic bags a for-charge item at the grocery store. I support ending the use of plastic grocery bags!! Thanks!	8/5/2012 2:12 PM
177	Allowing for easier bag recycling may be helpful if a ban does not go through. I have to go out of my way to a grocery store I don't frequent just to recycle my bag collection.	8/5/2012 1:48 PM
178	get rid of them and allow stores to charge the cost of paper bags.	8/5/2012 1:39 PM
179	I believe they should be banned. I don't think we should be charged for paper bags.	8/5/2012 1:37 PM
180	Completely against the ban on plastic bags, regulating this problem is just another example of local government making a law about something that doesn't need to be constrained by an ordinance. Instead, maybe provide tax incentives to businesses who opt for paper or otherwise cut down on plastic bag consumption. There's a time where regulation is needed, but regulating what consumers do isn't good for the economy or solving the problem. Money spent on consumer awareness would be much more productive.	8/5/2012 1:17 PM
181	Lightweight plastic carryout bags are commonly found in litter and escape into our waterways where they remain as a pollutant forever. Fish and other marine animals commonly mistake pieces of plastic and bags for food. When plastics break down into smaller and smaller pieces, those microscopic particles may also be consumed by small animals in the oceans and enter the food chain. Because of plastic's persistence in the environment, the City believes the use of throw-away plastic products should be minimized. https://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Recycling/ReduceReuseExchange/PlasticBagBan/FAQsShoppers/index.htm	8/5/2012 12:30 PM
182	BAN IT!	8/5/2012 12:24 PM
183	People have been given the choice to find their own solutions for grocery bags for long enough, and too many of them choose to continue using them. I believe it's time to eliminate plastic bags from circulation entirely. Shoppers can either bring their own bags, purchase reusable ones from the store in which they are shopping, or don't use bags at all. Bellingham, WA has a good model in place now. Let's learn from them and help Olympia be a leader for South Puget Sound!	8/5/2012 12:20 PM
184	Let's just do it. Seattle did - why can't we?	8/5/2012 12:19 PM
185	Plastic bags are convenient, easy to carry and more durable than paper in the sense that they can easily be stuffed together without ripping. Make bag recycling more apparent, easier to do and more people will participate.	8/5/2012 12:18 PM

186	We should definitely ban plastic bags at checkout! They are completely unnecessary. However, it's very difficult for businesses to be the "first" or "only" business doing something like this, which is why it makes sense to have a complete ban on them. That way, no one is singled out by doing the right thing. To me, banning plastic bags at checkout is obvious. The trickier question is hoe to get rid of produce bags. I don't know the answer to that.	8/5/2012 12:15 PM
187	at first, start just charging a surcharge for plastic bags to phase them out. This should be easier to pass. I'm for banning completely, but need to walk down the path slowly to get public on board.	8/3/2012 7:10 AM
188	I would probably support a ban on plastic bags but think a more effective method would be to charge for plastic/paper bags?!	8/2/2012 12:30 PM
189	Why can't disposable bags be made of biodegradable cellulose?	8/1/2012 6:01 PM
190	I was shocked and how many plastic bags were gathering underneath my kitchen sink but even more so, how many groceries I could fit 3 of my reusable bags. My daughter & I guess that it would have been at least 15-20 plastic bags. I love using my reusable bags, even took them with me to Best Buy & Payless last night! Saved two plastic bags! YES!	7/31/2012 1:03 PM
191	I would hope that the ban would apply to all retail outlets and food vendors as well (take-out food).	7/31/2012 11:53 AM
192	I rarely get/use plastic bags at the grocery store as I use cloth bags (and I try to remember them at "nongrocery" stores too). However, I feel very strongly that we should NOT ban plastic bags - we don't need a "plastic bag police." Continue ways of encouraging alternatives. Go ahead and charge for plastic bags if desired, but do not legislate their use (or nonuse).	7/30/2012 10:39 AM
193	I recall being charged for needing a plastic bag when shopping in Finland many years ago. Everyone carried a reusable bag instead. We could do the same in Thurston County.	7/30/2012 9:36 AM
194	They are a great resource for lining indoor trash cans. Much better than paper bags as any accidental liquid put in there will not result in a "blow out" that will occur with paper bags. As for picking up pet waste, they can't be beat. For me, picking up pet waste with the plastic bag is better for the environment than letting the pet waste decompose and increase the fecal matter that flows into the puget sound. When plastic bags were first introduced 30 or so years ago they were touted as better for the environment than paper bags as it "saved a tree". We still have plenty of trees. It makes me wonder if this push to ban plastic bags is just an effort by the timber industry and local government to increase their profits and taxes..	7/28/2012 10:34 PM
195	Thank you for your efforts. I will continue to try and remember my cloth bags - ban plastic and make me pay the price for paper if I continue to forget my cloth bags.	7/28/2012 8:19 AM
196	I would like to see plastic bags banned and a fee set on paper bags. I have several reusable bags that I carry in my car, but I invariably forget to take them with me into the store. For awhile, if I forgot the reusable bags, I would just not use any bags. Unfortunately, I found the plastic or paper bags were just too convenient and started using them again. I know I am not the only person who forgets the reusable bags. Perhaps if we ban the bags, more people, like myself, will get it together! I do believe plastic bags are recyclable curbside, and I have started using that service. Thank you for running this survey.	7/27/2012 2:11 PM
197	Plastic bags are a bad idea that was poorly implemented.	7/27/2012 10:15 AM
198	If plastic bags are banned then I need some type of disposable container to pick up pet waste and line my garbage cans. I don't use a lot because I am good at recycling/composting food waste.	7/27/2012 8:22 AM
199	I like the bags to put my daughter's poopy diapers in. Our church, First United Methodist Church of Olympia is having Vacation Bible Camp next week & we're collecting plastic bags to help the kids understand the importance of recycling. We're going to then take the plastic bags & I guess the United Methodist Women have learned how to crochet them into mattresses! What a way to reuse & give to someone in need!	7/27/2012 8:08 AM
200	I wish there were more places to recycle plastic bags. It would be very convenient if I could recycle them at the curb.	7/27/2012 7:48 AM
201	Bag recycling only at grocery stores now. Hard to remember to bring them. It is also usually not obvious in the store. I would be willing to have a separate container for curbside. I would be in favor of banning most plastic bags, You do need something for leaky meat packages.	7/26/2012 9:41 PM
202	Why can't we recycle it?	7/26/2012 8:35 PM
203	First step: Stores start charging for EVERY bag used- paper OR plastic- and that will get the public's attention. Giving 5c credit for bringing your own bag has not been very effective. Find out how Ireland pulled off no-plastic in grocery stores...I visited there a few years ago, and it's just the way things are--people adjust.We need to simply ban plastic bags, let consumers pitch a fit, then move on.	7/26/2012 8:09 PM
204	Single use plastic bags should be completely eliminated. Stores that insist on using them should be required to charge a per bag fee for each customer. That fee could go into a fund to be used for education, outreach and promotion of reusable bags.	7/26/2012 8:03 PM
205	I think that it would be great if you could recycle these bags with your weekly recycle pick-up. I also think that Washington needs to eliminate plastic altogether! If California can do it, any state can do it! I appreciate this survey and I will tell my friends to do it too! Thanks a bunch!	7/26/2012 5:18 PM
206	Get at litter	7/26/2012 5:02 PM
207	We try to recycle our plastic bags. We do reuse the plastic bags as much as possible...cat litter, trash liners, etc. We like plastic bags for the ease of handling (having handles) the little weight, and the easy compact storage for reuse. We are trying to shop using shopping bags. Often we forget them, sometimes we are	7/26/2012 3:39 PM

	without them, and sometimes it is not convenient. Wet or nasty messy things fit best in a plastic bag. IF we had curbside recycle for plastic bags included with all our other recycle, we would use it!!! Totally. We believe and use recycle as much as we can. A ban is somewhat harsh, I think better recycle could work, too.	
208	the allow me to use them as pet waste bags or trash bags buut if I had to do without them I guess I could.	7/26/2012 2:28 PM
209	The main problem with plastic bags (and other trash) is the self-centered "I don't care" attitude. It's not the bag but the person. Banning the bags might be "politically correct", but would have a negative impact on the public with the added cost that would necessarily follow the ban.	7/26/2012 1:47 PM
210	Work with the stores to create a better system don't just force your opinion on the consumer with a ban.	7/26/2012 12:27 PM
211	Need to ban for the control of litter.	7/26/2012 12:23 PM
212	They don't give out plastic bags at grocery stores in Switzerland and they make customers for paper bags. They sell reusable bags for about 50 cents more than the paper ones.	7/26/2012 11:44 AM
213	They are very useful but they get loose so easily. If curbside recycling could be made to work that would help.	7/26/2012 11:41 AM
214	Reuse for garbage bags.	7/26/2012 10:12 AM
215	I have mixed feelings, because I don't think they're good for the environment & yet we do use them consistently to line our wastebaskets etc. I'm glad there is going to be some dialogue about the issue.	7/26/2012 9:25 AM
216	I do like to reuse them to carry dirty clothes or shoes when traveling with a suitcase. I also use them to pick up after our dog.	7/25/2012 9:59 PM
217	For - I like having some bags available. We use them for trash can liners, lunch bags, laundry bags when we travel. Against - Uses resources, fills the landfills, is a hazard to the environment, take a long long time to deteriorate. Make it easier - more places to recycle, curbside recycling I would support a ban and a very modest fee at the checkout line.	7/25/2012 8:46 PM
218	I use plastic bags to pick up soiled cat litter and deposit it into my garbage cart. I only use a few for this and would be very willing to recycle the rest but I do not know how to do that. Maybe the city could educate us in how to do that??? Are we allowed to put them into our Recycle Cart? I am a Senior Citizen and groceries are a lot easier to carry when they are in a plastic bag because they have handles, unlike most paper bags.	7/25/2012 2:23 AM
219	My preference would be to ban them totally, Seattle has the right idea we should follow suit!	7/24/2012 2:46 PM
220	In favor of plastic bags. They have many uses after shopping.	7/24/2012 10:57 AM
221	prefer biodegradable plastic bags	7/24/2012 10:00 AM
222	I would be more inclined to use reusable bags if I didn't have to purchase them when not bringing one with me.	7/23/2012 8:05 PM
223	Plastic bags kill -- it is that simple. I have seen photos of birds and marine animals with plastic bags suffocating them, binding them, etc. And we need to figure out how to get rid of those floating islands of garbage in our oceans. We do not seem to understand the harm that we do.	7/23/2012 4:39 PM
224	In favor of plastic bags. They have many used after shopping.	7/23/2012 3:19 PM
225	I use plastic bags for cat litter. Would uby some type of container (within cost reason) stop using plastic bags.	7/23/2012 1:37 PM
226	I still use plastic bags for meat and other messy items.	7/23/2012 12:57 PM
227	They would be of much more use if they didn't have holes in the bottom--great liners for waste baskets in the (?) home.	7/23/2012 12:54 PM
228	They can be recycled at the grocery stores. Curbside recycle cart would be great for these bags.	7/23/2012 12:49 PM
229	I like the cleanliness that they offer. New bags are sterile and have many other uses after they are brought home.	7/23/2012 11:44 AM
230	Plastic bags can be convenienet but actually but every unsubstantial way carry things, and are pointless when reusable bags are available. They are not wort energy. They use to be created, and are devastating to wildlife and are (?) at the WARC. Down with plastic!	7/23/2012 11:11 AM
231	i like to reuse plastic bags. Ban or charging for will create another unnecesary charge for lower income people who are already struggling.	7/23/2012 10:59 AM
232	Would love to see them added to our recycle bins list of required "recycle" items.	7/23/2012 10:18 AM
233	I went to Maui for vacation and they don't have a plastic bag in site there. The fee for the brown bag was almost nothing. It's a good thing!	7/19/2012 11:13 AM
234	Charge a deterrent fee for each bag, use the money to fund roadside cleanup.	7/18/2012 4:15 PM
235	Plastic bags are good dog pooh bags.	7/18/2012 2:44 PM
236	Adding them to my curbside would be nice.	7/18/2012 2:18 PM
237	Plastic bags create an ever-growing contamination problem that is easily stemmed by the use of reusables. Banning them and charging for paper bags is a brilliant way to get people in the habit of bringing their own damn bags.	7/18/2012 2:06 PM

238	Plastic bags that degrade.	7/18/2012 1:57 PM
239	The only reason I use plastic bags is that I'm not in the habit of always having them on hand--I'm working on it.	7/18/2012 12:50 PM
240	Plastic bags have multiple reuses--I would hate not being able to get them.	7/18/2012 12:48 PM
241	Ban 'em!	7/18/2012 10:59 AM
242	I try to use shopping bags instead of plastic but don't always remember. I also opt for no bag when possible.	7/18/2012 10:35 AM
243	What percentage of total garbage waste are plastic bags? Probably less than 1%. Therefore banning them has essentially no effect on waste volume. Plastic bags cost less to transport. Paper bags weight more, burning more fuel in the trucks that haul the bags. Green house gas net effect?	7/17/2012 9:49 PM
244	There should be some "exceptions" if plastic bags are banned -- like for people taking the bus, the elderly, a parent walking with small children. I defer to the plastic bag industry when they say the recycling stream is robust -- if it is I would like more enforcement of recycling on the public as well as a (nearly) total ban, see above. If the recycling stream is not robust, then they need to step up and make it so. But so many people don't recycle. Thanks.	7/17/2012 4:21 PM
245	Separate bin for curbside by LeMay.	7/17/2012 3:09 PM
246	Reuse plastic bags. Put drop off locations in stores.	7/17/2012 3:03 PM
247	The convenience of plastic bags at the grocery checkout really is hard to beat. Even though I have reuseable bags in my car, it is still hard to remember to bring them in! Yet I am very concerned about plastic bag litter and all plastic litter; we need to take drastic action before our planet looks like it does in Wall-e. Can plastic bags go in curbside recycling? That would be wonderful.	7/16/2012 6:17 PM
248	I always reuse my plastic bags. I would prefer to keep plastic bags as an option--reuseable can store germs if not washed properly which can be a health issue.	7/16/2012 1:58 PM
249	Need more recycling opportunities, advertise other use for plastic bags.	7/16/2012 1:49 PM
250	Styrofoam need to be recycled too. Thanks.	7/16/2012 1:31 PM
251	The amount of waste the bags create is huge! I think banning the production and usage in stores is important. I don't like anything about them.	7/16/2012 1:08 PM
252	I like my freedom to choose whether or not I want to use plastic.	7/16/2012 12:52 PM
253	Keep government out. Educate the people to make their own choices. I support recycling and using reusable bags, but that choice should be up to me.	7/16/2012 12:17 PM
254	Unfortunately, encouraging paper bags isn't a better option.	7/16/2012 9:31 AM
255	I don't want the government telling me what to do.	7/16/2012 9:10 AM
256	I really only use them because that's what is available.	7/16/2012 9:08 AM
257	It's easier than bringing bags.	7/16/2012 8:36 AM
258	Worried about resources for paper bags. Don't like fees (Olympia's fees are higher than others).	7/16/2012 7:42 AM
259	If I didn't have shopping bags I would have to purchase bags for my small trash cans.	7/15/2012 4:40 PM
260	stores bag up groceries in too many plastic bags. Sometimes only one item is in a bag. Have more bins for plastic bag recycling and at the entrance of stores.	7/15/2012 3:12 PM
261	I like using them to line my trash cans in the house and for packing boxes. Argument for: easier to carry several bags at once when unloading groceries. Argument Against: Not good for the environment.	7/15/2012 12:42 PM
262	Let the free market decide.	7/14/2012 10:25 AM
263	It can work-Portland does it!	7/13/2012 10:41 AM
264	Better than paper, less natural resources use.	7/13/2012 10:37 AM
265	Use Seattle plan.	7/13/2012 10:35 AM
266	Ban them!	7/13/2012 10:30 AM
267	Cross contamination of meats is the only concern that I use plastic for. Convenience for frozen foods is waining :)	7/13/2012 10:27 AM
268	They are nice to reuse as garbage bags, but I still wish people didn't use them so much. I would be fine if they were banned.	7/13/2012 10:25 AM
269	We need some. But not nearly as many as we use.	7/13/2012 10:23 AM
270	convenience, but I would gladly use fabric reusable bags.	7/13/2012 10:22 AM
271	I like reusing plastic bags and really don't see them totally going away. Sometimes nothing else does what they do!	7/13/2012 10:04 AM
272	BAN THEM!	7/13/2012 10:02 AM

Plastic Shopping Bag Survey

SurveyMonkey

273	If plastic bags are removed and people are charged for paper then also implement a system for donating back paper bags.	7/12/2012 3:40 PM
274	I would very much like to see plastic bag recycling available in the Olympia curbside recycling program.	7/12/2012 3:37 PM
275	Help me remember my reuseable bags. Works great in Maui.	7/12/2012 3:26 PM
276	I use cloth bags for shopping and I reuse plastic bags for produce.	7/12/2012 3:24 PM
277	I use plastic bags with my cleaning biz to hold dirty towels and to line trash. I'd be willing to switch to paper, though plastic bags seem more sanitary in cleaning situations. I support the challenge to "think outside of the bag." If there is curbside recycling for plastic bags, I don't know about it!	7/12/2012 3:22 PM
278	They choose nature. Are typically single use before they tear. Blow around and are sign of the times.	7/12/2012 3:18 PM
279	Collect plastic bags with regular recycling pickup.	7/12/2012 3:18 PM
280	Since garbage is only picked up twice a month, plastic bags are helpful keeping it contained and bug and animal free. You could allow us to recycle plastic bags in our recycling.	7/12/2012 2:59 PM
281	I think having alternatives in groceru stores like reused containers on hand is helpfu to not choosing the plastic bag.	7/12/2012 2:50 PM
282	I reuse plastic bags for so many things, like lining my trash cans. The idea of having to buy bags to line trash, etc. sucks :)	7/12/2012 2:48 PM
283	I don't want government to dictate this issue.	7/11/2012 1:13 PM
284	I would like to see more biodegradable plastic bags used. I think it may also be hard on lower income people to have to pay for bags if they forgot to bring reusable bags, so that's not too good. But I really would like to see less plastic bags in the trash stream.	7/9/2012 10:27 PM
285	It would make it a lot easier for everyone to incorporate plastic bag recycling into curb-side recycling. I would love to see a ban on plastic bags but at the same time those plastic bags contain my household garbage, baby diapers and cat litter. I also heard a study that in places where they have banned plastic bags people are using the store bought plastic bags which are thicker and take much longer to break down. (i.e people are going to use plastic bags for their garbage no matter what whether it be the free ones from the grocery store or store bought bags)	7/9/2012 9:38 AM
286	how can banning plastic bags help @ all... i havent bought garbage bags for many years... i use the shopping bags...if they are banned then i would have to buy OTHER plastic bags	7/8/2012 6:44 PM
287	I've always used them as free kitchen garbage bags, but if they disappeared, that would be better for the planet. Gretchen Reinhardt	7/8/2012 1:20 PM
288	we don't need them. ban them.	7/7/2012 9:37 PM
289	rather use paper bags, but plastic bags are still necessary for some items like produce and other retail items consumers need to understand the results of not being responsible for the proper recycling that affect our environment	7/6/2012 6:36 PM
290	I have heard that plastic bags don't really get recycled, that they are more likely taken to China where they are burned along with other "recycled" products that can not be disposed of legally in the U.S. I really hope that this is mis-information and I continue to recycle them in the hopes that I really am making a difference. I know a few people who through away plastics because they too don't believe that plastic truly is recyclable.	7/5/2012 10:44 AM
291	Any ban on plastic bags is good, but it should be statewide. If the Legislature won't act, then it should be at least countywide. But, even if that is too difficult, then individual cities must take the lead.	7/5/2012 10:27 AM
292	Plastic bags ought to be banned. They are a public nuisance and environmental hazard, and a reusable bag is an easy alternative.	7/4/2012 12:11 PM
293	I use the plastic bags for picking up dog poop. Otherwise, I recycle them. It would be nice if they could be picked up with our other recycling. Pro for banning -- environmental issues, particularly in our waters.	7/4/2012 11:40 AM
294	I think there should be a small charge for plastic bags. A ban will never work, reusable bags get forgotton and it is not visitor friendly.	7/3/2012 2:08 PM
295	Like metal can pull tabs plastic bags have had there time and have proven to be to toxic for ongoing use. Time to move on to a sustainable option.	7/3/2012 1:44 PM
296	The single most amount of trash that goes into my waste is plastic products, e.g., plastic packaging, etc. Plastic bags for use at the grocery stores should be of the compostable type. Even if it cost more, it would be worth it.	7/1/2012 9:47 AM
297	I used to like plastic bags as they keep moisture in(frozen foods, meats), easier to carry multiple bags(have handles), make great free trash bags. However, they pose a huge threat to the environment and wildlife, end up in sea creatures, choke our landfills and is a petroleum product that is not essential to life. I would like to see a ban on plastic bags with a provision for stores to use strong,biodegradable +/-or sustainable bags. Increase the availability of cheaper reusable bags especially at grocery stores, markets. Not everyone can afford \$5-15 reusable bags. Why not cut back on providing plastic bags? Use less, make less, people will fuss then adapt. Increase bag recycling? I would increase point of use education even more than we already do. For a period of time (every customer who ends up using plastic bags) let them know your store recycles plastic bags and location of the collection 'barrel' for their use(next visit).Also set a deadline for providing regular plastic bags,offer alternatives. Clearly visible signs explaining any changes and small flyer in grocery	6/29/2012 1:15 AM

	bags to take home might give those folk with questions a chance to understand the need for change. You asked.	
298	I would like to see plastic bags banned at grocery and other retail stores. It disgusts me the amount of plastic that is wasted by folks. I don't mind taking my plastic bags to the store to be recycled but it would be nice to have curbside recycling or other collection centers (like at apartments).	6/26/2012 10:53 AM
299	Work with the large, chain stores on a campaign. Checkers say (cheerfully) "Bring your own bags with you today?" No? That's ok" etc. etc. The repetition would be powerful.	6/25/2012 1:41 PM
300	While I realize too many people do not use plastic bags responsibly, I would hate to see them banned cause I use them for many things that if I didn't have them, I'd have to purchase a product to take their place.	6/19/2012 6:45 PM
301	I use reuse plastic shopping bags for my household trash disposal and would just have to buy other plastic garbage bags for that purpose, if plastic shopping bags were banned.	6/19/2012 12:44 PM
302	I don't believe that banning anything is the proper way to deal with any issue. It's a weak copout instead of actually dealing with things and comes across as arrogant and self righteous, regardless of intention. Plastic bag recycling bins used to be by the front doors of some grocery stores but I haven't seen any in quite a while. I generally use plastic bags because they don't fall apart when wet and for their infinite uses at home.	6/15/2012 8:49 AM
303	I use my plastic bags for trash liners. I work for EYC and pick up trash along the highways in Thurston County. I see an overwhelming amount of plastic bags along the roads and in the plants. It's really gross to see how some plants grow over the plastic bags and how they are hidden under the dirt.	6/14/2012 9:23 PM
304	I see very few people in grocery stores using cloth bags. I don't think they realizes how damaging plastic is to the environment, animals, and people. Due to the chemicals involved in making plastic bags and the chemicals released in land fill and in the ocean is toxic. Using bioplastic made out of plant substance, using less plastic, and recycle the plastic we already have and eventually try to eliminate plastics made out of petroleum and natural gas. I would like to see a ban on the conventional petroleum based plastics. Education at schools starting from 1st grade to 12th about recycling, discussing the harmful effects of plastics in our environment. More places to recycle plastics. What about other types of plastic packaging, where does it go?	6/14/2012 2:23 PM
305	I try to use my cloth bags every time, however sometimes it is hard to make it a habit. I believe that having plastic bags available makes it harder to make the habit, and I often am given a plastic bag when I don't need it. I re-use the ones that do come home with me. I don't think plastic bags are accepted in our recycling bins. I am very much against the production and use of plastic bags. Our environment and our people are suffering in the pursuit of oil, from the many devastating oil spills, to the wars in the Middle East. This endless demand for plastics is unsustainable. Plastic bags are very detrimental to sea life, birds, children, water quality, etc. and the production process is wasteful. I believe that re-use receptacles like those provided in some parks for pet waste, are a great community solution. Community gardens, the food co-ops, and other grocery stores would be good locations.	6/13/2012 7:14 PM
306	I prefer paper. I am not a fan of plastic bags.	6/13/2012 12:10 PM
307	Once people use reusable bags, they will see the many benefits, the wide variety of colors, logos, better holding power, holds more items, washable, easy to find and use, etc. Plastic bags break, things have little or no protection from breakage or damage, they are super horrible for the environment, they add costs to our groceries, they add up in annoying places and need to be dealt with...etc....	6/13/2012 9:40 AM
308	Charging for them dramatically decreases their use. It has proven successful elsewhere.	6/13/2012 9:01 AM
309	Personally, I am of the belief they need to be banned altogether...and I totally support any and all initiatives that would encourage that happening!	6/13/2012 8:25 AM
310	I think that customers who use reuseable bags should be rewarded for using them. For example, the Storman stores give \$.05 for each reuseable bag, while the Haggen/Top Food stores only give \$.05 if you have purchased one of their bags with their logo on it (what a waste if you already have other bags). My son, on the other hand, likes plastic bags because he uses them as garbage bag liners. All in all, I think that there should be a ban on plastic bags. Or if not, make recycling them available in our curbside recycling.	6/12/2012 12:08 PM
311	I use & reuse my plastic bags 100% of the time since we can't recycle them (unless we bring them back to Safeway). But I use my own cloth bags 95% of the time and for small purchases do not use a bag at all. Good luck banning plastic bags. We need to change our ways. I support the ban.	6/12/2012 11:55 AM
312	Rather than tax the use of plastic bags, it may be more useful to incentivize the reuse of non-plastic bags. Thanks.	6/12/2012 8:38 AM
313	Plastic bags are A problem, not THE problem. Portland has a plastic bag ban and a bottle deposit, and trash is everywhere. People ignore the bottle deposit and instead "recycle" their bottles and cans. What is the value of the stupid nickel? I realize people feel like they're doing something but plastic bags are the tip of the proverbial iceberg compared to industrial environmental devastation.	6/12/2012 8:07 AM
314	Allowing bags in curbside bins would help, but I support a ban.	6/12/2012 6:37 AM
315	I use my own canvas bags or ones made out of recycled materials. On the few occasions, that I forget to bring my bags I will request paper, if available. I recycle the paper or plastic ones, or use them for something else. I have done this for the past 7 years.	6/12/2012 5:55 AM
316	I spend a lot of time in Washington DC, where there is a 5 cent charge for each grocery bag used. It is amazing how that small amount causes shoppers to bring reusable bags or just carry their food home in their pockets! I am 100% behind reusable bags, and yet I used to often forget to bring them; now I am much more likely to remember. I like signs in grocery store parking lots that remind me to bring my bags out of my car! I think it's much more effective and fair for there to be a county or city wide ban rather than having	6/12/2012 5:29 AM

	individual stores take the leap; then everyone's in it together. Also, info about how much a store spends per year on "free" bags can be very effective.	
317	If it's true that E.coli and other germs are collecting/growing in our reusable plastic/non-fabric grocery bags, and, therefore, we need to wash our reusable bags, then I like that single-use plastic bags seem to be more sanitary. I don't need one more household chore to add to my list of things to do. Banning single-use grocery bags would force (in a good way) people to get into the habit of bringing their own bags. Costco doesn't provide bags to its customers and somehow those customers get their purchases home. Costco and the Oly Food Co-Op have cardboard boxes available for customers to use, and after being re-used, the boxes can be broken down and recycled in curbside recycling containers.	6/11/2012 10:13 PM
318	I would support a ban on plastic bags. I would appreciate some public education about alternatives for fruit and vegetables in the grocery store. It's also more expensive initially to purchase enough alternative food storage and lunch containers - so this would have more impact on lower income people. Plastic is not good for the environment or our health.	6/11/2012 9:31 PM
319	i try to use my own or boxes i then reuse or recycle. i try to avoid using new paper bags as much as possible. I recently purchased cloth alternatives to plastic produce bags.	6/11/2012 8:23 PM
320	outlaw plastic bags or charge for them.	6/11/2012 12:15 PM
321	Even though I do not support the use of plastic bags because I believe they are having an impact on the environment and are a danger to wildlife , including aqua creatures. I think that if plastic bags are banned, people that have pets will still buy them to clean up litter and clean up their pet droppings in public places. Perhaps it would be good to promote an idea for this use.	6/11/2012 11:30 AM
322	Plastic bags are convenient, but we did without them for decades. Many people buy and use plastic bags in addition to those they may reuse or recycle. Food storage bags, for example, are very thick, take much longer to biodegrade, and are widespread. So eliminating free plastic bags and encouraging people to THINK before they go to the store and get more free plastic bags is just the beginning of the solution. I believe that a lot of people are completely unaware of the impact their actions (or non-actions) have on the world. AND THEY ARE LAZY-- It will take a huge raising of awareness--I hope this is a start!	6/11/2012 11:06 AM
323	I am in strong support of either banning plastic bags (and charging a fee on paper bags) or charging a fee for both plastic and paper bags. I am very concerned with the amount of non-decomposable refuse that plastic bags create and believe that with the right incentive, customers will purchase and utilize reusable shopping bags. I have recently moved to Thurston County and would be extremely proud to state that my new county has enacted a ban/charge on plastic bags. This would directly contribute to a major focus of the Puget Sound Partnership's 2012 draft Action Agenda, which employees individuals, organizations, and agencies in Section C.1 to "prevent, reduce, and control the sources of contamination entering Puget Sound." Banning plastic bags would also directly contribute to the Action Agenda's Recovery Targets of increasing marine water quality and reducing toxics in fish.	6/11/2012 9:53 AM
324	The best way to promote change (unfortunately) is monetary penalty. Charge a .05 cent bag fee and I'm going to walk back out to my car for my reusable bags.	6/11/2012 9:36 AM
325	I don't think there is any need for plastic bag use. Creating a law to protect the environment and to encourage personal responsibility (such as using canvas bags) is the right thing to do. Precedent has been set with emissions laws and littering laws. It's time.	6/11/2012 8:58 AM
326	In the United States alone, an estimated 12 million barrels of oil is used annually to make the plastic bags that Americans consume. The United States International Trade Commission reported that 102 billion plastic bags were used in the U.S. in 2009. These bags, even when properly disposed of, are easily windblown and often wind up in waterways or on the landscape, becoming eyesores and degrading soil and water quality as they break down into toxic bits. Their manufacture, transportation and disposal require large quantities of non-renewable resources and release equally large amounts of global-warming gases. Governments around the world have taken action to ban or restrict the use of plastic bags. In 2008, China banned the use of ultra-thin plastic bags, and it is estimated to have eliminated 40 billion bags in the first year. Ireland placed a fee on plastic bags and reportedly reduced consumption by 90%. Towns all over the United States are rising to the challenge and standing up to the oil, gas and plastic industries. San Francisco has banned plastic bags. Seattle has fought a hard fight to place a fee on single-use disposable plastic AND paper bags, only to be shut down by the American Chemistry Council, a group that profits greatly from the production of plastic bags. Recently, Seattle successfully passed an ordinance that would ban plastic bags and place a small charge on paper bags. The plastic industry and their lobbying groups spend millions annually to combat anti-plastic bag campaigns across the country. In spite of this challenge, U.S. cities including Austin, Boston, New Haven, Phoenix and Annapolis are considering bag bans or fees. In the past year, a number of cities passed plastic bag bans including Aspen and Basalt, CO, Portland, OR, San Jose, CA, and Santa Clara and Marin Counties in CA.	6/11/2012 8:45 AM
327	Plastic bags are exceptionally useful for gross garbage like chicken and fish waste. The few that ever get to come home with me are saves for obnoxious materials. If I do not have a reusable bag with me in a store then I suffer by NOT using any bag. I usually have 3 reusable bags in my purse.	6/11/2012 7:33 AM
328	To increase plastic bag recycle, please allow them to be put in the residential recycle bin. It requires more motivation than many people have to remember to collect them and return to stores like Fred Meyer and Target that collect for recycle.	6/10/2012 4:37 PM
329	Please don't bring the State down on us further. I already pay a big tax bill to Thurston County. Mind your own business and get out of our lives.	6/10/2012 3:21 PM
330	Essentially, plastic (especially grocery) bags are a trashy blight on the landscape, and a danger to wild life, as well. Recycling is available, as is reuse, but doing the right thing does not seem to be reward enough for	6/10/2012 7:27 AM

	most people. Therefore, a ban, with the (negative) incentive of having to pay for a paper bag seems a reasonable way to go. If it worked in Bellingham and Seattle, it could work in Thurston County.	
331	They should never have been invented.	6/9/2012 9:48 PM
332	There is nothing I like about plastic bags. I think they should be banned entirely along with many plastic containers that food and beverages come in. Businesses should use biodegradable cartons instead.	6/9/2012 6:03 PM
333	Re-useable bags are best. They are kinder on the hands than plastic.(Particularly for bus riders.) Grocery plastic bags are good for garbage gags, What else is available? They do not drip, they hold together well, they are easily transported.	6/9/2012 4:20 PM
334	The only place I know to recycle plastic bags is at Safeway. I really think that as long as plastic bags are free they will be used without abandon, thus I believe that their real price must be realized by the end users. Thanks for all your hard work!	6/9/2012 4:11 PM
335	I HAVE ABOUT FOUR LARGE PLASTIC BAGS THAT ARE LITERALLY SEVERAL YEARS OLD; USED ONLY FOR "WET", LEAFY VEGETABLES SUCH AS LETTUCE & CHARD, OR "CUMBERSOME" VEGETABLES SUCH AS BROCCOLI. WHEN THESE FINALLY EXPIRE, I WILL USE ONE OR TWO LARGE, LONG-LIVED 'ZIPLOC' BAGS. PLASTIC BAGS NEED TO BE BANNED, PURE & SIMPLE; THEIR NEGATIVE IMPACTS ARE MONSTROUS. I CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LARGE-SCALE "EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS" AS A WASTE OF PRECIOUS TIME & RESOURCES/ENERGY; AFTER NEARLY FORTY YEARS OF USE, A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF SAID IMPACTS SHOULD BE EXACTLY THAT, COMMON. AS AN EXAMPLE, AT MY OWN APARTMENT COMPLEX I ROUTINELY FIND THE GARBAGE BINS FILLED WITH RECYCLABLES, & THE RECYCLE BINS WITH PLASTIC BAGS IN THEM. LET'S FOCUS THAT ENERGY & THOSE RESOURCES ON INSTITUTING A BAN. THANK YOU	6/8/2012 11:57 AM
336	Plastic bags are very handy, both for first use as groceries are taken to cars, and at home for all kinds of things. They are much easier for senior citizens especially, to take groceries to cars, especially in the rain. They contain spills, wet things. EDUCATE people, and maybe fine them for not recycling, but don't ban. If banned I would have to either reuse old plastic bags at grocery store (if I remembered them) or just have to take out my groceries without any bags and have to ask for help in loading them into the car, costing the store more in labor. I would use some store paper bags but certainly wouldn't pay for them. Paper gets soggy and breaks. Reusable bags that grocery stores sell are not clean or sanitary enough, especially if something has previously gotten spilled unnoticed in them. Ban, NO: recycle, YES, EDUCATE EDUCATE EDUCATE	6/8/2012 11:37 AM
337	It is completely ineffecient to produce a plastic grocery bag that will only be used for 10-15 minutes when the bag will stay buried and compacted in a solid waste facility for 10,000 years (or however long it take plastic to decompose). That said, sometimes I forget to bring my reusable bag to the store and a bag to carry groceries home. I wish there could be an easy way to recycle plastic bags. Grocery stores used to have a drop-off site, but I don't see them anymore. They only accept little produce bags. In any case, the few plastic bags that I do bring home, I use it to line trash cans.	6/8/2012 11:07 AM
338	Education!!	6/7/2012 5:18 PM
339	we need to just ban plastic bags in all stores. I frequently visit India (third world country) All stores use cloth bags, food and clothing stores alike. You would have a hard time finding plastic bags. This is just not an issue there. We, as a leading world country know the hazzards of plastic bags so why should this even be a question. Let the USA lead the way.	6/7/2012 2:37 PM
340	I reuse all of my plastic bags for pet waste. And even then, I sometimes run short of them. I must have very messy cats! If I couldn't get them at the store as a by-product of my normal shopping, then I would have to buy them. So I am NOT in favor of plastic bags being banned in Thurston County. Please do not advocate that as an issue!	6/7/2012 2:20 PM
341	I hate the bags!!!! I use it only for small stuff wehn I forget my shopping bags.	6/7/2012 1:51 PM
342	plastic bags are my life.	6/7/2012 1:31 PM
343	I had to check NA on one item in question 2, but I wanted to indicate that I don't know enough about feed stocks and processes. Before making a law, I would like to see good reporting on manufacturing (feedstocks and processes) and uses for recycled plastic bags. The best first step is to encourage minimal use of plastic bags. I find it easy to limit use and recycle what I need to use (such as bagging bulk oatmeal). I have permanent bags in the car to use in grocery and other stores. I usually get more than one use out of a bag before placing it in recycle (which is a plastic bag in my garage, that when full is taken to a grocery store.	6/7/2012 1:19 PM
344	Not sure if paper bags are better than plastic (trees vs. oil) but a "green fee" or "convenience fee" should be charged for all disposables, including shopping bags, with onging education and incentives for use of durables.	6/7/2012 1:05 PM
345	Ban plastic bags, but do it in a 3 stage process: 6 months no change with education notices 6 months charge for plastic & paper bags ban all plastic bags, small fee for paper	6/7/2012 12:56 PM
346	Convenient, cheap, can be reused for garbage liners to keep garbage containers cleaner and more sanitary. Banning involves unnecessary government interference and regulation. At the least, should be banned only through a vote of the people. Too controversial to not have a vote.	6/7/2012 12:14 PM
347	They can be recycled and they are cheap for the store to purchase.	6/7/2012 11:27 AM
348	If plastic bag recycling were available I would be glad to use it. I try to reuse as many as possible.	6/7/2012 11:26 AM
349	Let the retailer keep the fee for the bag. Don't start a new government program. That would be a waste of money. Just discourage the use by charging.	6/7/2012 11:14 AM
350	Two of my favorite stores here in West Olympia are Target and Top Foods. At both these stores I get a 5	6/7/2012 11:10 AM

	cent discount for bringing in my reusable bags. At other stores, I also bring in my reusable bags to avoid the store giving me a plastic bag. IF I wind up with plastic bags from a store, I ALWAYS bring them into Target, Top Foods, or Safeway and place them in their recycle bins they have there for plastic bags.	
351	-To increase recycling... put out more collection bins and make them more visible at stores, etc. -Train grocery workers not to put one or two items in a plastic bag and consider it "full". -Provide a method of curbside recycling -- could plastic bags be bundled in such a way (binders, stuff into one bag and tie off, provide a small box that can be recycled as well - like a tissue box in reverse) so they could go in with all the recyclables and then be sorted out first? -More education about uses for recycled/reused plastic bags. (I'm glad that lining your trash can is considered a reuse!)	6/7/2012 10:49 AM
352	Education is the most important aspect. I became in favor of banning plastic bags by becoming informed. People will not be in favor of a ban if we do not understand the reasoning behind it. What I like about plastic bags is the diversity of uses there are for them. When we have the mindset that old plastic bags are something valuable to be reused, we will throw them away less. You could encourage people to do something as simple as get on the internet and look up "how do I do ____ with plastic bags"; encourage people to get creative. Educating others about how to go out and educate even more people is also important. When more people have knowledge about the issues surrounding plastic bags, the need for a ban in the first place is lowered, which is good because bans are usually controversial things. Empower the individual and community to take care of themselves as much as possible.	6/7/2012 10:21 AM
353	Make it easier to recycle plastic bags...in recycling curbside carts would be great. If this is already possible, let people know better.	6/7/2012 10:20 AM
354	they do more harm than good given the data there are plenty of alternatives available that make good sense for the environment and our future generations.	6/7/2012 10:11 AM
355	I began using my own bags years ago and found that if I have them on the front seat of my car, I will always take them in to shop. I think it is an easy, economical, no nonsense way to fix this problem. People just need to take the time.	6/7/2012 9:59 AM
356	I think that plastic bags should be banned because there are far too few of us who recycle them. As it is now, I recycle bags but if they were banned, then I would use my own cloth bags.	6/7/2012 9:33 AM
357	I feel that financial incentives and disincentives are necessary to make this change on a broader scale. It would be great if people made the change on their own but realistically it's not likely (or would take more time than we have to get a handle on this and other environmental issues). We can look to cities like Seattle that have done a great job of enacting successful policies. No need to reinvent the wheel. Plastic bags are convenient, and nice to reuse for picking up pet waste, lining trash cans and so on. I would happily purchase biodegradable bags for this purpose, am fine with internalizing that cost (though realize some people won't be). On bag recycling, it's hard to find places to recycle them, or maybe these locations aren't prominent enough. My only concern on a ban would be adequately addressing needs of entire population, low income, transient, etc. Glad to see the county and cities working on this!	6/7/2012 8:42 AM
358	Other cities have made it simple. Bring your own bag or pay a moderate fee for a plastic bag. They seem to be happy with the result.	6/7/2012 7:59 AM
359	plastic bags are good for fresh vegetables that are wet or slightly damp, e.g. celery, or any that get automatically sprayed with cold water at the supermarket. If I had to pay 5 cents per bag, I would bring my own and reuse them. I think charging for plastic or paper bags, even 5 cents would encourage customers bringing their own bags. Argument for a ban on plastic bags: We went on a SW road trip a few years ago staying on I-10 through S California to Texas. There were plastic bags blowing around and caught on signs or brush all along the way. The laws against littering do not seem to help with proper disposal of these bags. Also, here in the NW plastic bags floating in Puget Sound are dangerous for marine animals.	6/7/2012 7:56 AM
360	The Daily Olympian puts plastic bags on every newspaper they deliver to our box! We've asked repeatedly for them not to. We recycle about 5% of them for dog waste or other garbage. With all the plastic bags available at the grocery stores, there is NO REASON for the Olympian to put this waste into the garbage stream. The County should consider levying a tax on the newspaper for dumping this waste on its customers. Paper bags have their own significant environmental costs. Why are you nerds focusing on plastics?	6/7/2012 7:45 AM
361	I hate them. Not only is there a guilt factor, but they are so cheap they often fall apart while carrying, or have holes and items fall out. Can we afford the waste? Will peoples habits change if they're banned? I'm sure they would. It would be a smart move and I support it 100%.	6/7/2012 7:41 AM
362	Before a total ban, I would charge for plastic but continue to use paper for free (at the checkout lines). More stores need to accept more kinds of plastic bags to recycle. In Olympia, I have found only Ralph's and Bayview accept more than just checkout bags--bags such as sandwich bags and dry-cleaning bags, etc. See this article: http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/recycling/blogs/recycle-sandwich-bags-dry-cleaning-bags-and-more?hpt=Sbin	6/7/2012 7:36 AM
363	I always ask for paper bags at the checkout, and use them to line my trash container. With the wet stuff going into the compost bin, it stays clean. The few plastic bags we do get are used for pet waste. This would be a good thing for our region. If not an outright ban, perhaps what Vancouver BC does and charge for the bags. That will at least diminish their use.	6/7/2012 5:58 AM
364	we need legislation to protect the best common interests of human society, which includes a healthy and sustainable environment, in accord with the precautionary principle. In terms of environmental impact, we need to think not only about our own well-being, but the well-being of everyone else with whom we are all interconnected and interdependent, including not only our children and grand-children, but theirs as well, many generations into the future.	6/6/2012 3:38 PM

365	There is not enough outreach on the availability of recycling plastic bags. There should be a greater effort to establish more convenient recycling locations, and advertising the locations. A would have greater support for a bag ban that only effects gas stations and quickie marts. If there is a plastic bag ban, a mandatory paper bag fee should NOT be included. This should be left to the retailer to determine if they want to charge a fee.	6/6/2012 3:25 PM
366	I would say the best option would be to add a tax that is earmarked for local environmental uses. That way, use would go down and the city could gain from the wasteful practice. I know I would remember my reusable bags more often if that were in place.	6/5/2012 2:03 PM
367	There awesome its just that they are dangerous.	6/5/2012 8:14 AM
368	I use those plastic bags for so many other uses after I bring them home after grocery shopping--lining waste and garbage cans, when I would otherwise have to buy more, or carry items in them. It would be a shame that people have to buy more bags at the store for that purpose, and most are more careful than ever about either recycling them or reusing them as much as possible. Please do not ban them!	6/4/2012 11:23 PM
369	The only time I like plastic bags is when it's raining. I haven't had any problems with paper bags or my reusable bags when it's raining, so I wouldn't object to a ban on plastic bags. I keep forgetting to take my plastic bags back to the store - I need some sort of reminder. I'm also not sure if everybody takes a mixture of different types of plastic bags. Is there a market for mixed plastic bags? I hear plastic bags are cheaper and use less resources. If I don't have enough reusable bags, I often get double plastic bags, and they don't put as much stuff in them as they do in paper bags, so I'm not sure if I buy this argument.	6/4/2012 3:59 PM
370	Plastic bags are an inexpensive way for consumers to bring their purchases home from the store. This system is a win-win for retailers and consumers alike. I believe that we should encourage the reuse of plastic bags as a study was done showing a plastic bag only needs to be reused once or twice to overcome the environmental impact of creating the bag. I believe that most people do use these bags to line their smaller household garbages thereby reducing the total amount of bags purchased (they have to line them with something, why not a bag already used?). Canvas/composite shopping bags were shown to need over 100 uses, without washing, to overcome the environmental impacts of making the bags. Washing the bag starts the count over again. If the real purpose of a plastic bag ban is out of concern for our environment, the preferred way to do that is to encourage both recycling (by allowing curbside pick up) and reuse. I appreciate your allowing the public's input on this very important subject that affects us all.	6/4/2012 8:28 AM
371	I own a bookstore and although most of our customers don't want a bag. But when its raining many do and that's why we have plastic bags in two sizes printed with our store logo	6/1/2012 5:50 PM
372	I fully support a ban on plastic shopping bags in Thurston County.	5/31/2012 9:50 PM
373	They did it in Maui, no problem as far as I can see.	5/28/2012 10:22 PM
374	Bans for some plastic are ok but do not agree with charging for paper bags. We need some type if waterproof bag for this climate.	5/28/2012 11:34 AM
375	We don't need them, and they don't even work very well (food rolls around the back of the car, spaghetti jars have been know to split the seams, etc). I see no reason not to ban plastic shopping bags. They are wasteful, harmful to sealife, ugly, and difficult to recycle. Even if we could increase the recycling rate, these bags still waste resources and would still escape into the environment. Let's get rid of them!	5/27/2012 7:22 PM
376	Paper bag handles break too easily. The plastic bags are easier to carry.	5/27/2012 6:25 PM
377	Good for various uses like lining bathroom trash cans and re-using for things I am donating, etc. I would support a ban with a fee for paper bags with an exemption for people using state assistance. Not everyone can afford re-usable bags. Or if there was a refundable deposit for re-usable bags that the store provides. That would work too.	5/27/2012 11:33 AM
378	I use the grocery plastic bags for my kitchen garbage can. If they are banned, I will have to buy plastic garbage bags.	5/25/2012 8:47 PM
379	It has been said that bag recycling at stores does not work because the stores just throw them away. I don't really know for certain. I would be motivated to use reusable bags more if there was a surcharge for bags; Ten cents a bag is reasonable in my mind. Thank you for the survey.	5/25/2012 1:47 PM
380	Make them part of curb recycling. Charge \$ for them at checkout, increasing the number of people who will use cloth bags.	5/25/2012 9:36 AM
381	They should be banned!!	5/24/2012 12:32 PM
382	Get recycling vendor to accept plastic bags. Ban plastic grocery bags.	5/24/2012 11:29 AM
383	Some people use their plastic bags for garbage - particularly those on a fixed income. I wouldn't like to see them have to pay for bags. I make fabric grocery bags for myself, friends & family and because I make them easy for cashiers to use, they're almost always happy to see them. I also make produce bags out of mosquito netting. I think more people would be willing to use fabric bags if they could get a decent one for a reasonable price. The heavy cotton ones that were given out by stores several years ago shrank and didn't hold their shape. That said, I do use the shopping bags which my son brings home for cleaning up after the dogs and a few other things but if I get a few cents off my grocery bill for using my cloth bags I can afford to buy plastic bags for those purposes. One thing that would certainly cut down on the number of plastic bags used is for cashiers to put more than 3 or 4 items in them.	5/23/2012 10:33 PM
384	I personally do the following: 1) keep and reuse or recycle all plastic bags 2) if at all possible, I avoid getting checkout bags at the store, or I take my own bag I don't know where to recycle bags, otherwise I would. I'm not sure about supporting a ban, although I do think it would drastically reduce bag use...	5/23/2012 1:53 PM

Plastic Shopping Bag Survey

SurveyMonkey

385	I think the plastic bag ban and similar bans (like styrofoam) are a step in the right direction. By enacting a ban Thurston County would be joining a regional movement embraced by neighboring metropolitan areas that would effect real changes in the way we use disposable materials. Items like single-use bags are something we simply do not need to function and thrive. The sooner we move to better habits, the better. A ban is one way of accomplishing this.	5/22/2012 1:44 PM
386	Just ban them. But do not charge for paper bags.	5/21/2012 3:22 PM
387	Plastic bags create more trash. They are to thin for animal waste. Don't have very many places to recycle. People need to use fabric bags over and over.	5/21/2012 12:07 PM
388	I always reuse and/or recycle bags. They can be a convenience if reused responsibly for lining garbage, etc. I fail to understand why people litter the bags and do not recycle them correctly - they spoil it for the rest of us. The only cure is to ban them altogether.	5/19/2012 10:10 PM
389	I like that I can use them for the dog poo--on the other hand wrapping poo in plastic seems odd too. If I didn't have the store bags, I would probably buy something biodegradable for the poo.	5/19/2012 5:23 PM
390	Sometimes you need a waterproof or wipeable bag. I have a reusable bag made from recycled plastic bags which is great for wet items or foods you want to be able wipe up after like raw chicken. I would like to see plastic bags limited rather than banned. Thanks!!	5/19/2012 12:08 PM
391	Make recycling plastic bags an option if it already isn't, I'm not aware if it is.	5/18/2012 3:10 PM
392	Banning plastic bags is a giant step toward sustainability, local and global. Without them we find alternatives that require a bit of effort on our part, wash/rinse/reuse. A few minutes a week weighed against harmful waste in production and use/distribution.	5/18/2012 9:58 AM
393	I would very much like to see them banned. they are a waste of resources and harm our environment.	5/18/2012 9:25 AM
394	I use plastic bags for dog poop and for garage sales, but that's about it. I only get them if I forget my reusable bags at home. I don't know if there is a way to increase plastic bag recycling. It is a huge pain, and I am an avid recycler of EVERYTHING, and I hate bringing them to the store with me, so the average person is never going to, at least the way that the current system works. I am definitely PRO banning plastic bags, but I do have a few concerns. I have enough money to buy re-usable bags when I need them, and can pay the extra fee for paper if I forget them, but what about families that are on the edge and can't afford these things? Will there be free re-usable bags provided to those that want them, say 4-6 per family? Basically there needs to be a way for low income families to get bags so it's not going to be another burden on their finances. I also think there should still be some sort of plastic bags available, for cleaners and things that leak, and also for things like paper/cards/magazines/etc. because we do live in WA and it rains A LOT here.	5/18/2012 9:19 AM
395	Ban them now!!!	5/18/2012 12:05 AM
396	i really dont care for them . home depo makes a bag that hooks on the sides of the shopping caret I think they should make a unaversal style for all carts and charge a couple bucks for something like that.	5/17/2012 10:15 PM
397	I do NOT like plastic bags. In Ireland they are not available in shops and people adjusted. The plastc bag trash heaps in India and Nepal are staggering. They harm wild life in many ways and waste resources. Recycling and reusing are not enough--I support total ban.	5/17/2012 7:48 PM
398	I try to remember my reusable bags and I reuse or recycle plastic bags when I have them. Paper bags are not as easy to carry as plastic for people who have to walk to the store or don't have vehicles. I'd be interested in more community education on this issue.	5/17/2012 6:06 PM
399	I currently recycle my bags at the Thurston County Waste & recovery center. I think adding the convenience of curbside pickup would be a huge move in getting others to participate in bag recycling. We also have to think of how to replace the uses of plastic bags that aren't recycled (picking up animal waste, as garbage liners in homes, etc). I've found the compostable and biodegradable bags at the Olympia Food Coop but the availability of these alternatives don't seem to exist in the large chain stores. In fact most folks aren't aware of them as alternatives. How can we help folks with education and availability of these alternatives? As for the proposed ban in this survey, I'm 'for' banning the bags but I'd leave it up to the stores to decide whether they'd charge for paper bags. I don't think that should be directed by the county.	5/17/2012 9:35 AM
400	We all need to start to recycle them, maybe have a bin or a way to get them picked up like the 9other materials.	5/17/2012 12:05 AM
401	There are just to many of them being placed in the landfill. There has to be a better way.	5/16/2012 4:07 PM
402	Plastic bags are a convenient way to manage purchased items, and a terrible ecological disaster for wildlife and landfills. Replacement solutions, i.e. cloth bags, are inconvenient and not always remembered. I must have ten of them in my Prius and I often forget to carry them in to the grocery store, resulting in using plastic bags or an extra trip to the car to get them, which I often do. Cloth bags were used as marketing tools, so some of my bags say TOP or SAFEWAY on them; I don't like ubiquitous advertisements, especially when I had to pay for the product with the advertizing on it. But I believe we MUST get rid of the plastic ones. Lee Chambers, West Olympia ki7ss@arrl.net	5/16/2012 5:08 AM
403	plastic bags are helpful with items like separating fish or meat at the grocery store. I always try to recycle them and try to remember own bags at stores. I always forget to reuse them for wet produce items like lettuce, etc. As long as they're available, we will continue to "forget" to do something better.	5/15/2012 8:42 PM
404	Plastic bags are handy to have for many household uses. I like the fact that they're fairly small and therefore not so heavy to carry. Most of all, I love the handles. When my bag supply is high, I return the ones I have to the grocery store for recycling.	5/15/2012 8:32 PM
405		5/15/2012 6:51 PM

406	plastic bags are versatile, I use them as trash can liners instead of buying thicker plastic bags increase plastic bag recycling by offering recycling of plastic bags with paper products or other plastic products I do like reusing plastic bags for pet waste, but I can't make any good argument for not banning plastic bags. I would be curious to know the perceived impact on resources used to make paper bags. How much do you expect that to increase? Have there been studies to show the per bag cost that consumers can accept, while maximizing the use of canvas/reusable bags? Where does the money go that's collected for paper bags? To the store? A conservation fund? Transparency about these kinds of questions will hopefully help consumers accept a plastic bag ban.	5/15/2012 6:35 PM
407	I do not believe that the time, effort and cost of recycling is actually worth it. Not to mention the amount of time wasted talking about it.	5/15/2012 4:55 PM
408	I don't like plastic bags. They are bad for the environment and there is no need for them. I have cut my overall use of plastic bag use, including the produce clear plastic, to almost zero. I still use one or two a week for meat and fish to prevent leaks. One way to increase recycling is to allow them in the curbside recycle bins. I now have to take them to the grocery store to recycle them. This may keep some people from recycling. I would like to see paper bags go away as well. There is no reason why stores couldn't give out reusable bags for a small fee. It would be a good way for them to advertise the store brand and would be helping the environment.	5/15/2012 4:48 PM
409	I think plastic bags have become a nuisance. I TRY to use permanent bags and have bought net bags for produce. The problem is changing old habits. I favor a charge for using either plastic or paper bags from the store. The discount for bringing my own doesn't perk my memory, but I think an additional charge would. The charge should be used to offset costs.	5/15/2012 4:25 PM
410	I take the bags from the newspaper to the grocery store for recycling. I mostly reuse grocery store bags for waste basket bags. I regularly use the reusable bags at the grocery store, but my husband is not as diligent. We end up with plenty to use for garbage bags! If bags were easier to recycle, more folks would likely do it. Working with folks in poverty, I don't like to add a charge for bags at the grocery store or limit the availability of bags for those who would have difficulty affording reusable bags.	5/15/2012 1:05 PM
411	Many European cities have never provided plastic bags and they all seem to get their groceries home. There is simply no reason to provide bags for people. With the hundreds of reusable bags available on the market today, plus the tote bags we seem to get at conferences, etc. providing bags for yourself is extremely convenient. One only needs to visit an area where plastic bags are prevalent and trash collection is not to see why they should be banned world wide.	5/15/2012 11:51 AM
412	It would be great if there were more places to recycle plastic bags.	5/15/2012 11:29 AM
413	I like plastic bags because they're easy to carry. Increasing bag recycling could be done by educating folks and putting the recycling boxes in convenient, very visible locations. I think providing an incentive (as some stores already do) for bringing in your reusable bags is a good solution.	5/15/2012 10:52 AM
414	Advertise via water and garbage bills.	5/15/2012 10:51 AM
415	I do like plastic bags for pet waste, carrying boots to the beach, and other miscellaneous uses, but I try to reuse the ones that I currently have. Is it possible to have a separate recycling container for plastic bags? Or some kind of recycling on garbage Mondays that recycles plastic bags and other plastics or items? Perhaps charging people for using plastic bags as well as paper bags would be a good option. 25 cents per plastic bag would get people's attention. Thanks for trying to find good solutions for a difficult problem.	5/15/2012 10:47 AM
416	I support stores charging a fee to use paper bags if the fee goes to some sort of recycle benefit, not just for the store's profit. Stores need to be set up to accept the cloth bags we bring in and bag more easily. Clerks need to be more friendly when you bring them in. It will take some education to get people used to this. I shop at the co-op and always use my cloth bags. but not at anywhere else because stores are not set up for it with any sort of friendliness. Also I need a few plastic bags to line trash cans.	5/15/2012 10:39 AM
417	Ban them completely.	5/15/2012 10:37 AM
418	I would greatly appreciate plastic bag recycling in my recycling cart, I heartily endorse the idea. Thank you!	5/15/2012 10:33 AM
419	Paper sacks are too hard to carry and often tear. Maybe we need a new design that would make them more likeable.	5/15/2012 10:06 AM
420	My family and I don't use plastic bags. If we forget our own bags at the grocery store, we ask them to put the items in a paper bag. If it's just one or two items, I'll just carry them out. My only concern about a plastic bag ban is how that affects individuals who don't have the money to buy reusable bags...will there be a time period where the city would give away reusable bags. I really hate when cities make a great ban like this one but then those who cannot afford are the ones affected....remember \$30 car tabs....that seemed to hurt those who struggle financially...at the time, my car tabs went up to \$30 and I was just out of school and trying to find a job. I just don't want to make more of a hardship for people who are already feeling a financial burden.	5/15/2012 9:48 AM
421	I use cloth bags (when I remember them) I didn't know there was a place to recycle our old plastic bags. I would like to see recycling of plastic bags more readily available.	5/15/2012 9:42 AM
422	don't care for the plastic bags would rather pay for paper it i need to usually use my own bags	5/15/2012 9:37 AM
423	We make our own produce bags out of old sheets or pillowcases, and we use these and grocery bags at the store. We've even given these as gifts. We reuse glass jars at the co-op or for things like Olykraut. We are regular folks too, not hippies.	5/15/2012 9:24 AM
424	I would like to see a ban on plastic bags. They serve no purpose and don't degrade fast enough.	5/15/2012 9:24 AM

425	Basically, I don't like plastic bags. And I don't see the advantage of increasing recycling. We need to stop wasting petroleum to produce plastic bags. Period. And we need to stop wasting trees for those paper bags. I think the only way folks are going to start being responsible for transporting their groceries is to do exactly what you are proposing.	5/15/2012 9:14 AM
426	I can NEVER remember to bring my reuseable nags with me and I often shop on a whim in any case. I do save my bags and reuse them to clean out the litter box. My one complaint is that they're usually so thin, they're not meant to be used more than once and that often means I have to tape up the holes before I can reuse them. I literally do not know how I would live without them. If I could add the torn ones to my usual curb-side recycle bin, that would be helpful and I think that would solve your lansfill issues as well..	5/15/2012 8:57 AM
427	PLASTIC IS CLEAN. THE REUSABLE CLOTH BAGS ARE FILTHY AND SHOULD BE BANNED IN STORES. CLERKS HAVE TO WEAR SANITARY GLOVES WHEN HANDLEING USED CLOTH BAGS. A WHOLE ATHLETIC TEAM IN OREGON RECENTLY GOT SICK FROM EATING FOOD CARRIED IN A CLOTH BAG. BEFORE PLASTIC IS BANNED WE SHOULD HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN BRINGING CONTAMINANTS INTO OUR FOOD SOURCE.	5/15/2012 8:50 AM
428	I usually use reusable bags but occasionally get plastic bags because repurpose them in lots of ways. I would possibly support a small charge for those who choose to use plastic bags, especially if they were made a little thicker such that they could be reused for groceries. My concern is for those who are less fortunate -- paper bags are more difficult to transport by walking or bus, and are likely to rip due to weight or water (rain!) damage.	5/15/2012 8:27 AM
429	Plastic bags are occasionally useful for items that are inappropriate for cloth/reuseable bags.	5/15/2012 7:59 AM
430	Just ban all shopping bags, plastic and paper. Consumers will adapt and the market will respond. Problem solved.	5/15/2012 7:39 AM
431	Public awareness of the problem of plastic bags is a major issue. I think a lot of people just don't think about it. I think fees for plastic bags would impact low-income people negatively, so I think big stores should just start using alternatives (boxes, supplying reusable bags for free for a year or 6 months until it becomes "the new normal"). Habits are hard to break, but if big stores just started changing their practices, the public would eventually catch on.	5/15/2012 7:32 AM
432	I do not like plastic and if given a choice I choose paper which is easily reuseable. I would not like a charge to use paper.	5/15/2012 6:52 AM
433	Ban on plastic bags is not practicle, instead charge for use. example: I use both my cloth bag. I use the plastic to wrap meat when grocery shopping.	5/15/2012 6:31 AM
434	Please ban them. I have seen the documentary. I would support a ban on plastic bags. Wish there were highly biodegradeable bags of some sort. These could be the only bags available to shoppers, and for a fee. So when bringing our own bags doesn't work, or we forget them, we would purchase the earth/friendly biodegradeable bag if needed.	5/15/2012 1:30 AM
435	i've read paper bags can be just as bad for the environment as plastic. if we have a better alternative to plastic/paper, then i'm all for it. if paper bags can be properly recycled in our compost containers, we should demand a switch to paper, whether or not consumers pay for it at the store. at the very least, we should be able to more easily recycle plastic bags. we have huge bags full of smaller bags to recycle but rarely remember to bring them back to the store for recycling, assuming there's a store nearby that will take them. thanks for bringing this issue up and being proactive about it.	5/14/2012 11:17 PM
436	I like plastic bags for portable ways to dispose of garbage and to line smaller garbage cans without having to buy bags specifically for it. I agree that there should be a deterrent to using plastic bags. I am for that since it would encourage me to remember to bring my own which I have. Another option is to have recyclable plastic bags since some people still have other uses for them.	5/14/2012 11:02 PM
437	I don't like plastic bags. I would like to be able to recycle bags like in Bellevue where one puts all the bags in one bag , ties it up, and then this stuffed bag goes in the recycling bin for home pick up. I support the ban.	5/14/2012 10:30 PM
438	Use for dog waste	5/14/2012 9:58 PM
439	It's hard to assess how effective a ban would be - it certainly wouldn't affect me much, since I generally use a reusable bag for shopping. Seems like the best information would probably come from observing the experiences of other U.S. cities and towns that have enacted bag bans.	5/14/2012 9:39 PM
440	I confess I like having a certain number of plastic bags to reuse for hauling muddy shoes or lining the garbage can, etc. But I also have washable tote bags that I could use to haul yucky stuff, and--though it would pain me to actually buy plastic bags--I could probably figure out some other way to contain the solid waste in our house. At this point, most of our waste is actually film plastics and plastic lids from packaging that can't be recycled. We can now compost all our "dirty papers," so our waste stream is really very small. We have kids and a home-based business with employees, and still use the bi-weekly mini-can service provided by the City of Olympia. It's shocking that people are still producing so much solid waste when there are so many options for source reduction, composting, and recycling/reusing! Good luck with your campaign!	5/14/2012 9:07 PM
441	We recycle newspaper bags for pet waste. The few shopping bags we get are used for waste can liners. We appreciate being able to recycle plastic bags at participating grocery stores. I'm surprised that even "greenies" at Trader Joe's don't have reusable bags. A big educational push is the best bet for getting people to use less of them.	5/14/2012 8:42 PM
442	we should ban plastic bags in thurston co	5/14/2012 8:33 PM
443	There should be a charge for plastic bags in the stores (.25). It should be state law, and universal (that way stores wouldn't use their availability as a marketing device as people go through transition.) The biggest argument against this change is change itself. People will vehemently protest this on the basis of all sorts of	5/14/2012 7:49 PM

	reasons, but in time will adjust. Look at Europe, older and younger generation, complained so so so so loudly about the change, and now people even forget how it was. It goes without saying that stores would need to transition into the change. Offer reusables, (THAT ARE STYLISH AND COOL) at a discounted price. Also once the change is permanent, there should be boxes (produce etc..) available for those who forgot. BTW we already pay for plastic bags, it is just the price is included in the goods we buy.	
444	Can we also support a switch to biodegrade-able plastic for other uses that we have not found a way around yet?	5/14/2012 7:43 PM
445	An argument for the ban is that all the threats of the destruction of Western civilization or, to be more inclusive, all of civilization if certain materials or items were banned have thus far proven false. Lead in gasoline; smoking in restaurants or airplanes; cocaine in CocaCola; mercury in dental fillings; lead in household paint; chlorofluorocarbons for air conditioning, phthalates in baby toys....the list is endless and civilization has survived.	5/14/2012 7:30 PM
446	Would support a ban if enough education and resources (availability of reusable bags) were available to all income levels. Recycling sites at all stores or as part of curbside recycling would be necessary if not a ban.	5/14/2012 7:03 PM
447	Reusable bags are cumbersome, inconvenient, and are hotbeds for food-bourne illness. An outright ban without a reasonable alternative would only serve to annoy shoppers and increase the grocery bill for those of us who don't want to lug around these bags that require more work and trips to the car to bring them in. Not to mention the problem of having more grocery items than would fit in reusable bags if one failed to bring a giant stack of these costly bags. If such a ban were instituted, I would still continue to use (and reuse) plastic bags and grudging pay the extra charge or shop where the ban has not been instituted. Clarification on whether the bags can be placed in the curbside recycle bin would be helpful as well. I have been placing them in the recycle bin and only throw them in the refuse bin if the bags are filled with household trash. Thank you.	5/14/2012 6:48 PM
448	I try to use reusable bags when ever possible but there are times I buy things spur of the moment and just don't have one with me so the plastic ones are handy. I would not mind if I had to put all my plastic bags inside one bag before putting them in the recyle bin. That way they are not running loose in there.	5/14/2012 6:17 PM
449	Put pictures of what the recycled bags are used for, by the display cases that accept them (major groceries, it seems). (e.g. products they are turned into). So people can see the value in recycling. Or show pictures of birds, etc. who are harmed by stray bags in the wild.	5/14/2012 5:11 PM
450	I dont know what the comparable resource use is when discussing plastic versus paper. Of course, the danger to wildlife, and lack of compostable bags impacts the use of plastic. I do use them for any number of things like lining garbage bags, even though I use cloth bags for my shopping. And I use compostable bags for some things like my garbage in the kitchen. I like to have plastic bags to put shoes in when hiking and wet clothes from backpacking trips etc.... I would support getting rid of the plastic though...but then..... what about the elderly. A plastic bag is a lot easier to carry than a full paper bag. There are no easy answers. many other countries have banned plastic..so why not here!	5/14/2012 4:42 PM
451	They have safety value in helping to prevent bacterial contamination of groceries and other purchases. They are reusable for many purposes. They should not be banned."Enviro Nazis" among some politicians and vocal "Greener" vastly overstate any potential environmental impact. Proposed bans invariably call for fees (taxes) on paper bags @ retail level.	5/14/2012 4:30 PM
452	Plastic bags are completely recyclable and actually take less energy to produce than paper bags. Make plastic bags curb side pick up.	5/14/2012 4:18 PM
453	The only thing I like about plastic bags is that I use them as garbage bags.	5/14/2012 4:15 PM
454	Perhaps banning thin bags which tear easily and aren't good for re-use is one option in moving forward with reducing our plastics use. Plastic can be very easy to recycle through re-pelleting if certain plastic materials and ink standards are adhered to, so before making a decision one way or the other, the county should look into how much energy is required for plastic bag recycling versus paper bag recycling, because I'm not sure that paper recycling is more "efficient."	5/14/2012 3:48 PM
455	It is unclear whether the plastic bag recycling in stores actually go to recycling efforts or are simply thrown away. I would support a tax on the creators of throw away garbage; the stores themselves. All responsibility for recycling or proper disposal gets dumped on the consumer once that bag or other packaging leaves the store. If stores were taxed (fast food restaurants also) for the garbage they create, there would instantly be less garbage guaranteed.	5/14/2012 3:29 PM
456	Although I do not use plastic bags, there are some members of our community that have no choice. And to charge for paper bag is ludicrous! We are already "charged" to death, with no increase in income. Why not mandate that businesses use only biodegradable bags? I purchase the bio=bags for food garbage and pet excrement even though they cost more than the plastic bags from the grocery store. Bag recycling at curbside would certainly encourage folks to recycle. When I return the bags to the store, their collection bins are normally stuffed to overflowing.	5/14/2012 3:22 PM
457	My problem is that I have a really hard time remembering to bring my reusable bags to or in the grocery store. We accumulate a massive amount of bags, and end up recycling them but I'm still not convinced this is the best solution. If I COULDN'T use plastic bags, I'd have to remember to bring reusable ones to the store - or at least request paper.	5/14/2012 3:13 PM
458	The ban exists in other municipalities, why not ours. The time for a ban is now.	5/14/2012 3:09 PM
459	Plastic bags should be banned, they are wasteful they cause problems in the environment, they are expensive for businesses to purchase, the cause death to marine life.	5/14/2012 1:46 PM
460	Retailer clerks are too quick to put items in plastic bags even when I have my own bags with me. When	5/14/2012 1:23 PM

	plastic bags are needed for bagging, many retailers put too few items per bag thus requiring even more bags. I wish we could recycle the bags at our curbside pickup.	
461	Be able to drop a bundle of bags in recycle bin. I use the bags in my garbage cans in my home.	5/14/2012 1:11 PM
462	being able to recycle plastic bags in trash is a good idea. MAYBE folks would use that alternative	5/14/2012 12:49 PM
463	MAYBE LOOK INTO A BIODEGRADABLE BAG AS A REPLACEMENT TO CURRENT PLASTIC BAGS. MANDATE THAT ALL STORES USE RECYCLABLE PAPER OR REUSABLE BAGS AS DEFAULT, RIGHT NOW THE DEFAULT IS PLASTIC. USING PLASTIC BAGS FOR PET WASTE JUST PUTS THE BAGS INTO THE LANDFILL.	5/14/2012 12:48 PM
464	Plastic bags should be banned. Most people are unaware of the problems they create and do not choose on their own to avoid them. The ban would educate people and stop the problem. I NEVER take plastic bags myself but I am aware.Others need a little help to stop using them.	5/14/2012 12:29 PM
465	Even if plastic bags are re-used once, they still end up in the environment. What happens to the plastic bags that are recycled? I like the bags that are biodegradeable. (Ralph's Thriftway uses them) We could require that those are the only bags allowed by retailers in our community if they use plastic bags.	5/14/2012 12:14 PM
466	My major concern in this issue is that there may be more productive ways to use our tax money and energies. Plastic bags are a problem, for sure, but . . .	5/14/2012 12:05 PM
467	I do not support BANs. I support choice. If choices save money or cost money that is a choice I am willing to make.	5/14/2012 11:46 AM
468	I like reusing some of the plastic bags I get, but I would use a different solution if I didn't have them. I also throw some away, which I know I shouldn't. Recycling bags is difficult, because I have to collect them and remember to take them to a store with a bag recycle center. Requiring to charge for bags and letting the retailer keep the bag fee would be equitable and effective, I believe. Everyone would think more about bringing their reusable bags if there was a fee. I'd pay for the occasional paper bag and live without plastic.	5/14/2012 11:38 AM
469	I strongly advocate getting rid of as much plastic as we can. We live on the salt water, and plastic is on the beach every day. One of the very worst offenders of plastic in the salt water is the shell fish farmers. I've picked up thousands and thousands of their plastic debris. (This is not an exaggeration. We have shown two county commissioners this garbage and nothing is done to stop it.)	5/14/2012 11:36 AM
470	I like it when the retailers ask if I even need a bag. Many times my purchases just fit in my purse or I carry it to my car. I also like using Costco's boxes. Those are easy to recycle. Maybe we can use some of those boxes at our grocery stores, etc. PLASTIC BAGS ARE NOT EASY TO RECYCLE. COULD YOU MAKE THEM OUT OF SOME "FOOD" PRODUCT LIKE THE "PEANUTS" USED AS PACKING MATERIAL THAT MELT IN YOUR MOUTH? (I KNOW IF THEY MELT WITH LIQUIDS IT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO USE.) OR CHARGE US .50 FOR 1 PLASTIC BAG AS THAT WOULD FORCE ME TO BRING MY OWN!! THAT WOULD SERVE AS A REMINDER TO ME!! AND THEN I'D REALLY GET ON BOARD. \$\$\$ MAKE ME CHANGE MY BEHAVIOR. If I don't change then I should pay through the nose for contributing to damaging the environment. Incentive tends to change behavior...unfortunately.	5/14/2012 11:30 AM
471	Need these bags for pet waste. I reuse every one I bring home. If they were banned we would use alot more energy to make bags out of paper or some other material. It is extremely effecient to make plastic bags using very little energy compared to paper. I wish City of Oly would take plastic in their curbside recycle bins, so far only bottles.	5/14/2012 11:26 AM
472	I don't like them - and would support a ban.	5/14/2012 10:59 AM
473	I don't mind the use of plastic bags; however, they definitely need to be recycled. Our family recycles 100% of the plastic bags we get. We take them over to the recycle place at the dump since our curb side service doesn't address those. Seems like those could be picked up on the same schedule as glass.	5/14/2012 10:51 AM
474	Look at what's worked in other communities. Incentives can work better than bans.	5/14/2012 10:28 AM
475	We've been on the band wagon with re-useable bags since 2006. We re-use, recycle what few we bring into the house. While I'm not against banning bags, there needs to be a cost effective alternative, to take their place. And I'm not sure that cutting more trees is the answer. Although they compost very well.	5/14/2012 10:24 AM
476	They are easier to carry groceries. More places to recycle the bags. It is harder for the elderly to take bags into the store.	5/14/2012 10:23 AM
477	I have tried using reusable shopping bags before, but they get loaded so heavy I can't carry them - I got tired of trying to get the clerks to not load them so heavy. I would reuse plastic bags if they were better quality and didn't get holes in them after one use. Reusable bags also don't have a disclaimer on them informing you to wash them regularly, so this increases the risk of illness, another reason I am hesitant to start using them.	5/14/2012 10:20 AM
478	We reuse the plastic bags that we do receive wherever possible, and recycle all torn or ripped bags that cannot be reused. Our living community requires trash to be bagged so that the staff can handle it for compacting. More bags would be recycled if this was offered curbside. I now bring mine to work or to the grocery stores that offer recycling. We have reusable grocery bags and we reuse our extra paper bags from Trader Joe's until it is time to compost them. I am concerned about the recent case of a young man, from the Tacoma area I believe, who has lost an arm due to flesh eating bacteria that was linked to his family's reusable grocery bags. This is frightening. Several of our bags are plastic coated and cannot be washed in the washing machine. The ban against plastic bags will likely increase costs, but I am okay with stores charging more for paper bags. It would encourage all of us to use reusable bags more often and reduce the litter and waste of un sturdy plastic bags.	5/14/2012 10:20 AM

479	I store food, line small trash cans in the house, keep using one for about a week to put scooped cat litter into, tote items to work or to family's houses, use as car litter bag, etc. I only consign bags to the landfill that are soiled beyond rescue. When they are somewhat soiled, I wash them with anti-bacterial dish soap, hang them to dry, and re-use them. (I know this uses water so not the best course, but...) I recycle ALL plastic grocery bags I can by taking them to a grocery store that accepts them.	5/14/2012 10:16 AM
480	I like the fact that they are not as full as a brown bag and they are easier to carry.	5/14/2012 10:10 AM
481	They are convenient and inexpensive is why we use them. However, they persist in the environment and are a hazard to some wildlife and are an eyesore. Their widespread overuse has created a problem that should be addressed. A simple change in human behavior can remedy the problem we have created. Currently these bags are free to consumers. They should not be as their use creates a cost to society. They should be priced accordingly.	5/14/2012 10:10 AM
482	I regularly use reusable bags, but I don't like to get penalized for an occasional laps of memory. There are also certain items that do not due well in paper. I would like to see some voluntary cooperation efforts first.	5/14/2012 10:10 AM
483	Concern for low income individuals having to pay for a paper bag. I would hope the corporate stores would give out free reusable bags.	5/14/2012 10:09 AM
484	If we could recycle plastic bags in our curbside recycling, it would be MUCH easier to do!	5/14/2012 10:06 AM
485	I reuse all that I can, but I would like to see a ban on plastic bags...it is ridiculous to use something one time and throw it away. We need to protect our environment, reduce our use of petroleum products and reshape our societies consumer habits. I support a ban!	5/12/2012 5:31 PM
486	My usage of plastic bags is limited to produce bags for fresh produce--maybe 1-2/week. I reuse them, but eventually they usually end up in the trash.	5/11/2012 7:34 PM
487	I really try to reduce my use of plastic bags. I bring my own reusable bags to the store or just carry my items out of the store with no bag. Checkers should ask, "Do you NEED a bag?" before automatically putting one or two items in a bag. They may find when the question is put like that people will say, "no, not really," The only time I use plastic is with drippy chicken or meat. Also, it's hard to buy 10 loose oranges without plastic or some way to "wrangle" them. A lot of plastic is used in the produce section. Banning plastic? Yes, because they are a source of pollution, no because sometimes you just need plastic, like drippy meats etc. I'd be very happy if plastic was banned in Thurston Co. I'd figure a way to cope with my small concerns.	5/11/2012 12:41 PM
488	I think a documentary about plastic bags (featuring other plastics as well) clogging our oceans and other waterways should be available for the public to view via public arenas for educational purposes. Also, more general education on how to re-use plastics. e.g., My mother braided rugs out of plastic bags...lasted a long time and they looked great!	5/11/2012 9:51 AM
489	I personally always ask for paperbags when shopping at the grocery store. The only plastic bags I ever have from the store is an occasional one for vegetables and produce. Where available I use paper sacks for those too. I use the paper bags for my garbage collection	5/10/2012 4:39 PM
490	I think plastic bags are handy for some items like meat, but mostly they should not be produced, used or put back into the waste stream.	5/10/2012 9:21 AM
491	BAN THE BAGS!!! We are smart enough to do without this wasteful practice! :)	5/9/2012 3:46 PM
492	I don't like plastic bags, other than compostable bags. During my travels in Europe, I've observed that shoppers are expected to bring their own bags (often a rolling shopping cart) - and when they don't, a fee is charged for plastic bags. I would like to see Thurston County move in this direction.	5/9/2012 3:35 PM
493	I think we should cut out plastic bags all together or charge a high fee for each bag used. If thats not possible then it would be great for baggers to but more than just one or two items in a plastic bag and then move on to the next. Also people need to use more reusable bags because I see plastic bags thrown away all the time and it disgusts me.	5/9/2012 10:16 AM
494	i dont like anything about plastic bags becus i cant do anything with them but throw them in the trash after i hav reused them. i personally think that plastic bags should be band and that it be required that all paper bags be made of reciceld matirial. but thats just me.	5/9/2012 1:55 AM
495	I really don't like anything about plastic bags. Everything I need can be taken care of with a reusable bag. I believe it would be beneficial for businesses who "opt out" of plastic bag use to receive some incentive. I have no idea what that would be; however, I believe the only way to really facilitate what we want to achieve is to work with businesses. I don't feel that adding a fee for paper bag use is the answer, either. Also, not all reusable bags are created equal. Some of those bags have been found to be made with questionable materials. I guess an argument, against, would be the cost of replacing them...which will probably be felt by the consumer. If there would be a plastic bag recycling bin provided to residents, that would be a huge plus! Educate the public by showing us what is done with recycled plastic bags. Thank you for addressing this issue.	5/8/2012 5:05 PM
496	You (Lawmakers/Government) pushed us to use plastic without thinking things through. Which I believe our government seems to always do.... or uses the statement "Your just going to have to pass it to see what's in it". Our state parks (overnighters) don't even have recycle bins, we are suppose to haul it all back. So "NO!", I would not support a ban and then charge us for paperbags. We as consumers have to live in the beds we make.... so now you do too.	5/8/2012 11:09 AM
497	I worry about customers who cannot afford to pay for bags, but it is easy to keep bags in the car and use them. Maybe the phasing in needs to be time sensitive.	5/7/2012 5:37 PM
498	If plastic bags were banned then I would be more diligent about bringing & using my own bags. If plastic bags	5/7/2012 2:51 PM

	were picked up curbside then I would be more likely to recycle them. I don't toss them in the trash unless I have reused them for garbage so I suppose that means they end up in the landfill. Ooops. They are convenient for some uses like the disposal of wet items (a meat or fish tray or their paper wrappings) or lining a bathroom can.	
499	I think plastic bags are wasteful. However, more ordinances and regulations are not the solution. Instead of more laws, how about promoting reusable bags, biodegradable bags, or charging for the checkout bags. I usually bring my own bags both for produce and for checkout, but I wouldn't mind if I was charged for paper bags, and would be thrilled if there was a biodegradable alternative to plastic. Let's think of useful, functional solutions instead of regulating ourselves to death.	5/7/2012 11:30 AM
500	Increase bag recycling would be great, more locations and options. I don't like charging for paper bags, since I need them for compost/yard waste. I usually use reusable shopping bags, but if I forget or am low on paper I will get paper so I can use them for compost.	5/7/2012 10:55 AM
501	Many other jurisdictions across the nation are taking this approach. Change isn't always easy, but the simple act of switching to canvas bags can avoid worse changes in the future as people cope with a damaged environment.	5/6/2012 3:19 PM
502	I think it needs to be more convenient for the consumer to be able to recycle their plastic bags with their curb recycle & garbage. Retail stores should also have more receptacles available to collect old bags. I wouldn't be against having a plastic bag ban & having a fee for paper bags. It would encourage us all to reuse our bags, reduce waste & protect our environment.	5/4/2012 2:09 PM
503	plastic bags are great for used kitty litter. save them for this use and as waste basket liners in the bathroom.	5/4/2012 11:12 AM
504	I do use plastic shopping bags for trash can liners and to pick up pet waste, so I have a use for the bags if I forget my reusable bag. If a ban is put in place I would recommend charging for the use of plastic bags (disincentive for using them) and conducting a campaign to inform citizens that it is not the stores that are charging the fee. At the beginning I would also offer a way for folks to get free or discounted reusable bags, possibly by having businesses donate them or donate funding to have special bags made as part of an outreach campaign.	5/4/2012 8:50 AM
505	If bags were banned, i know sometimes i would find this annoying and inconvenient, but would accept the fee if i had to purchase bag(s) at check out. People, including me, need to be more conserving and resourceful - like people where only 50 or so years ago. In time, carrying a reuseable bag or bags would become the norm. People don't like change, so expect push back -- but know that if this is adopted, people will adapt and get used to it in time. I wholeheartedly support the ban. Thanks for seeking input.	5/3/2012 9:31 PM
506	I would like to see public bag recycling programs. Plastic bags are very useful to me and my family. It would be difficult without them.	5/3/2012 5:31 PM
507	They are very useful at home for picking up animal waste and as small garbage bags. I typically shop in stores that use free paper bags and only get a bag or two per week that is plastic. I also own many reusable ones but I am always forgetting to take them with me to the grocery store. It is probably a habit issue one that I need to get into and this type of change would get people thinking about it more but it is also one that hit's people in the pocket and when you're low on money for food the last thing you want to do is have to spend those dollars on grocery bags.	5/3/2012 5:01 PM
508	Plastic bags are handy for a variety of reasons (wet clothes, covering wet paintbrushes/paint rollers, faux painting). Instead of charging consumers for paper bags or banning plastic bags altogether, it would be better to allow plastic bags to be put in with other recyclables since I don't see them ever going away completely. The obvious best method would be for all stores to go back to paper only and absorb that cost as the cost of doing business. Believe me, they are making plenty of profit and we, the consumer, are already paying for the price of either type bag through goods we purchase.	5/3/2012 2:33 PM
509	Provide more locations where bags can be dropped off for recycle (Fred Meyer is where I take mine). For the ban: Reduce litter, decrease resource usage. Against the ban: I use them to line waste baskets. I use them when I forget to use my recycled bag. They are more convenient than paper bags for many products. At some self-check-outs, using your own bag requires having one of the clerks come by to bypass using your own bag.	5/3/2012 2:03 PM
510	Currently plastic bags are not on the recycle bin list in my area, although I recycle them for other uses when I do get them. I try to use reusable bags when I remember to bring them with me on spur of the moment shopping trips. Plastic bags are great to reuse for wet items and garbage bags but eventually we have to throw them away. A ban on these bags may not be the entire answer, most everyone I know uses some kind of plastic bag for lining their garbage cans even if it is not a plastic grocery bag. It would be more appropriate I think to have a "better plastic bag", one that will break down in a very short amount of time. Taking steps to ensure that garbage does not enter our waterways would also be helpful.	5/3/2012 1:44 PM
511	Ban them. It's the only way people will change their habits.	5/3/2012 12:36 PM
512	Get rid of them. People won't switch to using reusable bags until plastic is taken out of the picture as an option.	5/3/2012 11:09 AM
513	I always reuse my plastic bags! I don't really feel it is the counties business to dictate the type of bags that can be used.	5/3/2012 10:43 AM
514	Promote paper bags using discount or give one free usable bag for every \$50 you spend. I do like all the plastic bag recycle stands in stores.	5/3/2012 10:31 AM
515	The only positive aspect about plastic grocery bags is the ability to re-use them in restroom trash cans and	5/3/2012 10:14 AM

	for pet waste. They're especially useful for blown-out disposable diapers away from home. However, all of these options still contribute to waste, whether the bag is reused or not. I'm all for a ban on plastic bags in grocery stores. Sure, my family would need to purchase garbage bags for our restrooms, but we also reuse bread bags for pet waste, and our children won't be in diapers forever.	
516	I would love to see more recycling options like being able to recycle plastic bags and styrofoam from home. I have stopped trying to recycle any plastic bags I do end up with (I mostly use reusable bags) because the places that take them are far and few between and when you can find them, I can't fit the bags through the tiny hole or the bin is already full. Thanks for letting us comment.	5/3/2012 10:12 AM
517	I know I should use my reuseable bags, but I don't always remember and don't think it is fair to penalize someone for using a bag. Also, the bags are useful for other things, like lining trash cans, and if I didn't have them to use for that purpose, I'd be buying other bags, which would not help the situation. Also, I think it is too much government intrusion into our lives to ban plastic grocery bags. If those, then what would be next?	5/2/2012 4:22 PM
518	Behavioral economics research shows that we are more likely to go with a "default" option instead of investing the energy to make a different choice. Thus if we want people to use reusable bags or reuse plastic bags we should make that the default like they do in Europe. Also, we are more likely to change our behavior when we lose (have to pay) instead of gain (get a bag refund) when participating in a behavior.	5/2/2012 4:07 PM
519	We need to do away with all plastic bags (although I like to clean up pet waste with them -- if only they were biodegradable!)	5/2/2012 4:04 PM
520	I didn't think plastic bags were recycleable?!	5/2/2012 2:31 PM