



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday, April 17, 2013
3:30 pm

Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison

Discussion/Possible Action

- I. Municipal Code Chapter 8.14, "Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags" Update (Attachment)

Information

- II. Other Business

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 3:30 pm
Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Ave

Agenda

None at this time.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrative Services Committee

FROM: Mary Steckel, Public Works Director 

DATE: April 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Update on the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags Ordinance

ISSUE

The Administrative Services Committee requested an update report on the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The Corvallis City Council passed Ordinance 2012-13, creating a new Corvallis Municipal Code Chapter 8.14, "Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags" on July 2, 2012. Chapter 8.14 prohibits retail establishments from distributing single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers and encourages the use of reusable options to avoid the negative environmental consequences of plastic bags.

Enforcement of the Ordinance began on January 1, 2013 for retail establishments with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) at their Corvallis locations. Enforcement will begin July 1, 2013 for the remaining Corvallis retail establishments.

DISCUSSION

Outreach and education prior to enforcement

Prior to the beginning of enforcement, staff used several different techniques to educate the community about the coming change.

In August 2012, staff sent letters to over 370 retail establishments in Corvallis with information about the new ordinance. Attachment A is an example of the materials provided. This information was also added to the City's plastic bag website along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for retail establishments and shoppers (www.corvallisoregon.gov/plasticbags).

Staff coordinated the establishment of a community outreach team comprised of supporters of the ordinance. This Bring Your Bag Team then carried out several outreach and education efforts, including reusable bag giveaways, classes to make reusable bags and a reusable bag and logo design contest. Staff provided additional information for *Gazette-Times* articles and local news coverage in the month before ordinance enforcement (Attachment B).

Enforcement and feedback

Enforcement of the ordinance began on January 1, 2013 for approximately 11 retail establishments. Some smaller stores not yet required to meet ordinance requirements chose to comply ahead of time. During the first week of enforcement, staff visited stores to observe how the community and retail establishments were adapting. Stores seemed well-prepared for the transition. In general, customers did not seem quite as prepared. Staff observed customer reactions when learning of the new ordinance, which varied from easy acceptance to complete frustration. Within the first week of enforcement, staff received two contacts from the public about stores failing to comply. In both cases, staff talked to the store managers and compliance was quickly achieved.

Approximately one month after enforcement, staff visited affected stores again and sought input from store managers. The consistent feedback was that compliance with the ordinance was going well and a majority of their customers had expressed little difficulty adjusting. Most store managers also stated that a small number of customers had expressed their frustration with the ordinance, stating concerns similar to those mentioned below. Many also stated that the nickel

charge has been effective in shifting people to use reusables, rather than paper bags. Recently, City staff received a report of a 72% decrease in carryout bags provided to customers at one store, compared to the same time period last year. This equates to over 5,200 fewer bags handed out per day at one store.

In early January, staff received several questions about how the new ordinance applies to customers using the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Oregon Trail vouchers. Staff provided a letter (Attachment C) to grocery stores clarifying how the ordinance would be interpreted, stating, “staff are interpreting this language to apply only to the transaction in which the WIC voucher is used. In other words, reusable or recyclable bags shall be provided at no cost only for the WIC transaction. If that customer has another transaction not using a WIC voucher, that transaction is subject to the language of the ordinance.”

Staff tracked feedback on the ordinance which included emails to City Councilors (Attachment D), emails and phone calls to staff (Attachment E), and letters to the editor of the *Gazette-Times* (Attachment F). The feedback received coalesced around these concerns:

1	<p>Concern: The minimum 5 cent charge on paper bags places an undue burden on those on a limited income.</p> <p>Staff response: The required 5 cent charge for paper bags provided at checkout is avoidable if shoppers bring their own reusable bags. Many stores provide a 5 or 6 cent refund for shoppers who bring their own bags, so the cost of purchased paper or reusable bags can be offset through reuse.</p>
2	<p>Concern: It is illegal for the City to force retail establishments to charge for bags.</p> <p>Staff response: Staff continues to work under the advisement of the City Attorney who provided testimony to Council prior to adoption of the ordinance supporting the City’s right to proceed.</p>
3	<p>Concern: The increased use of reusable bags will lead to a higher risk of contamination from pathogens.</p> <p>Staff response: There has been conflicting information received on this issue. Staff defers to the decision made by the City of San Francisco that there is little evidence connecting reusable bags to increases in disease transmission.</p>
4	<p>Concern: The banned plastic bags had several alternative uses for which there is no substitute.</p> <p>Staff response: Many substitutes exist for the stated alternative uses of plastic bags. Staff posted some alternatives in the FAQ section of the City’s plastic bag website.</p>
5	<p>Bag requirements and/or bag charges place an undue burden on small business. For instance, it is difficult for small businesses to find suitable bags (e.g., 40% post-consumer recycled content paper bags of all sizes or plastic bags 2.25 mil or thicker) at a reasonable cost.</p> <p>Staff response: Staff recommends changes to the ordinance as described below that address this concern.</p>

To discuss feedback from the public, in February Councilor Brauner convened a meeting with small business interests, ban advocates, and City staff. Consensus among the group was reached around eliminating the 40% post-consumer recycled content requirement for paper bags and

changing the requirement for charging a minimum of 5 cents per bag for any paper bag to only charging for barrel size paper bags (i.e., typical carryout grocery sacks).

Opportunities for ordinance modification

From the feedback received, staff identified opportunities to improve the ordinance:

1. To clarify recommended changes to the ordinance, it is necessary to include a definition for Barrel Size to Section 8.14.020. The Section would include the following *new* language:

Section 8.14.020 Definitions

Barrel Size - a paper carryout bag with approximate dimensions of 12 inches wide x 7 inches deep x 13-18 inches tall or a capacity of 1,100 to 1,600 cubic inches.

2. Also in Section 8.14.020, it is necessary to remove from the definition of Recyclable Paper Bag the requirement for 40% post-consumer recycled content. With changes, the definition would read:

Section 8.14.020 Definitions

Recyclable Paper Bag - means a paper bag that meets all of the following requirements:

- a.) Is 100% recyclable ~~and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content;~~
- b.) Is capable of composting consistent with the timeline and specifications of the ASTM Standard.

3. As currently written, Section 8.14.040.010 does not include regulation about making non-Recyclable Paper Bags available to customers or providing Barrel Size bags without charging a minimum of 5 cents each. The Section would include the following *new* language:

Section 8.14.040.010 ~~Prohibition on Plastic Bags~~

Retail Establishments shall not provide or make available Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags *or non-Recyclable Paper Bags, and/or provide a Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bag without charging a minimum of 5 cents each* to customers.

4. Language recommended for addition to Section 8.14.040.020 would clarify that all paper bags provided at checkout by retail establishments must be recyclable and compostable. This Section should also include language specifying that only barrel size paper bags require the 5 cent charge. Suggested changes and *new* language include:

Section 8.14.040.020 Requirement for Paper Bags

When a Retail Establishment makes a ~~paper bag~~ ***Recyclable Paper Bag*** available to a customer at the point of sale, ***the bag must meet the definition of a Recyclable Paper Bag. The For Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bags,*** Retail Establishments shall charge the customer a reasonable pass-through cost of not less than 5 cents ~~each per Recyclable Paper Bag provided to the customer.~~

5. Changes to Section 8.14.050.010 place responsibility for violations on those with control or authority over the retail establishment. The *new* language added below to Section 8.14.050.010 would provide clarity on who is responsible for violations:

Section 8.14.050.010 Responsible Party

~~A person is guilty of a violation of this Section, if that person is the one who provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, and/or is a~~ ***A person who is in charge or in control of a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout***

bag to customers, and/or is a person or business entity (e.g., corporation, firm, partnership, association, limited liability entity, cooperative) who owns a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, or is an agent, officer, or manager, director, or employee or who exercises authority over the a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers *is not in compliance with Chapter 8.14.*

6. Section 8.14.050.020 does not address non-Recyclable Paper Bags or the failure to charge the minimum 5 cents. The section would need the following *new* language:

Section 8.14.050.020 Separate Offense

Each Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag *or non-Recyclable Paper Bag* provided or made available to customers, *and/or each Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bag provided or made available to customers without charging a minimum of 5 cents each* in violation of this Section is a separate offense.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Administrative Services Committee recommend that City Council adopt the six identified opportunities for ordinance modification described above.

Reviewed and Concur:



James A. Patterson, City Manager



Jim Brewer, City Attorney

Attachments:

- Attachment A - Information Provided to Retail Establishments
- Attachment B - Local News Stories About the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance
- Attachment C - Clarification About WIC and SNAP programs
- Attachment D - Comments to City Councilors
- Attachment E - Feedback Received by Staff
- Attachment F - Letters to the Editor
- Attachment G - Ordinance 2012-13 with Recommended Changes

Attachment A

Information provided to Retail Establishments

These items were mailed to more than 370 Corvallis retail establishments in August 2012

- A letter explaining the ordinance, enforcement dates, and where to go for more information (see next page)
- Two (2) easily-removable stickers, approximately 3" x 3.5" (below). More stickers made available upon request. Digital file available on City website.
- Flyer for employee education (follows letter)





Public Works Department

1245 NE 3rd Street
P.O. Box 1083
Corvallis, OR 97339-1083
(541) 766-6916
FAX: (541) 766-6920
TTY: (541) 766-6477

August 2012

Name of retail establishment
Address
Address

Re: The Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance

As you may have heard, the Corvallis City Council took a big step to decrease unnecessary waste from single-use checkout bags in our community by approving the "Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags" Ordinance on July 2, 2012 to encourage the use of reusable bags.

This letter is being sent to retail establishments in Corvallis to help inform businesses, their employees and their customers about this change for checkout bags. Included with this letter are two items to assist in educating your customers and employees.

First, we have included two easily-removable stickers that can be placed at the point of sale to help your customers understand the change in checkout bags offered. The second item is a small poster designed to help your employees understand the ordinance. Additional copies of each are available through the City's plastic bag website (see below).

Key elements of the ordinance include:

- Single-use plastic carry out bags are prohibited at checkout or point of sale. This includes all plastic bags less than 2.25 mils thick.
- Thick plastic bags — 2.25 mils or greater — are considered reusable and may be provided with or without charge at the retailer's discretion.
- Plastic bags provided at a time other than checkout are allowed. These include plastic bags used for meat, produce or bulk items. Plastic bags for restaurant take-out foods are also allowed.
- Customers must be charged a minimum of 5¢ for any paper bag provided at checkout. Retailers keep the revenue from the 5¢ charge. Paper bags provided at a time other than checkout do not require a 5¢ charge.
- Paper bags provided at checkout must contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content, must be 100% recyclable, and must be capable of composting completely.
- Customers using vouchers under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program must be provided with either a reusable bag or a paper bag at no cost upon request of the customer at the point of sale.
- If a retailer is found to be in violation of the ordinance, a minimum fine of \$200 will be imposed for each offense.

This new ordinance applies to all retail establishments, except restaurants, within the Corvallis city limits. Enforcement begins January 1, 2013 for larger businesses (over 50 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)) and July 1, 2013 for smaller businesses (50 or less FTEs).

A Community That Honors Diversity!

More information is available from our website (www.ci.corvallis.or.us/PlasticBags), including Frequently Asked Questions, a link to the ordinance, and links to order or download additional signs for your business.

It is our goal to provide information and resources to make this transition easier for everyone. Your outreach to your customers and employees will help. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Thank you,

Scott Dybvad
Sustainability Program Specialist
City of Corvallis
Phone: (541) 766-6331
Email: Scott.Dybvad@CorvallisOregon.gov

Attention employees!

Information about Corvallis' new plastic bag ordinance

The Corvallis City Council voted in July 2012 to approve the "Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags" Ordinance to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags.

This ordinance affects shopping bags *provided at checkout* by Corvallis retail establishments. It bans single-use plastic bags and requires a minimum 5¢ charge on all paper bags provided to customers at the point of sale.

The ban takes effect in two phases depending on store size. Enforcement begins *January 1, 2013 for larger businesses* (over 50 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)) or *July 1, 2013 for smaller businesses* (50 or less FTEs).

In our case, enforcement starts _____.

Key elements of the ordinance:

- Single-use plastic carry out bags are prohibited at checkout or point of sale. This includes all plastic bags less than 2.25 mils thick.
- Thick plastic bags – 2.25 mils or greater – are considered reusable and may be provided with or without charge at the retailer's discretion.
- Plastic bags provided at a time other than checkout are allowed. These include plastic bags used for meat, produce or bulk items. Plastic bags for restaurant take-out foods are also allowed.
- Customers must be charged a minimum of 5¢ for any paper bag provided at checkout. Retailers keep the revenue from the 5¢ charge. Paper bags provided at a time other than checkout do not require a 5¢ charge.
- Paper bags provided at checkout must contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content, must be 100% recyclable, and must be capable of composting completely.
- Customers using vouchers under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program must be provided with either a reusable bag or a paper bag at no cost upon request of the customer at the point of sale.
- If a retailer is found to be in violation of the ordinance, a minimum fine of \$200 will be imposed for each offense.

More information is available from the City of Corvallis website at www.ci.corvallis.or.us/PlasticBags.



Attachment B

Local News Stories about the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance

News Release Voters for Effective Environmental Policy

For release: Immediate

Contact: Bruce Harmon or Wiatt Kettle
Email: rfvcmc@comcast.net

Environmental group to gather signatures for bag ban vote

Corvallis, Oregon September 26, 2012 — The Voters for Effective Environmental Policy (VEEP) alliance announced today that it has begun gathering signatures for a ballot measure to allow Corvallis citizens to vote on whether plastic grocery and retail take-out bags should be banned in our community. In July 2012, Corvallis City Council adopted an ordinance that prohibits single use thin filmed plastic bags at retail check-out and requires a minimum pass through fee of five cents per paper bag. The ordinance becomes effective January 1, 2012. After signature gathering, the vote could be scheduled for a special election in March 2013.

Many citizens and members of the VEEP alliance are questioning environmental policy in Corvallis and the lack of “bag ban” accountability, which has spurred the Alliance to take this action. The Alliance found in reviewing the ordinance, which was proposed and spearheaded by the Sierra Club, the Surfrider Foundation along with others, used misleading and unsubstantiated information to support their proposal before Council and the Administrative Services Committee (ASC). An example of the misleading information stated that 100,000 seabirds and turtles were killed by shopping bags. Scientific journals and research attribute the death of wildlife to small bits of hard plastic not shopping bags.

VEEP is gravely concerned that these clubs, in conjunction with the Northwest Grocery Association, have devised a plan that will force the shoppers of Corvallis to pay 5¢ per paper bag fees to these private businesses and force competitors to charge fees as well. This will limit their risk, control their competitors, and limit free choice by consumers. An estimated annual profit of just the increase in paper bag use is around \$96,600.00 for the six NWGA stores. This figure would not include the number of paper bags currently used or the cost to consumers for non-NWGA member stores.

VEEP is also concerned that imposing restrictions and requiring fees based on faulty or irrelevant information can severely damage the validity and reputation of the legitimate environmental work that has preceded this ordinance.

“Every objective study nationally and internationally on the matter shows that grocery bags only make up less than 0.6% of all litter. Most ‘reusable’ cloth bags will wear out and eventually end up in landfills. Banning recyclable single use bags while approving paper and ‘non-recyclable’ thicker plastic bags will create a different problem for our environment. This makes no sense,” said Alliance member Milt Weaver today.

— More —

Wiatt Kettle, also of the Alliance, added, "The Council seemed to ignore the fact that inexpensive plastic grocery bags, made from natural gas are 100% recyclable into many useful things such as children's playground equipment and more take-out bags. So we were surprised that this became an ordinance with violations punishable by fine; all with data which is not based on local statistics."

Voters for Effective Environmental Policy is an alliance of concerned citizens committed to open-minded research and sound science to address verified environmental concerns. They are Corvallis residents who love and care for the City and believe that the Citizens should decide whether or not to ban such a useful and sanitary item as recyclable plastic carryout bags. To contact VEEP for more information or to support the petition drive, email veep.alliance@gmail.com or visit the website at <https://sites.google.com/site/veepcv>.

#



Key elements of the ordinance

DECEMBER 26, 2012 11:16 PM

- The policy takes effect Tuesday for Corvallis stores with more than 50 full-time employees. Retailers with the equivalent of 50 full-time employees or less must conform to the policy starting July 1.
- Single-use plastic carry out bags are prohibited at checkout or point of sale. This includes all plastic bags less than 2.25 mils thick.
- Thick plastic bags — 2.25 mils or greater — are considered reusable and may be provided with or without charge at the retailer's discretion.
- Plastic bags provided at a time other than checkout are allowed. These include plastic bags used for meat, produce or bulk items. Plastic bags for restaurant take-out foods and pharmacies also are allowed.
- Customers must be charged a minimum of 5 cents for any paper bag provided at checkout. Paper bags provided at a time other than checkout do not require a charge.
- Paper bags provided at checkout must contain a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled content, must be 100 percent recyclable, and must be capable of composting completely.
- Customers using vouchers under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program must be provided with either a reusable bag or a paper bag at no cost upon request at the point of sale.
- If a retailer is found to be in violation of the ordinance, a minimum fine of \$200 will be imposed for each offense.



Preparing for the bag ban



DECEMBER 27, 2012 8:00 AM • BY JAMES DAY,
CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES

Corvallis' new plastic bag policy goes live Tuesday

The question "paper or plastic?" is about to go the way of "regular or unleaded?" or "Do you mind if I smoke?" in Corvallis.

On Tuesday, a city ordinance takes effect that bans single-use plastic bags and requires a minimum 5-cent charge on all paper bags provided to customers at the

point of sale.

The ordinance, which was passed in July by the City Council, takes effect in two phases. The first phase is for large companies, those with the equivalent of more than 50 full-time employees. The policy takes effect July 1 for stores with 50 or fewer full-time employees.

Such policies are a growing trend in the Northwest. Portland, Seattle and Bellingham, Wash., already have them.

And because other cities already have implemented their policies, major companies with Northwest ties such as Safeway and Fred Meyer already have experience with the issue.

"It's basically a pretty simple process for us," said Melinda Merrill, director of public affairs for Fred Meyer in Portland. "We have to be sure to move plastic bags to other stores. And we rejiggered the cash registers and made sure we have enough reusables. It hasn't been a problem for us."

Corvallis' policy is pretty simple: Plastic bags no longer will be offered at the checkout counter and customers will be charged a minimum of 5 cents for each paper bag used.

Customers who bring their own reusable bags will not be charged. Plastic bags thicker than 2.25 mils can be reused and are not affected by the new policy.

Plastic bags will continue to be OK for bulk items, produce and meat. Ditto for pharmacies and takeout at restaurants.

A relatively small number of firms will be affected Tuesday, mainly grocery stores.

"We're promoting renewables and not encouraging single-use products; that's our key focus," said Scott Dybvad, sustainability program specialist with the city of Corvallis.

"We're making hidden costs visible, going from hidden at the cash register to out in the open. That's a big shift. It's only a tax on those who choose a behavior."

Violators are subject to a \$200 fine, but Dybvad said education is the top priority, not punishment.

"It will be enforcement by complaint," he said. "We'll go out and visit, but we won't fine on the first visit. The city is pretty reluctant to fine in general."

"Public pressure will do it. You don't want to be the company defying the plastic bag ordinance. It's not good for your public image."

Industry leaders seem willing to work with cities on such policies.

"This is something we can live with in the grocery industry," said Joe Gilliam, president of the Wilsonville-based Northwest Grocers Association.

"The plastic industry just has not addressed the trash issue at any adequate level. Too much plastic litter is the problem. It was a big change for us at first. We've been using plastic bags for 30 years."

How have customers responded?

"I've been surprised," he said. "There hasn't been much outcry. During the first week it was 'where's my plastic?' Then they just got used to the new policy. It reminds me of ... when leaded gas went away. After a short period of time no one was talking about it anymore."

Corvallis will continue to talk about the policy as it prepares for the second phase, when smaller firms must conform to the policy.

"We're keeping track of questions and compiling things that we will take to the City Council in the spring," said Dybvad. "We are interpreting it as best we can, and the spring will be a good time for an update."

"If tweaks are needed, we can make them before we implement it for small stores."

The ordinance has sparked opposition. A group called Voters for Effective Environmental Policy has been gathering signatures for a possible vote to overturn it.

"Our strategy for now has been to wait till the ordinance has taken effect to make a coordinated effort," said Milt Weaver, a member of the group.

Weaver and his group say that groups backing the policy used "misleading and unsubstantiated information to support their proposal."

Weaver also said that his group might push for a new council vote on the ordinance, given that two new members, Penny York in Ward 1 and Bruce Sorte in Ward 7, will take office Jan. 7.

HEALTH TIP

Reusable shopping bags can collect unhealthy germs if they are not cleaned regularly. It is recommended that shoppers keep their reusable bags clean by machine washing or hand-washing them.

BAG LOGO AND CONTEST

The deadline for the Reusable Bag and Logo Contest has been extended to Jan. 31. Objectives are to increase awareness about alternatives to single-use carry-out bags and prepare Corvallis residents for the new ordinance.

There are three categories: reusable bag using new material, reusable bag using recycled material, and a logo. Bag contest winners will receive \$200. The logo contest winner takes home a \$90 gift bag. If you have questions, please contact bringyourbag2013@gmail.com or call 541-554-6979 or go to the website www.BringYourBagCoalition.com.

FOR MORE INFO

See corvallisoregon.gov/plasticbags for more on the ordinance, including frequently asked questions for retailers and shoppers.

Attachment C

Clarification about WIC and SNAP programs

The following letter was hand delivered to approximately 11 Corvallis retail establishments in January to clarify interpretation of the ordinance.



Public Works Department

1245 NE 3rd Street
P.O. Box 1083
Corvallis, OR 97339-1083
(541) 766-6916
FAX: (541) 766-6920
TTY: (541) 766-6477

January 9, 2013

To: Retail Establishments in Corvallis with 50 FTEs or greater

Re: Clarification on the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags Ordinance, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and food stamp programs (SNAP, Oregon Trail)

I have received several questions about how the new plastic bag ordinance applies to customers who use vouchers from the WIC program and customers using food stamps.

The related language from the ordinance reads, "A Retail Establishment shall provide customers who use a voucher issued under the Women, Infants and Children Program... with a Reusable Bag or a Recyclable Paper Bag at no cost upon request of the customer at the point of sale."

City of Corvallis staff are interpreting this language to apply only to the transaction in which the WIC voucher is used. In other words, reusable or recyclable bags shall be provided at no cost only for the WIC transaction. If that customer has another transaction not using a WIC voucher, that transaction is subject to the language of the ordinance.

Customers using food stamps (Oregon Trail, SNAP) are also subject to the language of the ordinance.

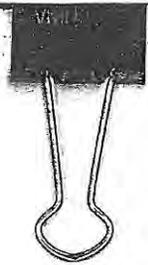
If you have any questions relating to the implementation of the ordinance, please contact me at (541) 766-6331 or scott.dybvad@corvallisoregon.gov.

Thank you,

Scott Dybvad
Sustainability Program Specialist
City of Corvallis
Phone: (541) 766-6331
Email: Scott.Dybvad@CorvallisOregon.gov

Attachment D

Comments to City Councilors
From 9/13/12 through 3/31/13



PUBLIC WORKS
Received

SEP 14 2012

117 NW 2nd Street Corvallis, Oregon 97330 541-752-9649 (phone)

September 13, 2012

To: Jim Patterson, City Manager

I am writing this letter in response to the "Plastic Bag" ordinance letter I recently received.

Over the last several months I have heard about the issue that was before the City Council and was told that this was an attempt to eliminate the single use plastic bags so prevalent in many of our large box and grocery stores. I was approached to sign a petition regarding this usage ban and declined to participate because I was not in support of the objective. Whereas I am not a fan of those bags, I was not in favor of an outright ban.

As the conversations on this topic were being held, I did not attend the meetings as I was lead to believe that the scope of the initiative was consistent with your letter - "It bans single-use plastic bags and requires a minimum 5¢ fee on all paper bags provided to customers at the point of sale."

So, imagine my surprise when I received the notice of your decision to find the fine print of this ordinance is well beyond this scope. I could not believe what I was reading! The impact this will have on my small business is considerable not to mention missing the mark completely!

It is astonishing that you eliminate the use of both single use, and "effectively" paper bags in favor of "Thick plastic bags - 2.25mil or greater". Where is the logic in this? You could argue that you allow for paper, but your criteria makes any paper alternative completely cost prohibitive. Was cost to retailers even considered?

According to your ban I must now abandon my completely recyclable, high art paper bags, which are highly reused (this according to actual customer feedback), in lieu of a low grade plastic bag which is NOT allowed in household recycling and is rarely reused in actual application. Did you even bother to determine the actual reuse of bags 2.25mils or greater? Were you even aware these are not allowed in household recycling?

The bags that we use are not only high quality but are as much a part of our advertising as they are our branding. So now instead of providing my customers with an attractive re-usable, recyclable bag I am forced to provide a more environmentally toxic alternative. Then there is the 5,000 bags I just took possession of that will end up in the landfill - at a significant loss to me - because they do not meet your criteria for an acceptable paper bag. So much for saving the environment!

I fail to understand what objective you are hoping to accomplish with this ordinance. All I see is a greater impact to landfill as the greater percentage of these plastic bags WILL end up there. I can only imagine the backlash from our community when they really understand what this ordinance will actually accomplish. BRAVO for a job poorly done!

Susan McMahon, Owner
Donna Bella Lingerie

I have enclosed examples of the bags I refer to so you can see for yourself the differences.

541-753-0559 (fax)

mail@donnabellalingerie.com

www.donnabellalingerie.com



Office of the Mayor

501 SW Madison Avenue

P.O. Box 1083

Corvallis, OR 97339-1083

(541) 766-6985

FAX: (541) 766-6780

e-mail: mayor@council.ci.corvallis.or.us

December 17, 2012

Steven Taylor
[REDACTED]

Corvallis, OR [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your recent letter asking to increase the fine for businesses not cooperating with the single use plastic bag ordinance set to go into effect in January.

City Council leadership recently discussed the ordinance, and affirmed its interest in monitoring the new law for a period of time before determining what revisions may be indicated. The January 2013 effective date applies to larger businesses, with smaller business compliance required beginning mid-year to allow time to use existing inventory.

Based on other ordinances, I would anticipate that the Council will want to review the ordinance after it has been in full implementation for approximately one year. However, they can decide to review it prior to that time. You are also welcome to discuss this issue with your City Councilor directly.

Sincerely,

Julie Jones Manning
Mayor

c: Mary Steckel

4095

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2012

CITY MANAGERS
OFFICE

[REDACTED]
Corvallis, OR [REDACTED]
November 30, 2012

Mayor Julie Manning
501 SW Madison Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97339

Dear Mayor Manning:

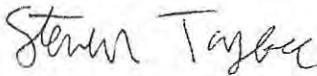
The recently passed city ordinance banning single use plastic bags in Corvallis is a great step toward citywide sustainability. However, I believe that the penalty for offending businesses should be higher than it currently is. As of now, the minimum fine for a business not cooperating with the ordinance is \$200, which is too low in my opinion. In addition, retail stores like Safeway and Home Depot who use thin film plastic bags make thousands upon thousands of dollars every year and as a result, they would easily be able to pay the fine without as much as a wince.

For these reasons, I believe that action should be taken to raise the minimum fine to \$500 for small businesses (businesses with less than 50 employees) and a \$1,000 dollar fine for larger businesses. As a result, I am asking you to suggest a change in the city ordinance to accommodate the proposal I just made.

If action is taken to raise the minimum fine, I believe that more local businesses would be willing to comply because it wouldn't be in their best interest to lose at least \$1,000 a year. Also, if businesses were to comply with the ordinance faster, I think it would greatly impact the attitude that our city has about making the change to reusable bags. An estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed in our country every year. Of those, millions end up in the ocean and are either eaten by creatures of a wide variety or end up floating around until they decompose over the course of hundreds of years. By raising the minimum fine, I am hopeful that a domino effect will take place and the entire state will take on the challenge of a plastic bag ban, eventually leading to a nation wide effort. This will greatly help the environment as well as put us one step closer to an environmentally sustainable country.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider my proposal. I look forward to hearing your feedback on my proposal.

Sincerely,



Steven Taylor

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- *To:* Ward8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Subject:* Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- *From:* Larry Jennings <larrycjennings@xxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Sun, 23 Dec 2012 19:16:55 -0600 (CST)
- *Organization:* Sierra Club
- *Reply-to:* Larry Jennings <larrycjennings@xxxxxxxxxx>

Dec 23, 2012

Council Member Biff Traber

OR

Dear Council Member Traber,

I write to express my strong support of the Corvallis ordinance that bans single use plastic checkout bags.

Already, more than 50 downtown Corvallis businesses, and thousands of Corvallis citizens support this effort. All we need is City action. Banning plastic bags best addresses the problems of single-use plastic bag waste, and most effectively moves consumers to sustainable alternatives.

Our dependence on single-use plastic products has devastating effects on the environment. From the Great Pacific Garbage Patch to the thousands of marine animals who die each year, plastic bags are contributing to environmental damage to our ocean systems. There is no reason something we use for a few minutes should last a few hundred years.

Corvallis is known for its environmental standards nationwide, and has received numerous awards. Passing a ban here will have a positive

1/31/13

Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!

impact. Of the bag bans in effect in the US, none have demonstrably hurt consumers or local business, but they have saved consumers, cities, and businesses the expenses incurred from dealing with these products.

Corvallis has the chance to set an example for other communities, and lay the groundwork for a statewide solution in 2013. Please ban single use plastic checkout bags here in Corvallis.

Sincerely,

Mr. Larry Jennings

[REDACTED]

Salem, OR [REDACTED]

- Prev by Date: **Following up on your 12/19 HCDC meeting**
- Next by Date: **Chamber Forum - Linn-Benton Community College 2013-01-09**
- Previous by thread: **RE: Following up on your 12/19 HCDC meeting**
- Next by thread: **Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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Re: Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year

- *To:* ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Subject:* Re: Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year
- *From:* jen m <jengirl033@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Mon, 31 Dec 2012 10:48:48 -0800

My phone keyboard is touch screen. Excuse the innacurate wording

On Dec 31, 2012 10:46 AM, "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

It appears that the city council does not want this town to thrive. For years they wont let anything good come in here. The heritage mall was supooseed to come in here but of course corvallis wouldnt let it happen. Now there's a walmart coming! Love walmart! Then I find out it's just another unneeded grocery store! Corvallis has way too many grocery stores! The real shopoing is salem, eugene, portland and sometimes albany. Guess I'll make my shopping day into a shopoing and grocery day.

On Dec 31, 2012 10:40 AM, "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Again dont shop or dine in corvallis being that they never allow anything good to come here. May I suggest having a drop off where we can get our deposit/tax back from the paper bags? Like they have on soda cans? And by making those bags it is saving the landfills from that nasty petroleum pollutant that comes from the very natural gas you use 2 keep warm. Now that pollutent will be going straight to the landfill. It was much better off as a bag. Portland supposedly did the same thing by banning plastic bags. But this christmas season when I was up there shopping (not enough choices here in corvallis, have 2 go elsewhere) they in fact did not ban their plastic bags. Every store I bought from habded me a plastic bag. And banning these handy convenient bags is not going to solve a thing. It's people that need to be educated on whst littering and improper disposal of these bags results in.

On Dec 31, 2012 10:33 AM, <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi Jen.

There is excellent shopping in Corvallis. The bag ban does not change that.

There are good reasons behind the bag ban. The wasteful use of fossil fuels is part of the cause for global change. We have seen severe flooding, burning forests, and melting glaciers, because of

global change.

Plastic bags clog drains, suffocate sea life, and when used unnecessarily, add to fossil fuel waste. Each of us can help to reduce the unnecessary carbon/fossil fuel footprint in our own lives.

May I suggest a very good dramatic cinematic documentation, "Chasing Ice", now playing at the Darkside Theater in Corvallis.

Wishing you a safe and Happy New year,

Jeanne Raymond
Ward 7

A visual, photographic documentation is at the

----- Original Message -----

From: "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxxxx>

To: ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 12:13:54 AM

Just so you know, there's a lot of people that are not happy eith this stupid bag ban. We will be shopping in other cities now. The only shopping in corvallis was groceries. To go clothes or toy shopoing corvallis is not the place now after this bag ban it seems that it's not worth shopping here at all. Thank you corvallis! Hello albany, salem and eugene!

• **References:**

- **Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year**
 - *From:* ward7
 - **Re: Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year**
 - *From:* jen m
 - **Re: Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year**
 - *From:* jen m
- Prev by Date:**Re: Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year**
- Next by Date:**EfficientGov 1.2.2013: Fire Consolidation Study, EV Garbage Trucks & Free CNG Stations**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- To: <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: bags
- From: "Lucy" <imwalde4@xxxxxxxx>
- Date: Sat, 2 Feb 2013 10:45:14 -0800

Can you stand one more email on this subject?

Bruce, I just want to encourage you to "hang tough" on the bag ban. You know that the City made a good decision on this one. I felt sad for the Donna Bella lady who got caught with a large (possibly a little hyperbole in her estimate of value) stock of soon-to-be-illegal bags. If it's not an impossible administrative task, perhaps there could be some relief for folks like her.

But limiting our impact on our environment is quite simply something we have to do. Not doing so is immoral and self-centered (I'm referring to us as a society, not to individuals). Please don't let these ridiculous stories of "hardship" at the grocery line sway you.

Lucy

Lucy Himmelreich Noone



Corvallis, OR 97330

----- Original Message -----

From: "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxx>

To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Wednesday, January 2, 2013 10:41:19 AM

Subject: Re:

If it was truly and honestly about the environment then why are we being charged for paper bags? It's always been a choice of two free bags "paper or plastic" this is ridiculous. You want to get rid of the plastic fine, but dont start charging us for the paper that has always been free! I as well as many others are stubborn enough to shop outside a city that would impose such rubbish. Again, because there are no places here to shop, I went to portland this christmas season to shop. I thought they were the first city to actually do something so greedy. But in fact when I was up there the stores that I went to handed me plastic. Maybe they have seen how ridiculous and stupid this is. By using plastic bags, we are saving the the environment from that nasty petrolium pollutant from the natural gas that you use to keep warm! The bags are made out of that, now it's going to end up in the landfills. It was better off as a plastic bag. Dont try and .ake it look like it's good for the environment! It's all about money and I want you to write me back and tell me where the 5 cents per bag is going. And why weren't the citizens of this backwards town allowed to vote on it? Maybe I should inquire with the governor about getting this ban reversed. I honestly don't see how a group of ignorant people can sit down and decide what is best for the city. We should have a say in it. This is just a tax and any other town that does this I will not shop in. If I have to I will shop online or save my grocery shopping for vancouver washington. Dont think people are just going to accept this!

On Jan 2, 2013 9:50 AM, < mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx > wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for your message.

I was sorry to learn of your decision to purchase your groceries outside of Corvallis. As you know, the City Council studied the issues for several months before ultimately voting in favor of the ordinance concerning single use plastic bags. The ordinance does not affect the plastic bags used for grocery produce. Since the council approved the ordinance, the Eugene City Council has approved a similar ordinance, and one is already in place in Portland.

The City Council will continue to evaluate the ordinance now that implementation has begun.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxx >

To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 12:15:54 AM

Just so you know, there's a lot of people that are not happy eith this stupid bag ban. We will be shopping in other cities now. The only shopping in corvallis was groceries. To go clothes or toy shoppoing corvallis is not the place now after this bag ban it seems that it's not worth shopping here at all. Thank you corvallis! Hello albany, salem and eugene!

- **References:**

- **Re:**

- *From:* jen m

- Prev by Date: **January 15 Meeting of the Linn-Benton Loop Partners**
- Next by Date: **Ethiopian Cultural Dinner and Auction**
- Previous by thread: **Re:**
- Next by thread: **RE: Re:**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

RE: Re:

- *To:* Mayor <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, jen m <jengirl033@xxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* RE: Re:
- *From:* "Louie, Kathy" <Kathy.Louie@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Thu, 3 Jan 2013 17:09:05 +0000

Good morning, attached is the link to the plastic bag ordinance, <http://archive.corvallisoregon.gov/O/doc/337132/Page1.aspx>, approved by the City Council last July. We also have information on the City website under Public Works department, sustainability, <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=211>. Contact information for the petitioner with the plastic bag initiative can be found at <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4169>. Kathy

-----Original Message-----

From: Mayor
 Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 11:14 AM
 To: jen m
 Cc: Louie, Kathy
 Subject: Re:

Hello,

I have asked Kathy Louie in the City Manager's office to send you a copy of the ordinance so you can see where the paper bag charge goes and also the types of bags that are included and exempted in the ordinance.

You also asked why citizens did not have the opportunity to vote on this issue. A group of local citizens is collecting signatures for an initiative that would place the question on a future ballot if sufficient signatures are gathered to do so. Kathy Louie can also provide information about this process.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxxxx>
To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Wednesday, January 2, 2013 10:41:19 AM
Subject: Re:

If it was truly and honestly about the environment then why are we being charged for paper bags? It's always been a choice of two free bags "paper or plastic" this is ridiculous. You want to get rid of the plastic fine, but don't start charging us for the paper that has always been free! I as well as many others are stubborn enough to shop outside a city that would impose such rubbish. Again, because there are no places here to shop, I went to portland this christmas season to shop. I thought they were the first city to actually do something so greedy. But in fact when I was up there the stores that I went to handed me plastic. Maybe they have seen how ridiculous and stupid this is. By using plastic bags, we are saving the the environment from that nasty petroleum pollutant from the natural gas that you use to keep warm! The bags are made out of that, now it's going to end up in the landfills. It was better off as a plastic bag. Don't try and make it look like it's good for the environment! It's all about money and I want you to write me back and tell me where the 5 cents per bag is going. And why weren't the citizens of this backwards town allowed to vote on it? Maybe I should inquire with the governor about getting this ban reversed. I honestly don't see how a group of ignorant people can sit down and decide what is best for the city. We should have a say in it. This is just a tax and any other town that does this I will not shop there. If I have to I will shop online or save my grocery shopping for vancouver washington. Don't think people are just going to accept this!

On Jan 2, 2013 9:50 AM, < mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx > wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for your message.

I was sorry to learn of your decision to purchase your groceries outside of Corvallis. As you know, the City Council studied the issues for several months before ultimately voting in favor of the ordinance concerning single use plastic bags. The ordinance does not affect the plastic bags used for grocery produce. Since the council approved the ordinance, the Eugene City Council has approved a similar ordinance, and one is already in place in Portland.

The City Council will continue to evaluate the ordinance now that implementation has begun.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "jen m" <jengirl033@xxxxxxxxxxx >
To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 12:15:54 AM

Just so you know, there's a lot of people that are not happy with this stupid bag ban. We will be shopping in other cities now. The only shopping in Corvallis was groceries. To go clothes or toy shopping Corvallis is not the place now after this bag ban it seems that it's not worth shopping here at all. Thank you Corvallis! Hello Albany, Salem and Eugene!

• **References:**

- **Re:**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- *To:* "'mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx'" <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Bags
- *From:* Tim Ranney <timr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Mon, 7 Jan 2013 20:02:48 +0000

I have been exposed to the "bag ban" created by the council, and am terribly disappointed with their decision. I think that it was poorly planned and will ultimately result in many more man hours for our local stores. I don't think that I need government telling me how to live my life when my wife and I are already conscientious recyclers and have always returned our bags to the bin at the local store. I would have thought that the council would have been smart enough to get the trash service to start recycling plastic bags *before* making this type of sweeping regulation that does nothing but cause problems for everyone from residents to visitors in our area stores. This will cost the stores increased manpower which will result in higher prices than we are currently paying. I hope that you will reconsider this poorly planned law and stop loading our businesses with this sort of ill-conceived burdens. This will result in increased food prices and penalize families that are already struggling to make ends meet. Please make a copy of this letter available to the Council.

Thank you

Tim Ranney

- Prev by Date: **Re: glass recycling**
- Next by Date: **Drive Oregon invites you to The Better Place Story (Jan 16, 2013)**
- Previous by thread: **RE: Please read**
- Next by thread: **Drive Oregon invites you to The Better Place Story (Jan 16, 2013)**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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Thank you for Banning the Bag in Corvallis!

- *To:* Ward2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Subject:* Thank you for Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- *From:* A Ward <madisontalk@xxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Mon, 7 Jan 2013 00:45:30 -0600 (CST)
- *Organization:* Sierra Club
- *Reply-to:* A Ward <madisontalk@xxxxxxx>

Jan 7, 2013

Council Member Roen Hogg

OR

Dear Council Member Hogg,

Thank you for banning single-use plastic checkout bags with a 5-cent pass-through cost on paper bags. Your vote is very much appreciated because you voted for the most effective way to reduce plastic in our community.

Corvallis will now have the proud distinction of being the second city in Oregon to banish single-use plastic checkout bags. Corvallis will even have more to brag about because we are the first city in Oregon to have a 5-cent pass-through cost on paper bags, and where the ban applies to all retail stores.

This means we will cut back on waste and it will give us a good incentive to remember our reusable bags. It will also make Corvallis' single-use plastic bag ban much stronger and more effective.

Thank you for continuing Corvallis's tradition of setting an example for other communities. We are known for our environmental standards and this will help the community and our local businesses thrive.

Sincerely,

Ms. A Ward

[REDACTED]

Eugene, OR [REDACTED]

- Prev by Date:**glass recycling**
- Previous by thread:**glass recycling**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* ward3 <ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Re: plastic bag ban doesn't help anything or any one
- *From:* Loren W <wingnuts007@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Tue, 8 Jan 2013 17:04:12 -0800 (PST)

Hello, I guess I fail to see how this ban saves the world..... (I am a skeptic)

The info came from this website from the bag manufacturer.

I agree the bags seem to be "demonized"

but I also agree with you that it is hard to tell fact from fiction.

You could contact them for documentation.

Thanks for the interest and response.

Loren Michele Wingert

American Plastic Manufacturing

526 South Monroe Street
Seattle, WA 98108

Phone: 1-888-763-1055

FAX: 206-763-3946

From: ward3 <ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
To: Loren W <wingnuts007@xxxxxxxx>
Sent: Tue, January 8, 2013 3:05:20 PM
Subject: RE: plastic bag ban doesn't help anything or any one

Loren,

I'd be interested in reading the source documents for the "Myth -Marine Wildlife Tangled in Bags".

Richard

From: Loren W [mailto:wingnuts007@xxxxxxxxxx]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 1:33 PM
To: mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Subject: plastic bag ban doesn't help anything or any one

Dear Corvallis Mayor and city council,

The plastic bag ban is ridiculous. These bags are useful and get re-used several times.

Now i have to buy bags instead of using free ones. Bought bags replaces free bags.....
Hmmm... I don't see any help to the environment here.

Only costing me money and having to carry filthy bags around with me to every store.
Will have to shop Albany now..... see myths below.

-Lauren Michele Wingert CPA


Plastic Bag Myths

Plastic bags are being demonized across the world these days, but most of the statistics given to justify bag bans and taxes are either misleading or just plain wrong. Below are some of the more popular myths about plastic bags, as well as some interesting facts.

Oil Consumption

MYTH: According to many websites and environmental groups, plastic bag manufacturing uses a large percentage of the crude oil that is consumed in the US. Some suggest that eliminating plastic bags would reduce our dependence on oil.

TRUTH: American plastic bags are made from natural gas, NOT oil. In the U.S., 85 percent of the raw material used to make plastic bags is produced from natural gas.

Banning or taxing plastic bags will do nothing to curb oil consumption.

Single Use

MYTH: Most proposed bag bans and taxes use statistics based on an assumption that plastic bags are only used once.

TRUTH: Studies have shown that 80-90% of the population reuse plastic grocery bags at least once. As trash bin liners, for picking up after pets, as lunch sacks, holding wet laundry, etc. Plastic bags are also very easy to recycle, and most grocery stores provide bag recycling bins.

Ireland's Bag Tax

MYTH: Ireland's 2002 tax on plastic grocery bags reduced plastic bag use by 90%.

TRUTH: This is partially true, but doesn't tell the whole story. Use of plastic *grocery checkout bags* declined, but sales of packaged plastic bags went up by about 400%, resulting in a net gain in plastic bags going to landfills. This shows that most people were reusing their plastic grocery bags for tasks where plastic bags are the best solution - trash can liners, picking up after the dog, wet garbage, etc.

San Francisco Bag Ban

MYTH: In 2008, San Francisco banned plastic bags, which resulted in a huge drop in bag use, and an increase in reusable bags.

TRUTH: Yes, since plastic bags were banned, stores stopped using them. But there was not a huge shift towards reusable bags. Instead, there was a huge increase in paper bag consumption. According to all studies, paper bags are responsible for many times the pollution and oil consumption than plastic bags. Paper is heavier, and not as durable, as plastic and requires far more resources to create, and creates much more air and water pollution. In addition to this, the San Fran Ban also practically eliminated bag recycling programs in the city, and after one year, plastic bag litter (the main reason for the ban) had actually increased.

Recycling

MYTH: Recycling plastic bags is extremely costly and difficult.

TRUTH: Recycling programs are growing all the time, and plastic recycling is actually a very simple, cost effective and energy efficient process. The main products currently made from recycled grocery bags is composite lumber, and new bags.

Marine Wildlife Tangled in Bags

MYTH: "Over 100 thousand marine animals die from becoming tangled in discarded plastic bags each year."

TRUTH: The report that this myth was based on (a Canadian study from 1987) didn't mention plastic bags at all. In 2002 the Australian Government commissioned a study on plastic bags, and the authors misquoted the 1987 study. What the original study found was that between 1981 and 1984 over 100 thousand marine mammals and birds were killed by being caught in discarded fishing nets and lines.

Furthermore, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has stated that it is unable to find studies to support many of the statements that assert plastic bags cause harm to marine wildlife and that many quotes about plastic marine debris are false, unproven or exaggerated.

Litter

MYTH: Plastic bags are a major source of litter, and banning or taxing bags will reduce litter.

TRUTH: Plastic bags make up less than one percent of all litter. Cigarette butts, fast food packaging, and food wrappers are much larger contributors. Banning one item that becomes litter does nothing to change the mindset of those that discard trash improperly. Many of the bags that end up as litter blow off of garbage trucks or out of landfills. Landfill operators and garbage haulers should be held accountable for items that escape containment.

Since plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter, banning or taxing them will have no impact. The solution to litter is public education, recycling programs, and proper disposal.

Landfills

MYTH: Landfills are overflowing with plastic bags.

TRUTH: Plastic bags are easily recycled, but even if they do end up in a landfill, they take up a small fraction of one percent of landfill space. The average person uses about 326 plastic grocery bags per year, which by weight is about the same as a phone book or two. By comparison, the average person generates nearly one ton (2000 pounds) of garbage each year.

The major contributor to landfills is paper, wood and construction debris. Banning or taxing plastic bags would mean that more paper bags would get used, resulting in more waste going to the landfill.

Paper Bags are Better

MYTH: Many people believe that paper bags are a better environmental choice than plastic.

TRUTH: Paper bags, even recycled ones, require many times more energy to produce than plastic. Paper production and recycling also produces far more air and water pollution than plastic. And because paper bags weigh nearly 10 times that of plastic bags, they require 10 times the fuel to transport.

Paper bags can also be easily contaminated with oils, grease, and food waste that can contaminate entire batches of recycling. Plastic bags can be cleaned prior to recycling to eliminate contaminants.

Reusable Bags

MYTH: The prevailing environmental opinion is that heavyweight canvas, cotton, and polypropylene reusable bags are the best choice to replace plastic bags.

TRUTH: While these reusable bags are great for some uses, their environmental impact hasn't been properly studied. Most are made in China, where health and pollution standards are somewhat lax, and then shipped halfway across the globe to get to you.

Reusable bags also can't be used for the myriad of things that disposable bags are used for. If disposable bags aren't available at the checkout stand, people will purchase packaged bags for secondary uses such as trash can liners.

Bans and Taxes

MYTH: Taxing grocery bags or banning plastic bags will reduce greenhouse gasses and save the planet.

TRUTH: Since bags are a minimal contributor to all the problems associated with them (oil use, litter, landfill volume, etc.), bans and taxes simply won't do anything for the environment. And because the alternatives all require more fuel to create, recycle, and transport, eliminating plastic bags actually increases greenhouse gasses.

- **References:**

- **plastic bag ban doesn't help anything or any one**
 - *From:* Loren W

- Prev by Date: **RE: Council President Responsibility**
- Next by Date: **Blind sheikh release debate | Newton conspiracy mongering | Earth-tethered spacecraft**
- Previous by thread: **plastic bag ban doesn't help anything or any one**
- Next by thread: **[no subject]**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

1/25/2013 1:52:22 PM

- *To:* Joel Hirsch <ward6@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Plastic Bag Ban
- *From:* Vicki Ciciriello <vicki_ciciriello@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Tue, 8 Jan 2013 23:52:22 -0800

Mr. Hirsch,

Just a great big minute here. You should not be making such all-encompassing remarks such as the plastic bag ban having "overwhelming support." (GT, January 8, 2013)

No one in this household supports the ban, nor does anyone in my circle of acquaintances. We have valid reasons which I am in the process of detailing in a letter to the entire council as well as various city employees who are involved in this issue.

You need to retract that statement, canvass your constituency, and then represent the views of ALL your ward residents, not just the views of an annoying, costumed, politically correct, minority.

You need to get out and talk to people on the very bottom of the income scale. A friend of mine told me that, after purchasing her month's groceries with her food stamps, she unexpectedly had to purchase 9 paper bags. This meant she didn't have the money to buy toilet paper which she'd planned on purchasing at another store. She thought she'd have \$1.00 left after the groceries but she only had \$.55. She doesn't have a newspaper subscription (obviously) and had no way of knowing she'd be subjected to a hold-up by the Corvallis City Council.

You had a part in this, therefore, you should consider it your responsibility to educate yourself on the consequences of the decisions made by the City Council (the 'haves') on the 'have nots.'

Vicki Ciciriello



MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Shopping Bags
- *From:* "Nancy William" <williamn@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Tue, 8 Jan 2013 13:02:15 -0800

Dear Bruce,

Please, please do not spend your valuable time on the issue of shopping bags at stores in Corvallis. The decision to conserve was made with more than adequate public knowledge. It is astounding that some very public and well-educated people can now express strong opposition. Furthermore, we are not the first, nor certainly the largest, population to enact this policy. Objecting after 7 days is a knee-jerk reaction to CHANGE, and unjustified.

I have two more remarks:

If you insist on seeking other solutions, you do not have to ask the councilors to serve as clerks. Why not ask the experienced clerks themselves?

Frequently, we have been a community "ahead of the curve" --- think bike lanes and recycling. We are not displaced people in a refugee camp without resources. Bringing a container to the store is not an unreasonable request for consumers --- rich or poor, young or old. We have been placing the plastic and/or paper bags in the shopping cart to take it to the car for years. Can we not also put a reusable bag in the same shopping cart? As for keeping the bag clean, isn't that up to the individual? When I launder a bath towel, I throw in the bag!

Sincerely,

Nancy William

Ward 7, Corvallis

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- *To:* ward7@xx
- *Subject:* Bag Ban
- *From:* DesignsbyA@xxxxxxx
- *Date:* Wed, 9 Jan 2013 20:13:31 -0500 (EST)

Bruce Sorte

I would like it known that I do NOT support the bag ban.

AnnaLiese M Moran

Corvallis OR 97330

- Prev by Date: **Clarification: Benton County Riparian and Wetlands Project Update**
- Next by Date: **IDEA**
- Previous by thread: **Clarification: Benton County Riparian and Wetlands Project Update**
- Next by thread: **Bag Ban**
- Index(es):
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 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Bag Ban
- *From:* Amanda <ambrew@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Thu, 10 Jan 2013 15:41:26 -0800
- *Reply-to:* <ambrew@xxxxxxxx>

For the eleven plus years my family and I have lived in Corvallis I have never bought garbage bags. This not only saves money in my family budget - but by reusing bags from grocery shopping my family has not purchased packaged garbage bags that have traveled hundreds of miles to get to the store shelves in excess packaging. Your idea to ban the bag means that while once my family was able to reuse these bags over and over (using as lunch bags, bags for the bread I make weekly, and countless other uses) before using their final time as garbage bags. Now my budget is being added to - the generic shopping bags met so many needs, I will need to purchase two or three different kinds of bags for the different needs we have. All of these purchases have been shipped to the store, packaged, ARE STILL MADE OF PLASTIC and I can only use them once since they are more specialized!

Your bag ban, while good hearted, was not brought to you by your constituents - and yet you decided to take up this minor, minor battle in an attempt to keep up with appearances.

I cant' speak for everyone. but for my family - your bag ban simply means we will need more plastic bags - to meet the needs that the old ones used to fill

Amanda

- Prev by Date: **RE: 2013-2014 Council Goal Suggestions**
- Next by Date: **An Invitation to participate in the MLK Celebrations.**
- Previous by thread: **Re: 2013-2014 Council Goal Suggestions**
- Next by thread: **An Invitation to participate in the MLK Celebrations.**
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: ward7@xx
- Subject: Bag Ban
- From: DesignsbyA@xxxxxxx
- Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2013 15:25:45 -0400 (EDT)

Mr.Sorte

As I stated in a previous email, I am against the Corvallis Ordinance banning plastic bags, and charging for paper bags.

I feel that some special interest groups have removed important data about the use of plastic, in their press releases, to make it appear as if bags are the majority of the plastic products impacting our environment, when in fact the bags have a very very small impact. It is other uses of plastic that are the majority issue.

I would like to see the bag ordinance completely repealed, and in its place implement a curbside recycling program that includes, not excludes plastic bags (as it currently does). Another positive step would be to encourage the development of a truly compostable plastic type bag.

AnnaLiese M Moran

- Prev by Date: Women In Business: Language of Leadership
- Next by Date: City of Corvallis, OR: City Council Leadership Executive Session
- Previous by thread: PRESS RELEASE; April 1, 2013 Council Executive Session
- Next by thread: City of Corvallis, OR: City Council Leadership Executive Session
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* "mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Re: Plastic bag ban
- *From:* Darrell Van Leuven <darrellv1956@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Fri, 11 Jan 2013 11:48:09 -0800

Thank you so much for the wonderful form letter. It would be nice to have it a little personalize. Can you please inform me of the next council meeting. I would so much like to attend. I know that my name needs to be put on the agenda, so that I will be able to speak at the meeting.

Cheryl Vanleuven

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 7, 2013, at 11:01 AM, mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for your message.

Since the ordinance has just taken effect for large businesses and will incorporate small businesses in July of this year, the City Council is interested in gathering feedback about what is working well and what areas could use improvement in future revisions to the ordinance. City staff are also visiting local grocers and are receiving feedback from businesses and members of the general public.

In terms of involving the public in the lead-up to the Council vote, there were months of public meetings and several surveys of local businesses that provided input prior to the decision. That input helped shape the ordinance that was ultimately approved by the Council.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning

Mayor, City of Corvallis

----- Original Message -----

From: "Darrell Van Leuven" <darrellv1956@xxxxxxxx>

To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Friday, January 4, 2013 2:41:19 PM

Subject: Plastic bag ban

The thought of our government not allowing the voice of the people before making a law is WRONG. I just had my first in counter with your bag fee implementation. I called Winco shopping center just for information on how this works. They too feel it is wrong, when they offer paper bags to there customers already. Why should they have to charge us,if they are going to give us paper bags?

Cheryl VanLeuven


Alsea, OR 97324

Benton County


Sent from my iPad

- Prev by Date: **LOC Bulletin - January 11 edition**
- Next by Date: **Additional goal suggestions**
- Previous by thread: **Plastic bag ban**
- Next by thread: **plastic bag ban**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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Reusable Bag Workshop

- *To:* <sustainable-corvallis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Reusable Bag Workshop
- *From:* Debra Higbee-Sudyka <dwhigbe@xxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Fri, 11 Jan 2013 00:14:26 -0800
- *Mailing-list:* list sustainable-corvallis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx; contact sustainable-corvallis+owners@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Reply-to:* <dwhigbe@xxxxxxx>

For those interested in entering the Reusable Bag & Logo contest (where prizes will be awarded valued at a total of more than \$800.00), please let them know about the following opportunity.

Reusable Bag Workshop

For those interested in receiving easy instructions on how to make a reusable bag—which can be entered in the Reusable Bag & Logo contest*—**attend a free workshop**. Making bags is fun and easy! Two classes will be offered:

Tuesday, January 15th at the Market of Choice (922 N.W. Circle Blvd., Corvallis, Oregon),
 5:00 to 6:00 or
 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

Come listen, watch and learn. If you want hands-on experience, bring a 20" x 42" (smaller or larger but proportionally similar) sturdy fabric (such as canvas or duck cloth), thread, and 1"-wide webbing for handles. A sewing machine will be available, or bring your own. **Space is limited**, so call 541-554-6979 to reserve a space, or for more information.

*Deadline for the contest is January 31st. Go to www.BringYourBagCoalition.com for more information.

One Trick to Stay Asleep

If you struggle to fall asleep, or stay asleep, try this...

peaklife.com

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "Sustainable-Corvallis" Google group. To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to sustainable-corvallis-unsubscribe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

If you would like to respond to a message and engage in a discussion regarding any topic, please use the discussion group at sustainable-corvallis-explorations@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

To receive announcements from the Sustainability Coalition send an e-mail (from the e-mail account that you want subscribed) to sustainable-corvallis-announcements-subscribe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

- Prev by Date: **Community Emergency Response Team basic class schedule**
- Next by Date: **Your 2013 Must-Do List: Change Management Professionals**
- Previous by thread: **Community Emergency Response Team basic class schedule**
- Next by thread: **Your 2013 Must-Do List: Change Management Professionals**
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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Previous message

- *To:* <ward9@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Plastic bag ban
- *From:* "Guy Holly" <gholly618@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Sun, 13 Jan 2013 18:21:39 -0800

Dear Sir,

The current plastic bag ban is a complete disaster. It is so cumbersome and unfair that I have resorted to driving to Albany for all grocery shopping. Why was this done without considering the wishes and needs of the people? I am quite sure that if put up to referendum it would have failed miserably. I guess that our leaders don't really have a clue about how this ridiculous law affects the lives of the people they represent. All that it has accomplished is to burden people and businesses unnecessarily without any real gain or savings. I urge you to work to repeal the law ASAP or get it on the ballot ASAP. Your constituents are very angry. Your businesses are going to be hurt.

Guy Holly Ward 9 constituent.

- Prev by Date: **Re: 2013-2014 Council Goal Suggestions**
- Next by Date: **Re: Council Leadership topics**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Council Leadership topics**
- Next by thread: **proposed agenda for today's Leadership meeting**
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* ward7@xx
- *Subject:* Message from Constituent
- *From:* Rick Cardwell <cardwellr@xxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Tue, 15 Jan 2013 10:47:34 -0500 (EST)

Dear Bruce:

First, thank you for serving. I was able to attend the GT-hosted candidate discussion at the fire station, and there received my first impression of your interests and experience. Clearly qualified.

I am writing mainly to express my support for continuing the bag bag (no need to vote), for emphasis on housing and livability goals for the students who attend OSU, and for focus on the truly big things that influence livability in Corvallis, both for the students but also for the population as a whole, not just the small numbers of special-interest activists.

I suspect there are so many who want this to be a "good" town in terms of livability. I have long felt the Council is constantly pressured by special-interest activists and question whether it is easy for Council members to be distracted from focus on the big issues.

Best wishes for a satisfying term of service,

Rick Cardwell

Ward 7 constituent

- Prev by Date: **Buying & Selling Electric Power in the West: Live Seminar**
- Next by Date: **EfficientGov 1.15.2013: Winning Grant Approaches, Revenue from Jail Cells & Bus Tracking Apps**
- Previous by thread: **Electronic Payment Options**
- Next by thread: **EfficientGov 1.15.2013: Winning Grant Approaches, Revenue from Jail Cells & Bus Tracking Apps**
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* Mayor <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Donna Tarasawa <donnax@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* RE: Plastic bag ban question
- *From:* "Louie, Kathy" <Kathy.Louie@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Wed, 16 Jan 2013 17:33:28 +0000

Hi, Donna, attached is the plastic bag ordinance ... Kathy

-----Original Message-----

From: Mayor
 Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 9:29 AM
 To: Donna Tarasawa
 Cc: Louie, Kathy
 Subject: Re: Plastic bag ban question

Hi Donna,

Thank you for your message. I'm asking Kathy Louie in the City Manager's office to send you the ordinance so I am sure to give you the most accurate information. If you have additional questions, Mary Steckel in our Public Works Department may be able to assist you.

On another note, I had planned to give Emily Stimac a call today. If she is in, would you mind asking her to call me at 768-5172?

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Donna Tarasawa" <donnax@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* "ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Plastic Bag Ban
- *From:* Christy Stevens <hikebike11@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Wed, 16 Jan 2013 12:28:18 -0800

Good Morning,

I am resident of the ward you represent and I am writing to let you know that I support the plastic bag ban.

Regards,

Christy Stevens



- Prev by Date: **Email Forwarding for ward7@xxxxxxxx**
- Next by Date: **Save the Date - SBA/Cascades West COG Workshop**
- Previous by thread: **School Fees**
- Next by thread: **Save the Date - SBA/Cascades West COG Workshop**
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* "mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Ban the bag
- *From:* Tim Maciejewski <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Thu, 17 Jan 2013 11:32:48 -0800

To the Mayor and City Council:

My vote is counted in ward 7. I am writing to express my opposition to banning the bag in Corvallis. I do not support in any way charging a patron of a grocery store 5 cents for every bag that they use. It is my opinion that this move is in the best interest of no one, aside from whomever is profiting. Your action in imposing this act on the public is not an inviting one, and I hope that you have received many letters from other voters in our town who are opposed to it. I, for one, would like to see this action reversed. Thank you.

Elizabeth Maciejewski

- Prev by Date: **New Sourcing Integration: Quality Venues for the Best Value**
- Next by Date: **Tax assistance at the Library**
- Previous by thread: **New Sourcing Integration: Quality Venues for the Best Value**
- Next by thread: **Tax assistance at the Library**
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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----- Forwarded Message -----

- *To:* "ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Re: Ban the bag
- *From:* Elizabeth Maciejewski <lizonka1010@xxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Sun, 20 Jan 2013 23:06:34 -0800

Where can I sign the petition?
 How many signatures does the petition have?
 If I wanted to post some "reverse ban the bag" or "bring back the bag" slogans around town, where could I post those?
 Thank you

On Jan 17, 2013, at 1:21 PM, ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Hi Elizabeth,

You can certainly sign the petition and if the initiative reaches the ballot campaign and support the campaign with contributions. You might also testify when the update reaches our agenda - probably in March.

Take care,
 Bruce Sorte

Hello Mr. Sorte,

Th location of my vote is ward 7. I wanted to express my opposition to banning the bag in Corvallis and especially my strong opposition for the new charge of 5 cents per bag used. I belong in your ward, and I do not support the recent change. I would like to see it reversed. What steps can I take to see a reversal to the ban? Thank you.

Elizabeth Maciejewski

- **References:**

- **Ban the bag**

- *From:* Elizabeth Maciejewski

- Prev by Date: **LOC Bulletin - January 18 edition**

- Next by Date: **National scholarship application now open.**

- Previous by thread: **Ban the bag**

- Next by thread: **Ban the bag**

- Index(es):

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- **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* Tim Maciejewski <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Re: Ban the bag
- *From:* mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Date:* Mon, 21 Jan 2013 12:49:26 -0800 (PST)
- *Cc:* Mary Steckel <Mary.Steckel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, ward7 <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Hello,

Thank you for your message.

In answer to your question, we have received many comments on this topic from citizens throughout the process. As you might expect, residents are divided on the issue, with some being very supportive and others very much against it.

Since the ordinance has just recently been enacted, and won't go into effect for smaller businesses until later this year, the City Council has indicated it would like to monitor it initially before considering potential revisions. I am sharing your comments with some who will be involved in making those determinations, so they will know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Tim Maciejewski" <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
To: mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 11:32:48 AM
Subject: Ban the bag

To the Mayor and City Council:

My vote is counted in ward 7. I am writing to express my opposition to banning

the bag in Corvallis. I do not support in any way charging a patron of a grocery store 5 cents for every bag that they use. It is my opinion that this move is in the best interest of no one, aside from whomever is profiting. Your action in imposing this act on the public is not an inviting one, and I hope that you have received many letters from other voters in our town who are opposed to it. I, for one, would like to see this action reversed. Thank you.

Elizabeth Maciejewski

- **References:**

- **Ban the bag**

- *From:* Tim Maciejewski

- Prev by Date: **National scholarship application now open.**
- Next by Date: **Re: Ban the bag**
- Previous by thread: **Ban the bag**
- Next by thread: **Re: Ban the bag**
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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Re: Ban the bag

- *To:* Elizabeth Maciejewski <lizonka1010@xxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Re: Ban the bag
- *From:* mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Date:* Mon, 21 Jan 2013 12:54:53 -0800 (PST)
- *Cc:* ward7 <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Mary Steckel <Mary.Steckel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Hello,

Thank you for your message, which I am also sharing the your City Councilor and the city's Public Works Director for their reference.

In terms of your comment about the Council's action reflecting the larger public interest, I wanted to be sure you knew that the proposed ordinance to ban single use plastic bags was actually brought to the Council by a local citizens group: the Marys Peak Chapter of the Sierra Club. The citizens urged the Council to enact such an ordinance, and after several months of study and public comment, the Council ultimately approved a revised version of that initial ordinance.

That is not to say that all citizens are happy with this decision, as your own comments have indicated. Since the ordinance has just recently gone into effect, and will go into effect for smaller businesses later this year, the Council is interested in monitoring the initial implementation before making a determination about potential revisions. We are also continuing to collect public comment such as yours, and I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Elizabeth Maciejewski" <lizonka1010@xxxxxxx>

1/25/13

Re: Ban the bag

To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 11:38:41 AM

Subject: Ban the bag

To the Mayor of Corvallis:

My vote is counted in ward 7.

I do NOT support banning the bag in Corvallis. This move that the City Council and Mayor took upon themselves is purely "political". It is in the best interest of not one citizen of this town. I would like to see this ban reversed. In my opinion, the Mayor and City Council have failed the public, which you took an oath to represent, as you did not act on behalf of the people.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Maciejewski

- Prev by Date: **Re: Ban the bag**
- Next by Date: **Ethiopian Cultural Dinner - Sunday, Jan. 27**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Ban the bag**
- Next by thread: **Tax assistance at the Library**
- Index(es):
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 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Subject:* Fwd: Don't ban plastic bans in Oregon
- *From:* Elizabeth Maciejewski <lizonka1010@xxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Tue, 22 Jan 2013 12:26:00 -0800

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sen Olsen" <sen.alanolsen@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
Date: January 22, 2013, 11:44:34 AM PST
To: "Lizonka1010@xxxxxxx" <Lizonka1010@xxxxxxx>
Subject: RE: Don't ban plastic bans in Oregon

Hi Elizabeth,

Senator Olsen opposed the plastic bag ban the last time it was brought before his committee and offered an alternative that encouraged a robust plastic bag recycling program instead of a ban. He will have the same approach this session.

Thank you for your e-mail.

Dylan Gray
Chief of Staff
Senator Alan Olsen
Senate District 20
Office: 503.986.1720
Cell: 541.380.1651
900 Court St. NE, Salem OR 97301
sen.AlanOlsen@xxxxxxxxxxxx

-----Original Message-----

From: Lizonka1010@xxxxxxx [mailto:Lizonka1010@xxxxxxx]

Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2013 11:22 PM

To: Sen Olsen

Subject: Don't ban plastic bans in Oregon

Elizabeth Maciejewski

Corvallis, OR 97330-1001

January 21, 2013

The Honorable Alan Olsen

Dear Senator Olsen:

As an Oregonian, I'm disappointed to hear that the legislature is considering banning my 100% recyclable plastic grocery bags.

The legislature already said NO to a bag ban before -- and our state has more important work to do than debating this failed policy again.

Bag bans don't actually reduce litter or protect the environment -- recycling does. And alternatives like reusable bags leave a larger carbon footprint than plastic bags and can't be recycled. Plus, reusable bags can carry foodborne diseases that pose health risks to Oregon families. Did you hear about the reusable bag carrying norovirus that caused an entire girls' soccer team in Beaverton, OR to become sick?

Oregon is a state that recycles. We should make recycling plastic bags easier, not make a trip to the grocery store less convenient and more expensive. I urge you to focus on expanding our statewide recycling instead of eliminating consumer choice with a bag ban.

Sincerely

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2013

CITY MANAGERS
OFFICE



Bag Manufacturing Company

7600 Empire Drive
Florence, KY 41042
800-879-3876
www.durobag.com

January 24, 2013

Biff Traber
P.O. Box 1083
Corvallis, OR 97339

Dear Biff,

Your bag ordinance currently prohibits the use of paper reusable bags. Duro has found that cities with the most successful bag bans have allowed paper reusable bags. Brownsville, Texas is a great example of such a success. Brownsville requires the following for paper reusable bags:

- Must have handles
- Must be at least 65lb basis weight paper

The only improvement Duro would recommend would be to require the paper to be made from 100% recycled content. This helps find a home for all the old corrugated boxes (OCC) already used and able to be recycled in the U.S.

Please find enclosed the relevant section of Brownsville's ordinance for review.

I will call you shortly after receiving this letter to discuss this in more detail.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Christopher Klein
859-446-8506
cklein@durobag.com

Enclosure

Brownsville, TX City Code Article II, Sec. 46-47
Definitions Pertaining to Plastic Bag Restrictions

Terms not here defined are to be construed as in everyday, commonly-understood usage.

Business establishment means any commercial enterprise or establishment, including sole proprietorships, joint ventures, partnerships, corporations or any other legal entity whether for profit or not for profit and includes all employees of the business and any independent contractors associated with the business.

Checkout bag means a bag that is provided by a business establishment to a customer typically at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting goods after shopping.

Convenience store means a business establishment, usually of a size of less than 5,000 square feet, which:

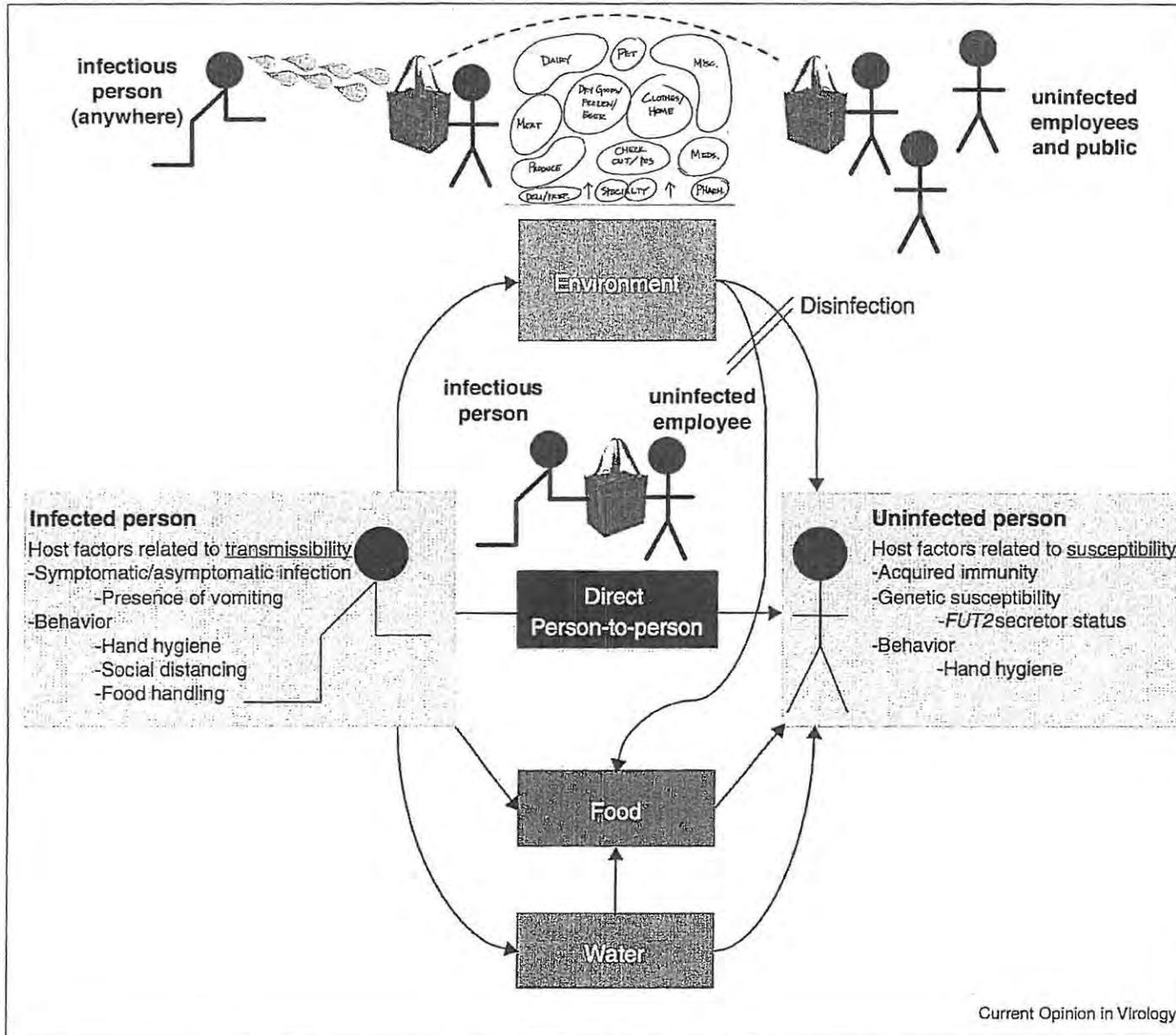
- (1) Sells a limited variety of food/grocery, tobacco, and pharmaceutical items;
- (2) Has off-street parking and/or convenient pedestrian access;
- (3) Has extended hours of operation, with many open 24 hours, seven days a week; and
- (4) May or may not sell gasoline.

Plastic checkout bag means a checkout bag made of plastic, which is provided by a business establishment to a customer typically at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting goods after shopping, and which is intended and constructed for single use.

Reusable bag means a bag that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Permitted material:
 - a. Cloth or other washable fabric, or other durable materials (woven or non-woven).
 - b. If made of plastic, must have a minimum of 4.0 mil in thickness.
 - c. If made of paper, must have a minimum of 65# in basis weight.
- (2) Miscellaneous:
 - a. All reusable bags must have handles for easy carrying.
 - b. Reusable bags may be of various sizes, depending on the nature of the business employing them.

(Ord. No. 2009-911-E, 1-5-2010; Ord. No. 2010-911-F, 9-20-2010)





OregonLive.com

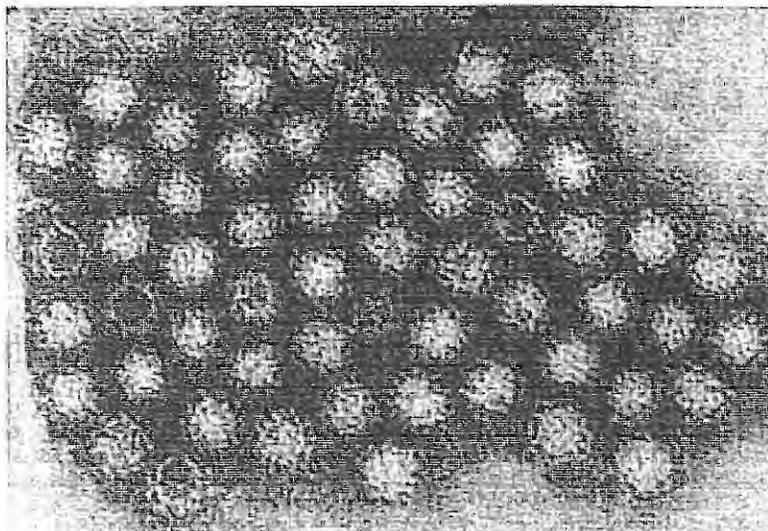
Everything Oregon

In a first, Oregon scientific sleuths trace norovirus outbreak to reusable grocery bag

Published: Wednesday, May 09, 2012, 12:01 AM Updated: Wednesday, May 09, 2012, 10:33 AM



By Lynne Terry, The Oregonian



Public Health Image Library

This is what norovirus particles look like using an electron micrograph.

The sturdy reusable grocery bag traveled with the girls' soccer team from Beaverton to Seattle for a weekend tournament, where it picked up something much less sweet than the cookies inside.

But the team members didn't know highly contagious viruses were on the bag as they passed it around during Sunday lunch, plucking out the chocolate goodies.

The next day six of the girls fell violently ill in a mysterious outbreak of norovirus, the leading cause of severe gastroenteritis in the United States.

It took Oregon scientists about five days of intensive sleuthing to pinpoint the bag as the likely culprit and lab tests to confirm its role.

That confirmation marked a breakthrough: Scientists have long known that this hardy virus is transmitted from person to person but never before have they been able to prove that transmission from an inanimate object caused an outbreak.

"In other outbreaks, we have been able to isolate the virus from door handles or keyboards, but we have never been able to show it was the keyboard or door handle that made people sick," said Kimberly Repp, epidemiologist with the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services.

The investigation also highlighted how hardy the noroviruses are -- and the challenge public health officials have combating them.

The outbreak occurred in October 2010, but the investigative report was just published today in [The Journal of Infectious Diseases](#).

The authors -- Repp and William Keene, senior epidemiologist with [Oregon Public Health](#) -- detail how they tracked the outbreak to the contaminated bag.

Seventeen girls, ages 13 and 14, and their chaperones traveled to Seattle on a Friday afternoon in five cars to play in a weekend soccer competition pitting 120 teams from Oregon and Washington. On Saturday, one of the teens started to feel sick so she went to a chaperone, asking if she could stay in her room. The girl ended up spending six hours in the chaperone's bathroom, throwing up and suffering from diarrhea. The woman whisked her out of the hotel and drove her back to Oregon. The team played on Saturday and enjoyed Sunday lunch together in a room at the hotel before returning home that afternoon.

On Monday, six more girls came down with acute gastroenteritis. One of the mothers called public health authorities in Washington state who alerted Oregon Public Health.

Repp spent the next several days interviewing and re-interviewing the girls who got sick, trying to figure out how the virus had spread.

Clearly, the outbreak started with the first girl. But Repp and Keene couldn't figure out how she infected the others. She stayed in a room by herself on Friday, and once she felt ill had no contact with anyone besides the chaperone.

Norovirus -- which caused 139 of 213 outbreaks of gastroenteritis in Oregon in 2010 -- is often transmitted through direct contact with an ill person, though contaminated water or food can cause an outbreak as well. That makes it difficult to track transmission.

"In outbreaks, it can be difficult to discern what exposure causes disease because norovirus can spread through many means," said Aron Hall, an epidemiologist with the [Division of Viral Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Repp and Keene questioned the girls about what car they traveled in, what they ate in Seattle, what rooms they stayed in and with whom.

"Every single thing we could think of," Repp said.

All of the six girls had eaten at the Sunday lunch. They kept mentioning the cookies, which had been passed around in the bag. The cookies were bought at a store and hadn't been opened. The only common denominator was the bag.

The first sick girl never touched the bag, but it was in the chaperone's bathroom when the

Norovirus

The highly contagious virus is the top cause of U.S. foodborne disease outbreaks and the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the U.S., causing about 21 million illnesses each year and contributing to roughly 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

Most outbreaks

girl got sick. Another team member saw it and took it to the Sunday lunch.

"It was a perfect vehicle for transmission," Repp said.

But suspicion is not proof. The Oregon scientists needed the bag to test for the virus. Two weeks later, the owner, who traveled a lot, turned the bag over at a soccer practice. Repp showed up, the bleachers packed with parents, wearing blue latex gloves and carrying a plastic bag.

"I didn't want to get sick," Repp said.

The owner of the reusable grocery bag -- until then unaware it could be contaminated -- ran to the restroom to wash her hands.

Repp and Keene sent the bag -- made out of laminated woven polypropylene -- to the state's public health laboratory in Hillsboro for testing. Three days later, the results came back. Two samples from the sides of the bag below the handle tested positive for the same norovirus strain that caused the outbreak.

The tests solved their mystery and illustrated how robust these viruses are. They can live on surfaces for weeks and survive in water up to two months, Hall said.

"Norovirus is in a group that tends to be more resistant, more environmentally stable" than other viruses, he said. "It's challenging to evaluate because we can't actually grow norovirus outside their human hosts."

The investigation also demonstrates why noroviruses are so difficult to combat, Hall said.

"What this report does is it helps raise awareness of the complex and indirect way that norovirus can spread," Hall said. "It highlights the challenge we face in trying to control this problem."

Repp does not recommend that consumers ditch reusable grocery bags. But she says they should be cleaned with sanitizing wipes or in the washing machine after traveling to a store.

"You wash your clothes after you wear them," she said. "Wash your bag after you use it."

-- [Lynne Terry](#)

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happen when infected people spread the virus to others through close contact. But it can also spread by consuming contaminated food or water and touching surfaces or objects that have the virus on them.

Leafy greens, fresh fruits and shellfish are most commonly involved in foodborne outbreaks.

The best prevention: thorough hand washing and cleaning contaminated surfaces with a bleach-based solution.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Point-Source Norovirus Outbreak Caused by Exposure to Fomites

Kimberly K. Repp^{1,*} and William E. Keene²

¹Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University, and ²Oregon Public Health Division, Portland

(See the editorial commentary by Hall, on pages 1622–4.)

We investigated a norovirus outbreak (genotype GII.2) affecting 9 members of a soccer team. Illness was associated with touching a reusable grocery bag or consuming its packaged food contents (risk difference, 0.636; $P < .01$). By polymerase chain reaction, GII norovirus was recovered from the bag, which had been stored in a bathroom used before the outbreak by a person with norovirus-like illness. Airborne contamination of fomites can lead to subsequent point-source outbreaks. When feasible, we recommend dedicated bathrooms for sick persons and informing cleaning staff (professional or otherwise) about the need for adequate environmental sanitation of surfaces and fomites to prevent spread.

Noroviruses are a leading cause of gastroenteritis worldwide and the most common cause of foodborne outbreaks in the United States [1, 2]. The low infectious dose and the high viral load in vomit and feces [3] lead to efficient transmission through typical fecal-oral routes as well as airborne spread and environmental contamination of fomites [4]. Persistent, multigenerational outbreaks have been linked to fomites and reported on cruise ships [5], hotels [3], and institutional settings [3, 6] despite aggressive housekeeping [7], and point-source outbreaks from fomes exposure are rarely identified [8]. The role of fomites in transmission can be difficult to assess owing to lack of established protocol for testing fomites and environmental surfaces. We investigated a point-source norovirus outbreak caused by exposure to fomites.

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*Present affiliation: Washington County Department of Health and Human Services, Hillsboro, Oregon.

Correspondence: William Keene, PhD, MPH, Senior Epidemiologist, Oregon Public Health Division, 800 NE Oregon St, Portland, OR 97232 (william.e.keene@state.or.us).

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In October 2010, the Oregon Public Health Division was notified by colleagues from public health agencies in Washington State that a parent-chaperone had reported a cluster of acute gastroenteritis among persons who had recently participated in a soccer tournament held in King County, Washington. The weekend tournament comprised about 2000 children in approximately 120 teams from Washington and Oregon. The Oregon group comprised 17 Oregon girls who were 13–14 years old and 4 adult chaperones who had traveled to the tournament on Friday afternoon in private automobiles. They shared rooms at a hotel in Washington on Friday and Saturday nights, eating at local restaurants and in their hotel rooms, and they returned to Oregon after the tournament ended on Sunday afternoon. We investigated to determine the scope of the outbreak and its etiology and to take appropriate control measures.

METHODS

Tournament organizers and contacts for other teams were canvassed by telephone and email to determine the extent of illness. Complaint logs were reviewed for reports of any contemporaneous illness among patrons of the restaurants and hotel visited by the Oregon group. This was a public health investigation to control a disease outbreak and therefore did not require approval by an institutional review board.

We conducted a retrospective cohort study of the Oregon group. Persons were interviewed by telephone or in person using a standardized questionnaire with questions about potential exposures (foods, hotel roommates, travel partners, etc), clinical history, and contemporary household illness.

A case was defined as a delegate of the Oregon group who developed vomiting or diarrhea (≥ 3 loose stools within a 24-hour period) within 72 hours of their return from the tournament. Household members of cases who developed similar symptoms within the following week but who did not attend the tournament were considered secondary cases.

Risk differences were calculated for all exposures using EXTSIG and CID2BP software (MD Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas) with Cox-Snell 95% confidence intervals [CIs] and Fisher exact test P values [9]. Relative risks (not presented) are less informative due to small sample size and zero-count cells.

Stool specimens were solicited from persons who reported illness. A reusable grocery bag was tested for norovirus by vigorously swabbing small patches (~ 25 cm²) of the bag surface

with sterile polyester swabs wetted with sterile nuclease-free water. The swabs were extracted using the MagAttract viral M48 RNA kit (Qiagen 955235) on an automated BioRobot M48 Extractor. All specimens were tested for the presence of norovirus RNA genogroups GI and GII by real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction [10, 11] and were further characterized using genetic sequencing of region C of the *ORF2* gene [12].

RESULTS

There were no reports of similarly clustered illness among any other teams at the tournament, nor were there any coincident reports of illness among patrons of any of the restaurants or hotel patronized by the Oregon group.

All 21 members of the group were interviewed; however, 1 healthy person refused to answer exposure questions and 1 ill person was excluded due to direct exposure to case 1 and her vomit. We identified 7 cases who ranged from 13 to 48 years old (median, 13). All 7 (100%) reported vomiting; 4 (57%) also reported diarrhea. The reported duration of symptoms ranged from 1 to 7 days (median, 3). One case sought medical care, but there were no hospitalizations. There were no reports of mild illness not meeting the case definition. We identified at least 5 presumptive secondary infections among household members.

Case 1 initially became nauseated and developed abdominal pain late Saturday evening, at which time she left her room and moved in with one of the chaperones. Shortly after midnight, she began vomiting and having diarrhea that continued throughout the night. In the morning she was taken back to Oregon by this chaperone, who later became ill. Neither individual rejoined the group or participated in any of the Sunday group activities or meals; both were excluded from analysis for Sunday exposures. All other cases reported symptom onset on Tuesday (Figure 1).

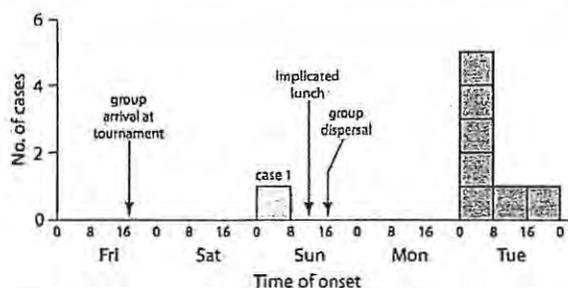


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of gastroenteritis among attendees of a soccer tournament in Washington in October 2010. Presumptive secondary infections are not shown.

The following variables were assessed for association with illness: age; hotel roommates and hotel room; transportation groups for activities, soccer games, and car groups returning from the tournament; and all reported food exposures on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Logistic modeling was not possible due to small sample size. No significant association with illness was identified for any Friday or Saturday exposure. On initial analysis, consumption of sealed packaged cookies from the Sunday lunch was significantly associated with illness (risk difference [RD], 0.750; 95% confidence interval [CI], .24–.91, $P = .01$); 3 of 7 cases (43%) and none of the 12 healthy attendees reported cookie consumption. The cookies and other lunch supplies had been purchased in Oregon and stored at the hotel until use.

On reinterview, we learned that the cookies, along with packaged chips and fresh grapes, had been stored in a reusable open-top grocery bag made from laminated woven polypropylene. This bag had been stored in the hotel bathroom of the chaperone who had cared for case 1. Case 1 reported never touching or handling the grocery bag, but it was in the bathroom she used throughout the night. At lunchtime on Sunday—hours after case 1 had departed—the bag was taken to another hotel room where the contents (cookies, chips, and grapes) were passed around as part of the lunch. The cookies and chips were in unopened commercial packages. We did not ascertain how many Oregon group members handled the grocery bag. Illness was associated with a composite exposure variable of any item in the bag (ie, cookies, chips, or grapes; 7 of 7 cases with exposure and 4 of 12 controls with exposure; RD, 0.636; 95% CI, .32–.87; $P < .01$). No single item in the bag was reportedly consumed by more than 4 of 7 cases. Assuming exposure at the Sunday lunch, incubation periods ranged from 36 to 57 hours (median, 38.5 hours).

All 3 stool specimens collected from ill persons were positive for norovirus (genotype GII.2). No specimen was available from case 1. Viral sequences from the 3 stool specimens were identical and a 98% match to a GII.2 reference sequence (GII.2.Vaals NLD05). Two of 10 swabs taken from the grocery bag 2 weeks after the implicated meal were positive (genogroup GII). The grocery bag samples were insufficient to sequence; no leftover food was available.

There were no reports of subsequent illness among guests or staff reported to hotel management.

DISCUSSION

Initial concerns that this outbreak may have involved other persons from the tournament or local restaurant patrons were quickly allayed. The distribution of incubation times for the Oregon group indicated that the larger group was exposed at the Sunday lunch. By that time, however, case 1 had been absent for over 12 hours, and because she had no contact with any of the

other cases after her onset of vomiting or diarrhea and no direct contact with any of the lunch food, it was initially unclear as to how these illnesses could be connected. Only when we learned about the bag in the bathroom did a coherent story emerge.

The data indicate that virus aerosolized within the hotel bathroom settled upon the grocery bag and its contents, and it was touching the bag and consumption of its contents that led to the outbreak. Touching the bag could not be analyzed separately from consumption of food items from within the bag. Consumption of food from the grocery bag was strongly associated with illness, as was handling the grocery bag. The nature of the contaminated foods—a bag of chips, grapes, and a package of cookies—facilitated transmission. Fingers contaminated with norovirus have been shown to sequentially transfer virus to up to 7 clean surfaces [7], and environmental contamination with transmission via fomites has been documented [7, 8]. Incidentally, this also illustrates one of the less obvious hazards of reusable grocery bags.

Aerosolization of vomit and feces has been demonstrated to be of major importance in norovirus outbreaks [13]. Even viruses aerosolized from flushing a toilet can contaminate surfaces throughout a bathroom [14]. Once a fomite is contaminated, transfer to hands and other animate objects can readily occur [15]. The more confined the space (eg, most bathrooms), the more intense would be the “fallout” [13].

This investigation confirms the potential for aerosol contamination of fomites in norovirus outbreaks, which has long been suspected to contribute to persistent problems on cruise ships, in nursing homes, and other settings [5, 6, 13]. Although we certainly recommend not storing food in bathrooms, it is more important to emphasize that areas where aerosol exposures may have occurred should be thoroughly disinfected; this includes not only exposed surfaces but also objects in the environment that could serve as fomites. If multiple bathrooms are available, it would be prudent to dedicate one for use by sick persons. We also recommend that persons with responsibilities for cleaning (eg, housekeeping staff or family members) be informed about incidents of vomiting or diarrhea and best practices for disinfection.

Notes

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Noroviruses: The Perfect Human Pathogens?

Aron J. Hall

Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

(See the brief report by Repp and Keene on pages 1639–41.)

Noroviruses are perhaps the perfect human pathogens. These viruses possess essentially all of the attributes of an ideal infectious agent: highly contagious, rapidly and prolifically shed, constantly evolving, evoking limited immunity, and only moderately virulent, allowing most of those infected to fully recover, thereby maintaining a large susceptible pool of hosts. These characteristics have enabled noroviruses to become the leading cause of endemic diarrheal disease across all age groups [1], the leading cause of foodborne disease [2], and the cause of half of all gastroenteritis outbreaks worldwide [3]. In the United States alone, noroviruses are responsible for an estimated 21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis annually, including >70 000 hospitalizations and nearly 800 deaths [2, 4, 5]. In developing countries, where the greatest burden of diarrheal disease occurs, noroviruses have been estimated to cause up to 200 000 deaths each year in children <5 years of age [6]. Although recognition of this immense disease burden is relatively recent, it is unclear whether it has long been present and failed to be recognized

because of lack of sensitive diagnostics or if, in fact, noroviruses represent a truly emergent public health issue [7]. Regardless, attempts to address the overwhelming burden of norovirus disease first require an understanding of the complexity and efficiency with which these viruses spread.

The success of noroviruses should come as no surprise once one considers how well adapted they are for transmission within human populations. First, noroviruses have an extremely low infectious dose (≥ 18 viral particles), coupled with copious viral shedding (10^5 – 10^{11} viral copies per gram of feces), even among asymptomatic infections [8–10], suggesting that up to 5 billion infectious doses may be shed by an infected individual in each gram of feces. Second, noroviruses are environmentally stable, able to survive both freezing and heating (although not thorough cooking), are resistant to many common chemical disinfectants, and can persist on surfaces for up to 2 weeks [11]. Third, there are a myriad of ways in which noroviruses may be spread, including direct contact between hosts via fecal-oral transmission, ingestion of contaminated foods or water, handling of contaminated fomites followed by hand-to-mouth contact, and—unique among enteric pathogens—via ingestion of aerosolized particles [12]. Finally, noroviruses are a genetically diverse group of viruses that rapidly evolve, leading to an apparent lack of prolonged cross-protective immunity following infection [13, 14]. Clearly, public health efforts to prevent

and control the spread of noroviruses face an uphill battle.

The investigation Repp and Keene [15] reported in this issue of the *Journal* provides a fascinating example of how a unique exposure and transmission scenario can result in a norovirus outbreak. In this outbreak, one member of a soccer team traveling to a tournament developed acute gastroenteritis, presumably because of an exposure prior to the trip. There was reportedly no opportunity for direct contact between this index case after her symptoms began and any of her teammates. Instead, some of the aforementioned characteristics that have made noroviruses so successful (eg, environmental stability, copious shedding in stool and vomit, aerosol spread) facilitated indirect spread of the virus. First, virus shed in vomitus, and perhaps even feces, became aerosolized in a bathroom where the index case was actively symptomatic. These aerosolized particles then settled on a reusable shopping bag that contained lunch items to be consumed the following day. The authors note that neither the bag nor its contents were ever actually touched by the index case, who left to return home early the next morning before the lunch items were consumed. After handling the food items in this bag and consuming their contents, 7 of 11 individuals (64%) exposed in this manner became ill. Unfortunately, the authors were unable to differentiate between handling of the food packaging versus consumption of the foods they contained. Additionally, there

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Correspondence: Aron J. Hall, DVM, MSPH Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop A-34, Atlanta, GA 30333 (ajhall@cdc.gov).

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was no assessment of handling of the grocery bag as a stand-alone risk factor, which would have helped further tease out the specific exposure that caused the outbreak. Nonetheless, further evidence that transmission resulted from this contaminated fomite was provided through detection of norovirus from surface swab samples of the bag. Although this finding could not be confirmed by sequencing and comparison with clinical specimens, it would seem highly unlikely for the epidemiologically implicated bag to be positive for norovirus simply by coincidence. The chain of events in this outbreak demonstrates how this tenacious virus finds a way to move from host to host, even when those hosts have no direct contact with one another.

This phenomenon of virus aerosolization contaminating fomites has been previously documented in a variety of settings, although the importance of this mechanism in causing disease transmission is not always clear. Norovirus contamination of environmental surfaces has been reported during nonoutbreak periods in both healthcare and food-service settings [16, 17]. During an outbreak in a hotel in England, environmental samples from mantels and light fittings 1.5 m above the ground were positive for norovirus, suggesting contamination from aerosolized vomitus, although there were no documented exposures to these surface that were associated with disease [18]. Demonstrating this next step of environmentally mediated norovirus transmission is more challenging, and reports of this are more limited. One of the most compelling examples involved gastroenteritis from a rare norovirus genotype among different crews on successive flight sectors, who had no opportunity for direct contact with one another [19]. As multiple transmission pathways may occur during a single outbreak, particularly in closed settings such as nursing homes and cruise ships, it is often difficult to determine which route of exposure is responsible for which cases. For example, environmental transmission was suggested during outbreaks involving successive voyages on a cruise ship and exposure to contaminated computer

keyboards and mice in an elementary school; however, person-to-person transmission could not be excluded in those instances [20, 21]. The investigation by Repp and Keene [15] nicely demonstrates that not only can noroviruses be aerosolized and dispersed onto fomites without direct contact but also that exposure to those contaminated fomites can then cause disease.

This investigation also provides a good example of how environmental sampling can sometimes be useful when there is epidemiologic evidence suggesting that exposure to a specific fomite was associated with disease. In so doing, it underscores the importance of considering fomites among the potential exposures evaluated during an outbreak investigation to first establish that association. Environmental sampling has been used previously to support associations between norovirus disease and contaminated computer keyboards and mice, bathroom and kitchen surfaces, and high-touch surfaces on cruise ships [21, 22]. However, there are limitations to testing environmental swab samples, including variable recovery efficiency depending on swab material used, surface type sampled, and swab technique. Furthermore, as with testing of clinical samples, molecular diagnostic techniques used for environmental samples detect viral RNA, which does not necessarily indicate presence of infectious virus. Results of environmental testing should therefore be interpreted with caution and in the context of the available epidemiologic evidence. More research is needed to develop standardized, validated techniques and better elucidate the role of environmental contamination in spreading noroviruses.

The complex and varied transmission webs through which noroviruses are spread make development of effective prevention and control measures a daunting task. The current pillars of norovirus control rely on relatively generic measures, such as hand hygiene, environmental disinfection, and isolation of infected individuals [12]. However, because of the challenges in modifying human behaviors and the knowledge gaps resulting from

our inability to cultivate human noroviruses *in vitro*, these steps are all too often inadequate. As the investigation by Repp and Keene highlights [15], unique vehicles of transmission and exposure scenarios will continually arise that may circumvent our standard control efforts. Ultimately, a targeted vaccine intervention may be necessary to achieve a significant reduction in norovirus disease and prevent outbreaks. Recent evidence from a candidate norovirus vaccine trial demonstrated a proof of concept that this may indeed be an effective prevention strategy [23]. However, several key questions remain, such as the duration of immunity, the degree of cross-reactivity, the performance in high-risk groups (eg, elderly and young children), and whether protection is afforded against the full range of norovirus infections, including those that are asymptomatic. Although a vaccine may one day serve as another critical tool, thorough epidemiologic investigations and sound infection control practices will undoubtedly continue to be necessary in curtailing the spread of these well-adapted pathogens.

Notes

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Environmental transmission of norovirus gastroenteritis[☆]

Ben Lopman¹, Paul Gastañaduy^{1,2}, Geun Woo Park¹, Aron J Hall¹,
Umesh D Parashar¹ and Jan Vinjé¹

The advent of molecular techniques and their increasingly widespread use in public health laboratories and research studies has transformed the understanding of the burden of norovirus. Norovirus is the most common cause of community-acquired diarrheal disease across all ages, the most common cause of outbreaks of gastroenteritis, and the most common cause of foodborne disease in the United States. They are a diverse group of single-stranded RNA viruses that are highly infectious and stable in the environment; both symptomatic and asymptomatic infections are common. Through shedding in feces and vomit, norovirus can be transmitted directly through an array of routes: person-to-person, food or the environment. The relative importance of environmental transmission of virus is yet to be fully quantified but is likely to be substantial and is an important feature that complicates control.

Addresses

¹ Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

² Epidemic Intelligence Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

Corresponding author: Lopman, Ben (blopman@cdc.gov)

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Burden of norovirus disease

Endemic disease

Globally, norovirus is estimated to account for 12% (95% CI 9–15%) of community-based or clinic-based gastroenteritis cases, and 11% (95% CI 8–14%) of emergency department-based or hospital-based cases [1]. These proportions are similar in developing and developed country populations [1]. Community-based cohort studies using sensitive diagnostics have been rare, but such studies in

England and The Netherlands have estimated incidence in the general population between 4.1 and 4.6 cases per 100 person-years [2,3^{*}], with regional studies providing generally consistent results [4,5]. Incidence is approximately 5 times higher in children under the age of five years [5]. In the United States, norovirus causes an estimated 21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis [6] and >70 000 hospitalizations annually across all age groups [7]. The burden of disease increases considerably in years where novel genogroup II genotype 4 variants emerge, with hospitalizations surging by approximately 50% [8–10]. Although symptomatic norovirus infections are usually mild and self-limiting in otherwise healthy adults, they may be fatal among the elderly [11] and immunocompromised persons [12]. Excess mortality associated with norovirus has been documented in a number of countries [13,14,11], with approximately 800 per year in the U.S. [15].

Epidemic disease

Noroviruses are the leading cause of outbreak-associated gastroenteritis worldwide, causing 50% of all-cause and more than 90% non-bacterial epidemic gastroenteritis [16]. Outbreaks occur in various settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, childcare centers, and cruise ships. Although initial reviews of norovirus outbreaks in the U.S. implicated contaminated food as the main vehicle of infection [17], newer reports show that the majority involve person-to-person transmission in the United States and elsewhere [18–21]. Moreover, given the high infectivity and environmental stability of norovirus, transmission during outbreaks may involve multiple routes [22], and contaminated fomites may also act as a reservoir and perpetuate outbreaks [23–25].

Economic burden

Few studies have quantified the healthcare or societal costs due to norovirus, but given its ubiquitous nature, its economic impact is likely substantial. Most studies to date have quantified the cost of outbreaks, as opposed to endemic disease. For example, an outbreak in a single 946-bed U.S. hospital cost an estimated \$650 000 [26]. During the 2002–2003 season, the cost to the English National Health Service of nosocomial outbreaks was estimated at \$184 million [27]. Norovirus foodborne disease in the U.S. leads to an estimated \$2 billion in cost of illness annually [28]. While endemic disease-related costs have not been systematically assessed, norovirus associated hospitalizations specifically have been estimated at nearly \$500 million every year in the U.S. [7].

[☆] *Disclaimer:* The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Environmental transmission

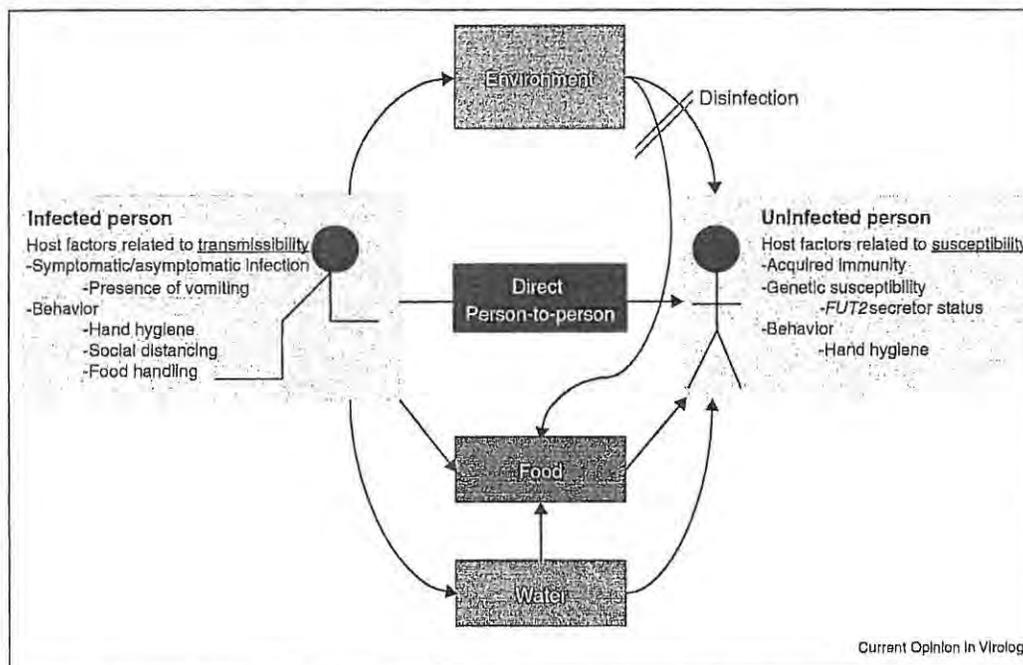
Norovirus is spread by a number of routes, with both fecal-oral and vomit-oral transmission occurring (Figure 1). Direct person-to-person transmission is believed to be the primary mode of spread in most outbreaks [19,21] and in sporadic disease [29,30]. Foodborne transmission is also common, with norovirus the most common cause of foodborne disease outbreaks in the U.S. [31,32]. Contamination of food products by infected food handlers is thought to be the most common pathway [33]. Numerous waterborne outbreaks have been reported but likely represent only a small fraction of all disease. While norovirus has been detected in sewage [34,35], its role in transmission is uncertain.

Many factors may facilitate environmental transmission of norovirus (see Box 1). While few data clearly demonstrate the role of environmentally mediated transmission in the spread of norovirus, the most convincing evidence comes from outbreaks where groups in a common setting with no known direct contact have been sequentially affected [36]. Perhaps the clearest such example comes from an outbreak involving a single aircraft [37**]. After a vomiting incident on an a long-haul flight, flight attendants working on the aircraft on 8 flight sectors over 6 days

developed gastroenteritis. A rare genotype of norovirus was detected in specimens from multiple crew members. Working in the contaminated cabin environment was the only apparent exposure; no opportunities for person-to-person transmission were identified. Another compelling example comes from an outbreak linked to a concert hall [38]. In the 5 days after a concert attendee vomited in the hall, more than 300 people developed gastroenteritis. The highest risk was among people seated closest to where the vomiting incident occurred. An analogous situation was recorded on a cruise ship, where 6 consecutive cruises were affected [22]. In that outbreak, however, there was also widespread person-to-person transmission and the possibility that crew members carried the virus over between cruises. Outbreaks with multiple modes and complex chains of transmission are probably the norm in semi-closed settings where groups of people congregate, live and eat.

Virus may also be easily transferred between hands and surfaces [39], thereby facilitating the complete environmentally mediated transmission cycle. Noroviruses are highly infectious, with an ID_{50} between 10^1 and 10^3 virus particles [40**], so even low-level contamination may pose a transmission risk. Norovirus has a short incubation

Figure 1 Routes of transmission of norovirus from infected to uninfected people.



Norovirus transmission can occur via a range of transmission routes. Characteristics and behaviors of the infected host and potential susceptibles may mitigate the risk of transmission. This simple schematic is not meant to depict all the intricacies of each pathway, but rather to highlight the interaction of the various routes and to illustrate that all pathways require shedding of virus from infectious hosts. Different control measures may be targeted at each arrow; here, the role of environmental disinfection is highlighted. Certain practices (such as hand hygiene) may reduce transmission through all pathways while targeted interventions (such as exclusion of ill food handlers from work) may reduce transmission through specific pathways.

Box 1 Factors that promote the environmental transmission of norovirus.

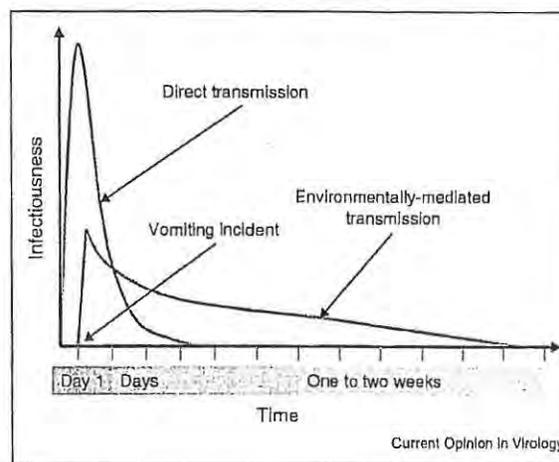
Factor	Evidence	Key references/examples
Large human reservoir	Incidence in developed countries is approximately 5% per year for all ages and 20% per year in children under the age of 5 years.	[2,3*,4,6]
Copious shedding in feces Widespread and rapid dissemination by vomit	Peak shedding is typically 10^5 – 10^9 particles/g of stool, but may be as high as 10^{11} . Settings where outbreaks are occurring may be widely contaminated and virus can be found on a range of surfaces. Outbreaks spread rapidly due to aerosolization of virus via vomitus, which also serves to contaminate environments for future exposures.	[72,73] [42,46**,47**,24,48,72–75]
Prolonged shedding	In experimentally infected adults, virus can be detected for a median of 4 weeks and up to 8 weeks (by RT-PCR). Virus can be detected for up to three weeks after the onset of symptoms in approximately 25% of community-acquired infections.	[48,72,76]
Environmental stability	On the basis of observations made in outbreaks, norovirus particles may remain infectious for two weeks on environmental surfaces and over 2 months in water. Cool, dry conditions appear to be most favorable for survival of infectious virus.	[48,52*,59]
Resistance to chemical disinfection	Chemical disinfection of surfaces is a key point of the transmission cycle for intervention, but due to the absence of an infectivity assay for human norovirus, determining the effectiveness of various chemicals has been based on cultivable surrogate viruses.	[65,66*]
Diverse range of fomites can become contaminated	Both high-touch and low-touch surfaces may become contaminated by both fecal matter or vomitus. Food (though not strictly a fomite) may become contaminated in a similar way by infected food handlers.	[44**,46**,24,73,77]

period and potentially long infectious period [41,42]. So, practically speaking, in an outbreak setting, it is very difficult to know who acquires infection from whom, since transmission may be direct (and of short interval between cases) or environmentally mediated (with a serial interval up to several weeks) (see Figure 2). Understanding the relative importance of direct versus environmentally mediated transmission will help to target control measures, which at present are broad and based on general food safety and infection control principles [33,43].

Environmental contamination

Widespread contamination of environments during outbreaks has been documented, particularly in hospital settings. Noroviruses are hardy and have been detected on environmental surfaces during non-outbreak periods, and non-outbreak-related strains have been detected on environmental surfaces during outbreaks, so the role of this contamination is not clear [44**,45**]. In a series of studies, Gallimore *et al.* detected contamination of surfaces including switches, televisions, cellular phones, public phones, water taps, toilet light switches, microwave ovens, keyboards, bed frames and chairs [46**,47**]. Contamination of keyboards and computer mice was detected in one school outbreak, along with epidemiological evidence of their role in transmission [23]. Although the highest levels of contamination probably occur on surfaces directly contaminated by vomitus or feces, virus has been detected on mantle pieces and light fittings, located above 1.5 m in a hotel affected by an outbreak [24]. This observation, together with epidemiologic data, suggests that vomiting accelerates and magnifies spread of norovirus [42,48]. Fortunately, data suggest that enhanced cleaning procedures reduce the

Figure 2 Illustration of the direct and indirect transmission potential of norovirus over time.



At its peak, we hypothesize that direct contact is the highest risk of transmission, but the duration of infectiousness from environmental contamination is likely much longer, with evidence suggesting two weeks or longer [48,52*]. Here, this concept is illustrated: the total amount of transmission resulting from direct or environmental transmission is the combined area under each curve. The average infectious period from direct transmission is typically just over 1 day, though with variable duration of shedding and the potential for environmental transmission, there may be substantial heterogeneity in the infectious period among cases. We do not intend to suggest any definitive conclusions of the overall importance of direct versus environmental transmission, but rather to illustrate that the total number of cases resulting from a single case (the reproduction number) is the sum of the area under two curves and is complicated to measure in practice.

amount of detectable virus on environmental surfaces [47**]. Anecdote of the potential of fomites to harbor and transmit virus comes from an observation following an outbreak in a UK hospital. Twelve days after the end of the outbreak and following standard vacuum cleaning, two workers who replaced a carpet in the affected unit became ill with norovirus gastroenteritis within 48 hours, highlighting the environmental stability of virus [48]. Notably, carpets and other soft furnishings are now not recommended in patient care areas [43].

Detection of virus in the environment

Human noroviruses cannot be grown in cell culture [49], so PCR is the main technique for detecting norovirus in food, water and environmental samples. However, for a variety of reasons, including the diversity of surfaces, the heterogenous distribution of viral contamination and the possible presence of PCR inhibitors, detection in food and environmental samples is difficult and restricted to specialist laboratories. A crucial limitation of current methods is that they detect viral RNA, which may not indicate infectious virus. Thus, results from environmental samples should be interpreted with caution and in the context of available epidemiological or clinical information [44**,50]. Sterile swabs can be used for environmental sampling, after which viral RNA is extracted from the swabs; testing should be done in consultation with reference laboratories [51].

Norovirus survival and persistence

For viruses that are transmitted by droplet contamination of fomites, survival in the environment may play a key role in transmissibility. Virus has been found to be infectious to human volunteers after remaining in water for 2 months; intact virus capsid can be detected for over 3 years [52*]. But since noroviruses cannot be cultured *in vitro*, most studies that have been performed cannot directly examine virus survival under different conditions. Feline calicivirus (FCV) and murine norovirus (MNV) are used as surrogates for norovirus, with the latter being the only norovirus that can be grown in cell culture [53]. Both surrogates are inactivated by relatively extreme UV, heat, and high pressure [54–56]. FCV RNA can persist on experimentally contaminated surfaces for up to 7 days [57] but evidence suggests that actual survival on surfaces is substantially shorter (~3 days) [58].

The clinical and epidemiological implications of survival characteristics are difficult to assess directly, though the laboratory studies cited above are broadly consistent with studies of norovirus time-series trends and associations with weather variables. Short-term increases in norovirus cases have been associated with cool and dry weather in England and Wales and Canada [59,60]. However, it is important to note that these environmental factors interact with host factors in complex ways. The emergence of novel variants that escape immunity in human hosts may

result in increased incidence during warm weather months, even when survival conditions are unfavorable [61]. For seasonal pathogens, small fluctuations in transmissibility can result in large swings in incidence. For this reason, it may actually be impossible to conclusively establish the underlying environmental causes of seasonality [62,63].

Role of disinfectants and sanitizers

Chemical disinfection is a central approach to interrupt the chain of norovirus transmission [39,64]. The EPA maintains a list of approved products for norovirus disinfection (http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_g_norovirus.pdf) based on their efficacy against FCV. Notably, FVC exhibits different physiochemical properties than human norovirus and therefore might not reflect a similar disinfection efficacy profile. MNV may in some ways better reflect norovirus susceptibility (compared with FCV) since it is shed in feces and is spread by the fecal-oral route, although it does not cause overt gastroenteritis in mice. Hence, the fact that FCV is less resistant to disinfectants than MNV may suggest that norovirus is also less resistant than FCV and, therefore, the products on the EPA list may overestimate the efficacy of commercial products on human norovirus [54,65].

Largely due to the uncertainty from *in vitro* studies, CDC recommends chlorine bleach solution at a concentration of 1000–5000 ppm (5–25 tablespoons household bleach [5.25%] per gallon of water) for disinfection of hard, nonporous, environmental surfaces whenever feasible [33,66*]. In healthcare settings, cleaning products and disinfectants used should be EPA registered and have label claims for use in health-care settings [33]. Hand hygiene is also a key part of the environmental transmission cycle since contaminated hands can transfer virus to touched surfaces, and hands may be a vehicle for transferring virus from contaminated surfaces back to humans [36]. With respect to the efficacy of specific hand sanitizers, *in vitro* studies remain inconclusive for the same reasons as for chemical surface disinfection (an inability to culture human norovirus and unreliability of viral RNA as an indicator of infectious particles). The use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers remains controversial, due to both inconclusive *in vitro* finger pad studies [65,67,68] and epidemiological studies where higher outbreak rates have been detected in long-term care facilities that use alcohol-based hand sanitizers [69], though the reason for association in this one study are debated [70]. For these reasons, washing with soap and running water for at least 20 s remains the preferred means to decontaminate hands [67,71].

Conclusion

Despite increases in knowledge about norovirus disease and transmission in recent years, we have yet to achieve sufficient understanding of the role of environmental

transmission of the virus and what impacts on disease incidence can be achieved with control measures. Current evidence suggests that the virus is environmentally stable and resistant to disinfection and that environmental contamination with norovirus is common both within and outside outbreak settings. Studies confirming the importance of environmental transmission, where risk of disease can be linked to exposure to a contaminated environment, are needed to firmly establish the role of this mechanism of spread, especially in healthcare settings. Ultimately, evidence is needed for effectiveness of control measures that target environmental transmission.

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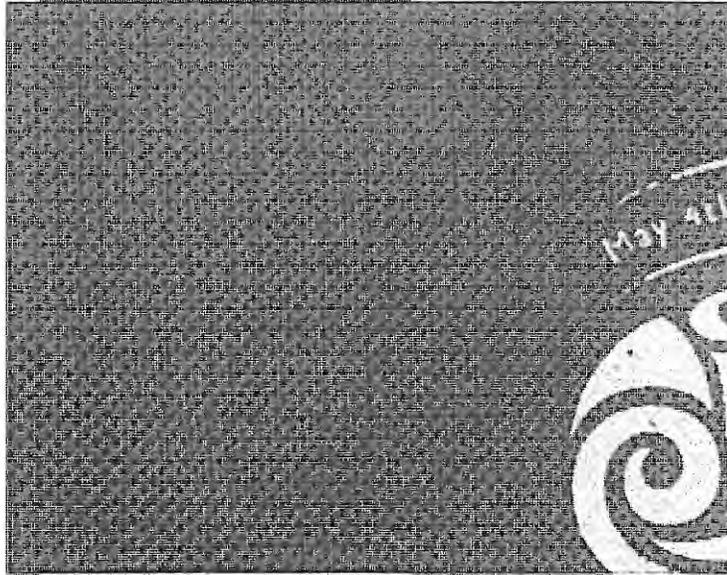
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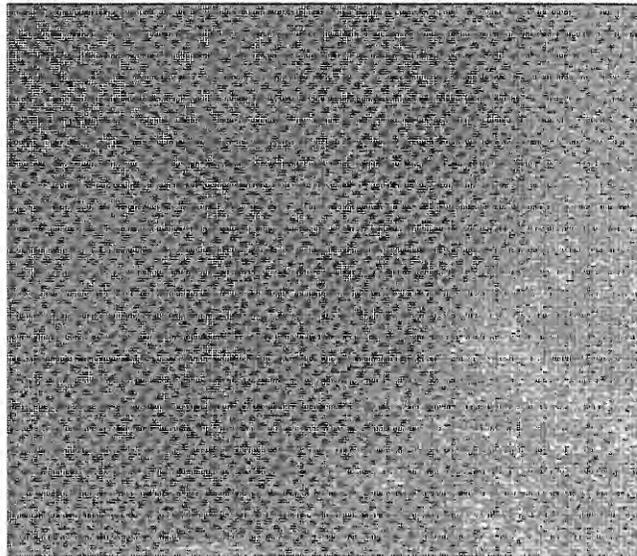
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Laundering to Sanitize Bags



Outer surface



Inner surface

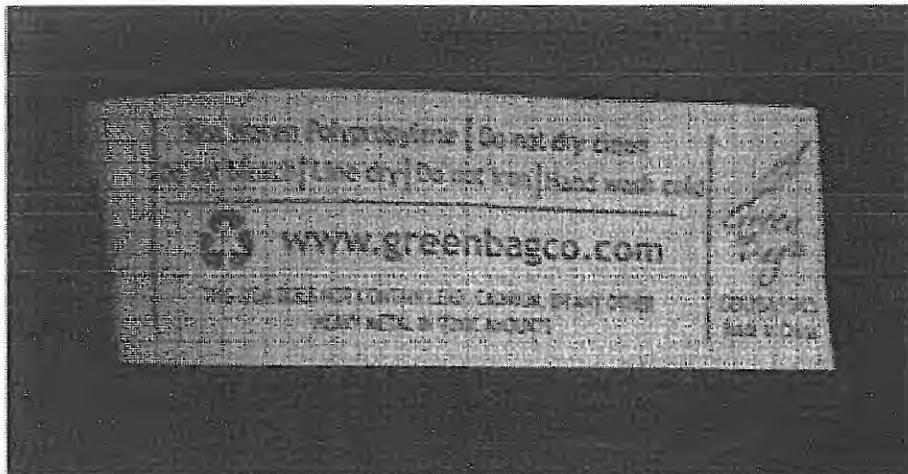


earthwise

Made in China
100% Non Woven Polypropylene
Machine Wash, Gentle Cycle
Do Not Bleach, Do Not Tumble Dry
This Bag Does Not Contain Lead, Cadmium or
Any Other Heavy Metal in Toxic Amounts
Contains No Post Consumer Recycled Material

www.earthwisebags.com

Non-Woven PP Shopping Bags



CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/features/norovirus/>)

Wash laundry thoroughly

Immediately remove and wash clothing or linens that may be contaminated with vomit or stool. Handle soiled items carefully—without agitating them—to avoid spreading virus. If available, wear rubber or disposable gloves while handling soiled clothing or linens and wash your hands after handling. The items should be washed with detergent at the maximum available cycle length and then machine dried.

Phys.Org (<http://phys.org/news121006234.html>)

(Source: Association for Professionals in Infection Control)

4. Don't Air Your Dirty Laundry

Direct contact with a sick person is not required to contaminate soft surfaces. The norovirus can spread from a contaminated pillowcase to a clean towel in a pile of laundry. To disinfect laundry, wash with hot water and dry on "high." Add bleach to wash if heavily soiled with vomit or feces.

UK NHS (<http://www.erypct.nhs.uk/upload/HERHIS/East%20Riding%20PCTs/Document%20Store/Leaflets%20-%20public/What%20is%20Norovirus.pdf>)

What happens about washing my clothes?

Your clothing has been put into a bag which is water soluble. This bag is compatible with domestic washing machines. This means that your relative can take the washing home and put it direct into the washing machine without opening the bag and handling the soiled linen.

For best results these recommendations should be followed:

- Put the unopened patient clothing bag into the washing machine on its own. Do not add other articles of linen or clothing to the machine. This will allow full agitation of the bag and dilution of its contents.
- Wash hands with soap to reduce risk of any cross contamination.
- Wash the clothing at the highest temperature the clothing will allow. The bag seam and tie will dissolve at any temperature however, thus releasing the contents of the bag to allow it to be washed.
- Use a biological powder / tablet / liquid if possible.
- Once the washing machine cycle is complete, please remove the plastic bag as this does not dissolve, and dispose of it in your normal household waste. The bag is now clean.
- Do not tumble dry the plastic bag.
- Dry the clothing as normal.

Olefins (Polypropylene)

Olefins are produced from ethylene and from propylene, petroleum by-products that are inexpensive and available in great quantities. The olefin fiber most used in the home is polypropylene. It is a fiber with many excellent traits, as well as a few negative ones that limit its uses. Currently it is used for, among other things, rugs, upholstery fabrics, rope, disposable diapers, and apparel, especially sportswear and activewear. Polyethylene, which is used for furnishings, car upholstery, blinds, and awnings, is omitted from the discussion that follows. It differs substantially in character from polypropylene and is much more limited in use.

Properties of Polypropylene. Polypropylene is extremely lightweight—the lightest of any fiber. It can be made into very lightweight, warm sweaters and blankets. Among its other merits are that it can be made into fabrics that are strong, abrasion-resistant, and wrinkle-resistant. Polypropylene fabrics can be heat-set into creases that are permanent, so long as they are not exposed to high temperatures. Polypropylene fibers are extremely inabsorbent (the least absorbent of all the synthetic fibers). Some assert that polypropylene wicks extremely well, and it has become a popular choice for active sportswear. Whether or not polypropylene fibers actually wick well, however, is a matter of debate. Unlike a fabric made from a hydrophilic, absorbent fiber such as cotton, polypropylene fabric will not become soaked with perspiration and lose its heat-insulating ability; thus it has been favored for cold-weather sportswear. And unlike many other synthetic fibers, it resists static buildup. Polypropylene is not harmed by mildew or by moths or other insects. Pilling is often a problem for polypropylene fabrics.

Other problems that afflict polypropylene fabrics are poor dyeability (which producers have made slow progress in improving), strong sensitivity to heat and light (it has the lowest resistance to ultraviolet radiation of all fibers), extremely low absorbency, and ready susceptibility to oil-staining and odor-holding. Its heat and light sensitivity can be substantially reduced with chemical additives, resulting in fibers with adequate resistance for most uses. Its laundering problems, especially those caused by polypropylene's oleophilic tendencies, are less tractable.

Caring for Polypropylene Fabrics. Like other hydrophobic, oleophilic fibers, polypropylene is prone to retaining oily soils from, for instance, food spills or the body. On the other hand, it is quite resistant to water-based stains, which can sometimes just be wiped off—a real virtue in carpeting. Dry cleaning is not usually recommended for polypropylene because it shrinks in perchlorethylene, the most commonly used drycleaning fluid; if dry cleaning is recommended, an alternative solvent will be specified on the care label. If dry cleaning is necessary, the cleaner should be made aware of the item's fiber content.

Unfortunately, polypropylene does not readily launder clean, as it can take neither hot water (it shrinks) nor vigorous agitation. Polypropylene may be washed only in warm or cool water, with gentle agitation. Most soaps, detergents, and bleaches may be used. Because it is prone to oil-staining and holding body odors, getting it really clean and fresh is difficult. Polypropylene tends to be low in static, but if you do have a static problem, use a fabric softener. Because it is quite heat sensitive, line-dry or tumble dry polypropylene with cool air or at the lowest dryer setting followed by a cool-down period. It dries very readily, so do not be tempted to turn up the heat out of fear that otherwise it will take forever to dry. Be most careful with irons! If an iron touches polypropylene fabric, it may melt; using a press cloth with a cool iron is wise.

Lastol is, technically, a generic subclass fiber name (approved by the FTC in 2003) that may be used as an alternative to the name "olefin." This means that it is different enough from olefin to merit separate identification on fiber content labels. Lastol is a stretch fiber that is both considerably more elastic and more heat- and chemical-resistant than olefin. Lastol also has the advantage of being resistant to drycleaning chemicals that harm olefin. Its manufacturers describe it as having a cottony hand with a natural feel to it. So far, it is used in easy-care stretch apparel, cotton shirts, garment-washed denim, casual and quality shirts, blouses, professional wear, and uniforms.

Lastol is dry-cleanable and readily launderable. Its manufacturers say that it will not shrink or lose its shape or stretch recovery even after multiple launderings or dry cleanings. Hot water, tumbling dry, and bleach are all safe for lastol, but, as with any new fiber or fabric, follow care labels until you gain experience with it.

Microfibers

Microdenier, or microfiber, fabrics are woven from superfine fibers. You will sometimes see the term "microfiber" used to refer solely to polyester microfibers, these being the most familiar in apparel, but there are also rayon, nylon, and acrylic microfibers.

Only in the past decade have manufacturers begun to produce superfine fibers or microfibers, generally defined as those of less than one denier. The sizes of silk and man-made fibers are specified in "deniers," or in terms of their linear density.* One denier of a given fiber is defined as the weight in grams of 9,000 meters of the fiber. For example, if 9,000 meters of polyester weighed 1 gram, this polyester would be 1-denier; if 9,000 meters of it weighed 3 grams, it would be 3-denier. (A "tex" is $\frac{1}{9}$ of a denier, or the weight in grams of 1,000 meters of fiber.) Higher deniers (or tex numbers) imply bigger (greater diameter) fibers, but because different kinds of fibers have different weights, you cannot conclude that 1-denier nylon is the same diameter as 1-denier polyester. The first microfibers were 1-denier, or about the

LAUNDRY

THE HOME COMFORTS
BOOK OF CARING FOR CLOTHES AND LINENS

CHERYL MENDELSON

Illustrated by Harry Bates

SCRIBNER

New York London Toronto Sydney



Rick Hangartner <hangarr09@gmail.com>

Hi, question about norovirus control

1 message

Rick Hangartner [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 22, 2013 at 8:27 PM

To: william.e.keene [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Keene,

Thanks for talking to me a couple of weeks ago about the norovirus case you and Dr. Repp investigated. Since we talked I read your Journal of Infectious Disease paper and shared it with some health professionals I felt should also read it. I think they have found your work relevant and interesting.

I have a question about norovirus control, if I might. I looked into what guidelines I could find for laundering clothing and other items that may be contaminated with norovirus. I've attached a summary of three sources that I think are reasonably representative and credible ("laundryinstructions.pdf"). By the way, the links should be "live" so you can review the full source materials yourself. It seems these sources suggest that items should be washed at relatively high temperatures for a long agitation cycle, with bleach, and then dried at perhaps medium to high heat. This would comport with common guidelines for washing undergarments I might add.

It turns out that the reusable bags we now see in the stores for \$0.60 - \$1.00 are spunbond ("non-woven") polypropylene made in China. Currently the bag manufacturers are starting to market a newer type made of "soft" Tyvek, which is spunbond polyethylene. I've also attached a page ("laundrylabels.pdf") that includes a facsimile of the laundry tag instructions for Earthwise spunbond polypropylene bags and pictures I took of two tags in an Earthwise (Fred Meyer) and a Green Bag (Winco) bag. Finally, I've also attached a couple of pages from a book I found "Laundry: The Home Comforts Book of Caring for Clothes and Linen" that discusses laundering polypropylene fabrics.

I also talked to a Dupont representative about laundering soft Tyvek. He confirmed by understanding that spunbond polypropylene and soft Tyvek should be laundered in cold water, or at worst lukewarm water, and should only be air-dried. Bags that are dried in hot water and run through a hot dryer will have a short lifetime, maybe 10 launderings. They are also likely to shrink unevenly and become unusable, perhaps after even just a single cycle. In sum, the laundering instructions for these bags would appear to be significantly gentler than the laundering guidelines for controlling norovirus.

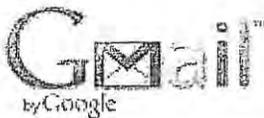
I would also note these bags have what I learned is called a "pin-rolled" textured surface. I've enclosed a page with a photo of the outside and inside surfaces of a spunbond polypropylene bag. It seems to me this texture could also influence laundering requirements to control norovirus.

So what I'd like to ask is if you have any opinions about whether the laundering requirements the fabric and bag manufacturers specify are sufficient for disinfecting bags that may be contaminated with norovirus (or seasonal influenza or common infections bacteria)?

I'm going to run my own laundry test once I determine there is no chance my washer and dryer won't be damaged if I process the bags in a manner that is required for controlling norovirus. I'll let you know what I determine.

Thanks very much for any information you feel comfortable providing.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner



Rick Hangartner <hangartn09@gmail.com>

My apologies, Re: Hi, question about norovirus control

1 message

Rick Hangartner <hangartn09@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 23, 2013 at 6:23 AM

To: "Hall, Aron (CDC/OID/NCIRD)" <[REDACTED]>

Dear Dr. Hall,

I sent you a copy of the wrong email. As you might have ascertained from the time I sent it, I've been working long to gather information before a meeting Thursday AM meeting with City officials to discuss this.

The only difference between the copy you got and the email actually to you I had drafted was the first paragraph, which I insert here:

Dear Dr. Hall,

Thanks for talking to me a couple of weeks ago and providing me with some of your recent papers about your work on norovirus. As you might expect because of the local angle, folks I shared those with found your paper reviewing the work by Dr. Keene and Dr. Repp on the case in Oregon to be most interesting. But your other paper was actually more valuable as I drew attention to how it spoke to many incorrect assumptions and other issues that had not been considered by policymakers and elected officials.

I have a question about norovirus control, if I might.

My apologies again for sending you the wrong email.Best regards,
Rick Hangartner,

On Tue, Jan 22, 2013 at 8:30 PM, Rick Hangartner <hangartn09@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Hall,

Thanks for talking to me a couple of weeks ago about the norovirus case you and Dr. Repp investigated. Since we talked I read your Journal of Infectious Disease paper and shared it with some health professionals I felt should also read it. I think they have found your work relevant and interesting.

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Thanks very much for any information you feel comfortable providing.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner

"The map is not the territory" - Korzybski 1931
"The plural of anecdote IS data" - Wolfinger 1969
"The plural of anecdote is not data" - "experts" today (Kotsonis 1996?)
"The data is not the territory" - me

Sanitizing the Laundry

Killing germs on cloth . . . Germicidal effects of ordinary laundering and dry cleaning . . . Chlorine bleach and other disinfectants for the laundry . . . Laundering away dust mites and mite allergens . . . Importance of hot water . . . Lice and nits, fleas . . . Textile dermatitis . . . Poison ivy and other plant allergens

The home laundry sometimes has to deal with clothing or bedding that has been contaminated by more than ordinary soil. When microorganisms, dust mites, vermin, or allergic substances adhere to fabrics, the best solution is almost always a trip to the washing machine. Home laundering is usually your most effective means of sanitizing textile goods.

This chapter describes the ways in which ordinary laundering has sanitizing effects and the ordinary means by which we can heighten these effects in our home laundries. None of the methods discussed guarantees germ-free fabrics. They are merely ways of reducing the numbers of pathogens that may adhere to fabrics as part of ordinary good housekeeping. Those who wish to target specific pathogens and those who are dealing with situations that pose serious health threats should seek medical advice or the advice of public health authorities in their own communities.

Infectious Microorganisms

Germ and Cloth. Long before anyone had ever heard of bacteria, it was discovered that cloth could transmit infection from the sick to the well, a fact that was used for both good and ill. The pox was sent to enemies on infected fabrics. The spread of infectious disease was restrained by avoiding contact with contaminated cloth and burning the clothes and linens of victims. The eponymous *Velveteen Rabbit* has to be saved by magic because it is to be

burned, along with all the other fabrics that touched the skin of the child who has just survived scarlet fever.

Scientific research confirms that microorganisms—bacteria, viruses, yeasts—may survive on fabrics for significant periods of time and may survive transfer from one cloth to another. One study, in fact, has found that some fibers are more hospitable than others to certain viruses. In the age of antibiotics, advanced indoor plumbing, and vaccinations, however, sickroom routines that were once familiar in every household through the early twentieth century are now forgotten. No smelly disinfectants are used to wipe down every surface and utensil near the sick one. No linens are burned or boiled, and handkerchiefs, "body linen," and bed linens of the sick are not laundered separately. By and large, this is as it should be.

In every household, however, there are times when it is valuable to exercise a degree of special caution—for example, in the case of dangerous infectious illness, dirty diapers, or flood-contaminated textiles. It is helpful for all of us to understand how ordinary laundering procedures include physical, thermal, and chemical elements, each of which has profound sanitizing effects. Of course, in the event of a natural disaster or serious illness, you must seek expert advice on what safety measures you need to take. Your local extension service will have valuable information on disinfecting after a flood or other disaster. Your medical advisors will have guidance on household disinfection when there is infection in the home. You may also wish to contact your local public health agency.

Germicidal Aspects of Ordinary Laundering and Dry Cleaning. If you did nothing more than wash cloth goods in plain water in your washing machine, this would to some degree be sanitizing. Plain water physically removes vast numbers of microorganisms and sends them down the drain—alive and well, perhaps, but gone from your clothes and linens. When the water is hot, the sanitizing effect of agitating in plain water is greatly increased, for water that is hot enough kills germs. More water, hotter water, and longer exposure to heat increase the sanitizing effects of laundering. Ordinary detergents inactivate great numbers of microorganisms. Many studies have shown that sodium hypochlorite (household chlorine bleach) is a highly effective germicide in the laundry, and adding chlorine bleach to your wash also increases the sanitizing effect of cooler-water washes. The heat of the dryer kills off still more microorganisms, and so does dryness per se. If you hang your clothes to dry in the sun, the ultraviolet radiation from the sun kills many microorganisms. Hot irons are also highly germicidal. Thus germs are killed very effectively by the procedures of ordinary laundering in hot water with detergent and bleach, tumbling dry in heat or sunning, and ironing.

But plain laundering, while sufficiently germ-killing for normal household purposes, should not be overestimated. It does not permit you to be confident that you have killed any particular microorganism that you may be targeting,

or that the fabrics have been completely disinfected. Home laundries are not set up to permit you to monitor or maintain the water temperature; few home washing machines even deliver water initially hot enough to kill many microorganisms. The amount of bleach used may not be sufficient. The duration of the germicidal action may not be long enough to be effective. For example, the polio virus would be inactivated within ten minutes if exposed to temperatures exceeding 122°F (50°C), but hepatitis B would require higher temperatures. *Candida albicans*, a yeastlike pathogen that causes one type of vaginal infection and is thought to be transmittable on underwear, survives in ordinary laundering with a water temperature of 120°F. You would have to launder articles at 158°F or higher to kill it, or iron them with a hot iron. Keep in mind that today's home washers, even set on hot, often give water cooler than 120°F. See chapter 4, "Laundering," pages 65-67.

If clothes or furnishings are not washable but must be dry-cleaned, the solvents and heat of the steam used in professional dry cleaning, too, will have a germ-killing effect. But the sort of dry cleaning you do yourself at coin-operated machines does not use steam and is not recommended, for example, as a way of cleaning flood-soiled clothes.

Laundering and Sanitizing Kitchen Cloth. I much prefer cloth for kitchen cleanups and dishwashing to sponges. This is a personal preference, but it is a fact that sponges are harder to keep sanitary. Sponges are havens for bacteria; food particles get deep inside them and they stay wet longer. Studies show that sponges typically hold large numbers of potentially hazardous microorganisms. But dishcloths and towels, too, will breed huge numbers of bacteria if left wet and soiled. Odors in sponges, dishcloths, or other kitchen cleaning implements indicate that bacteria are growing, but if a cloth or sponge lacks odors, this is no guarantee of safety. If you do not want to give up sponges, wash them thoroughly after use in hot sudsy water, sanitize them occasionally (see below), and do not keep them long. Launder dishcloths frequently too; use one or more fresh ones each time you do a kitchen cleanup or wash the dishes.

When you have finished a kitchen cleanup, hang any still-usable rags, cloths, and towels to dry on a rack kept for that purpose. Remove soiled ones for laundering (you can hang them to dry on the side of a laundry basket so that they do not make odors in the laundry room) and put out fresh ones, ready for the next round of cooking. Do not leave anything to dry in the kitchen that you would not want to be used. Someone will surely come along and use it.

Ordinary laundering in hot water and all-purpose detergent of dish towels, hand towels, dishcloths, aprons, potholders, cheesecloths, pastry cloths, rags, and other kitchen cloths will generally make them safely clean. For extra insurance, when you feel it is necessary, you can use chlorine bleach to sanitize them; chlorine bleach is effective in warm or cool water although it is best

to avoid washing kitchen cloths in cool. (Sanitizing instructions for kitchen cloths are given below.) Some people do not like to use chlorine bleach, but they might wish to do so when they have some particular reason to be concerned or when the kitchen linens are beginning to look dingy. To give yourself the option of using bleach on kitchen cloths, never buy cloth for the kitchen that you cannot bleach.

Note that the trend to elevate looks over function has infiltrated even the manufacture of these utilitarian articles. Many manufacturers try to sell cloth for the kitchen that not only cannot be bleached but that bleeds dye, shrinks, is inabsorbent, and is heat-sensitive. Read the care label and resist such items no matter how attractive they look in the store. You will hate them in your kitchen.

Disinfecting in the Laundry with Chlorine Bleach. Chlorine bleach is highly effective against a wide range of bacteria, viruses, molds, and mildew and serves as an excellent sanitizer and deodorant in the laundry for all chlorine bleach-safe fabrics. (See chapter 4, "Laundering," page 59 and "Bleaches" in the Glossary of Laundry Products and Additives, pages 72-74, on the effective use of chlorine bleach in the laundry. Refer to pages 73-74 for information on which fabrics chlorine bleach is safe for.) Nonetheless, if you are targeting some particular microorganism rather than aiming for a general sanitizing effect in your laundry, seek expert advice. The suggestions given below are not suitable for such specific purposes.

After six months or so, household bleach may no longer be fresh and should not be used for sanitizing or disinfection. (After nine to twelve months, bleach kept for laundering purposes should also be replaced.) Note: For sanitizing and disinfection use only plain or regular-scented chlorine bleach, not the perfumed types. In addition, do not use the thicker, nonsplashing or gel versions of chlorine bleach for sanitizing or disinfection.

For instructions on safety in using chlorine bleach, refer to pages 73-74, and read the bottle label. Do not mix chlorine bleach with acids, ammonia, or acid- or ammonia-containing products. Doing so will produce a toxic gas or other dangerous reaction. In fact, you should never mix chlorine bleach with anything other than water and ordinary detergent unless you are specifically instructed to do so by a reliable authority. Be careful not to splash chlorine bleach on clothes, furniture, or other furnishings. Also, never pour undiluted bleach directly on clothes and linens and never use it on dry clothes or clothes that are not immersed in water. Either use your machine's automatic dispenser or mix bleach with a quart or two of water before pouring it into a washer or laundry tub containing water and clothes.

Disinfect chlorine bleach-safe laundry as follows:

In top-loading agitator-type washing machines: $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chlorine bleach per load. For extra-large washers, use $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups. Use with detergent. In

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HE and front-loading machines use the maximum amount of bleach your dispenser permits. (The low volume of water these machines use makes it possible for the lesser amount of bleach to offer a similar sanitizing effect.)

For tub sanitizing, first rinse out any heavy soil. Then soak garments for five minutes in a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chlorine bleach to 1 gallon water.

For disinfecting and deodorizing diapers in pails, soak in a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chlorine bleach per 1 gallon water for five minutes.

To sanitize dishcloths, dish towels, and rags, first wash soiled items thoroughly in hot sudsy water; be sure to remove all food particles. Then make a chlorine bleach solution using $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Let items soak in the solution for five minutes or more. (This also works for sponges, kitchen brushes, and pot scratchers, but do these implements separately from cloth.)

Hydrogen Peroxide/Oxygen Bleaches. Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) is effective against molds and many bacteria and viruses. It is the active element, directly or indirectly, in oxygen bleaches. Ordinary, nonactivated oxygen bleaches, or all-fabric or colorsafe bleaches, however, are not nearly as effective as chlorine bleach and are not effective sanitizers in the laundry. Activated oxygen bleaches such as Biz, however, are considerably more germicidal than nonactivated ones.¹ See the Glossary of Laundry Products and Additives, pages 71–72. At this time, unfortunately, I am unable to find a scientific comparison of activated oxygen bleach with chlorine bleach for laundry sanitizing purposes. I note, however, that government extension services and agencies suggest using chlorine bleach for decontaminating flood-damaged fabrics and do not list activated oxygen bleach among other disinfectants recommended for this purpose.

A 3 to 5 percent solution of hydrogen peroxide that you buy in the drugstore in a brown bottle is commonly used in the home as an antiseptic and gentle, all-fabric bleach. (See pages 70–71 in the Glossary of Laundry Products and Additives.) It becomes inactive in nine months to a year.²

Other Disinfectants. To disinfect clothes and linens that cannot tolerate chlorine bleach, the use of quaternary compounds or pine oil or other phenolic disinfectants is sometimes suggested. These products will say "disinfectant" on the label and will bear an EPA registration number, as chlorine bleach does, but, unlike chlorine bleach, they are not laundry products, are not especially formulated for use as laundry disinfectants, and usually bear no instructions, or very limited instructions, on how to use them on fabrics. You can find these products in drugstores, janitorial supply stores, home centers, or in supermarkets on the cleaning product shelves—not in the laundry section.

LAUNDRY

THE HOME COMFORTS
BOOK OF CARING FOR CLOTHES AND LINENS

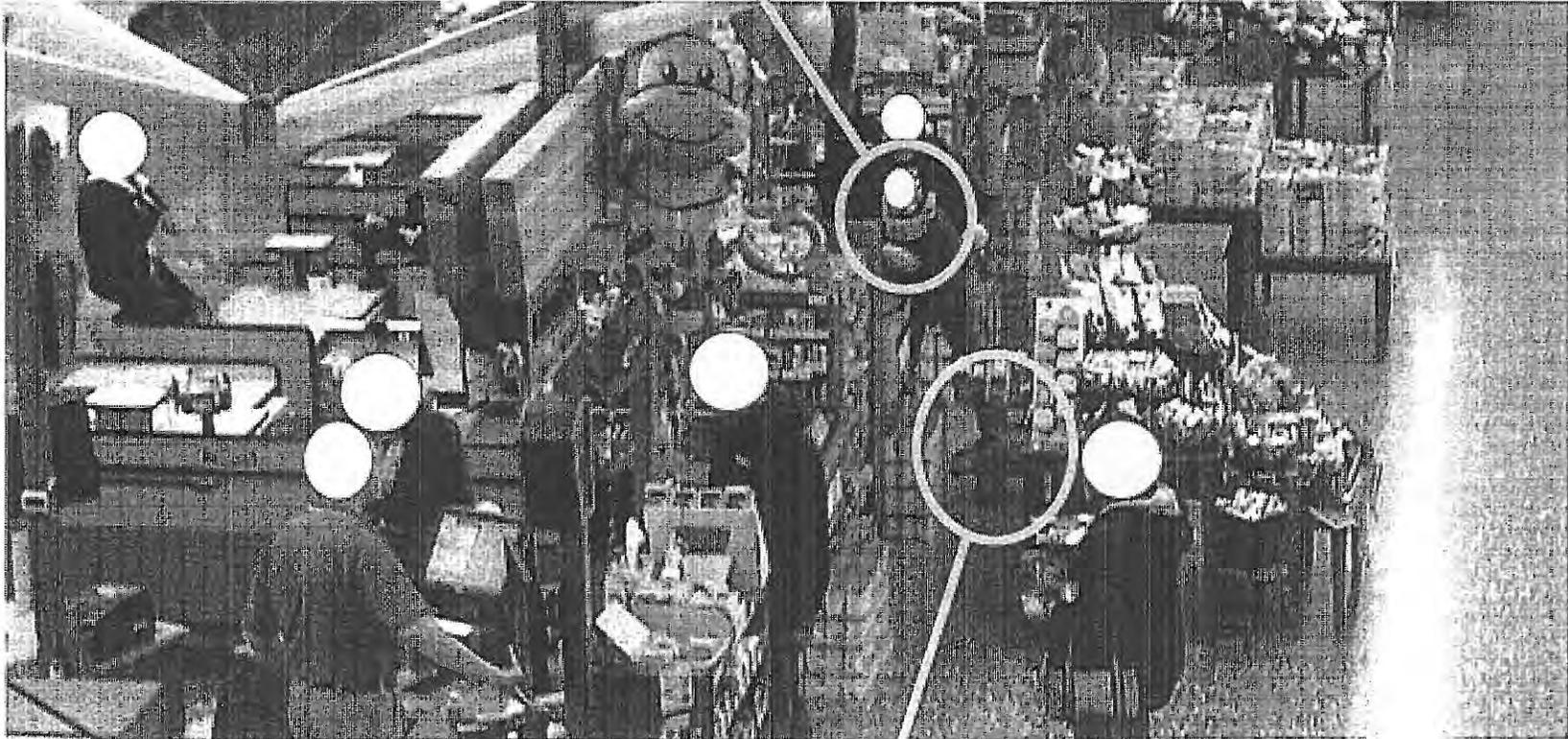
CHERYL MENDELSON

Illustrated by Harry Bates

SCRIBNER

New York London Toronto Sydney

baby - can aerosolize viruses in vehicle to land on exposed bags, parent may not properly decontaminate hands before contacting bags



reused bags on lower shelf of cart where environmental contaminants may be stirred up and land on bags

Reused bag placed in food handling area rather than bagging area of self-bagging checkout stand



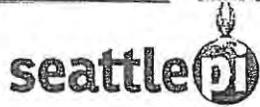
Reusable bag carried through store in close proximity to floor where environmental contaminants may be stirred up to land on bag (especially bag bottom which may be set on checkout stand surfaces)



Encouraging Potentially Risky Behavior



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Fred Meyer: Ban on plastic bags is 'inevitable'

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Reusable grocery bags made from recycled plastic bottles and cotton are sold at a Whole Foods Market. That company has already eliminated disposable plastic grocery bags. (Getty Images)

Fred Meyer doesn't think we'll be asking for plastic at the checkout counter for much longer.

The grocery retailer is eliminating plastic bags at stores in its hometown of Portland as part of a trial that will likely extend company-wide in the future.

"We're doing it because we felt like it was inevitable," said Melinda Merrill, a spokeswoman for Fred Meyer. "That's why we decided to get ahead of it."

Fred Meyer, along with other grocers, is working with legislators in Oregon on a plan that will eventually eliminate plastic bags at stores statewide. Merrill said it's likely a similar partnership will happen in Washington, though she's not sure exactly when.

"We've found that when you take plastic out of a store, customers switch to paper — which is a huge cost for us," Merrill said.

In Oregon, the plan is to eliminate plastic bags and charge 5 cents for paper.

"I think we'd like to try to do that in Washington," Merrill said.

Fred Meyer is treating Portland like a litmus test. So far, the company has already identified a few problems.

Shoppers who use walkers or other mobility devices have found reusable bags are too long. And others have complained that it's hard to keep reusable bags clean.

Merrill said Fred Meyer is toying with the idea of offering smaller semi-reusable plastic bags to solve the size problem. The issue of sanitation could be solved with a washable bag liner.

Along with Oregon, California is coming close to passing legislation banning plastic bags.

Seattle voters turned down a similar proposal in August of last year. But that measure wasn't an outright ban; it would have imposed a 20-cent fee on paper and plastic bags at grocery stores.

Merrill said its easier for retailers to adhere to one set of rules regarding bags.

"If Seattle has a ban and Everett has a fee and Redmond has a different fee, it's really hard to implement," she said. "We would screw that up."

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Posted by Amy Rolph on July 22, 2010 at 1:31 pm | Permalink | View comments

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Amy Rolph

Amy Rolph writes about Seattle. That probably seems like a pretty general news beat, right?... More

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Encouraging potentially risky behavior that has no intrinsic or inextricable connection to banning plastic bags





Deadline Jan. 31 for bag design and logo contest

20 HOURS AGO • BY JAMES DAY. CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES

Those planning to enter Corvallis' Reusable Bag and Logo Contest must do so by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

The objective of the contest is to increase awareness about alternatives to single-use plastic carry-out bags in Corvallis. The City Council's ban on such bags for businesses with more than 50 employees went into effect Jan. 1. The ban will apply to businesses with fewer than 50 employees as of July 1.

The contest has three categories: reusable bags using new material, reusable bags using recycled material, and best logo. Bag contest winners will receive \$200. The logo contest winner takes home a \$90 gift bag.

In addition, mayor's choice and people's choice awards — including reusable bags and hardwood bird boxes — also will be given out.

The public can vote on the people's choice awards. Entries will be displayed before and after the 7 p.m. Feb. 5 "Runway Rubbish" recycled fashion show in the Memorial Union Ball Room at Oregon State University.

Contest winners will be announced at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Corvallis-Benton Public Library, 645 N.W. Monroe Ave., and winning entries will be displayed at the library through Feb. 28.

For an entry form and more information, see www.BringYourBagCoalition.com.

BRING YOUR BAG COALITION

HELPING THE TRANSITION TO REUSABLE BAGS IN CORVALLIS, OREGON

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Reusable Bag and Logo Contest

Celebrating Corvallis' Initiative to Promote Reusable Bags

The Bring Your Bag Team in partnership with the School of Design and Human Environment at OSU are sponsoring a Reusable Bag and Logo Contest. This is part of the outreach and marketing efforts for promoting reusable bags within the City of Corvallis. In January of 2013, the City's ordinance banning plastic bags and promoting reusable alternatives will officially go into effect. Establishing a local "brand" for the community's policy, and a unique reusable bag design, is just one step in the outreach efforts to help prepare and inspire local community members and businesses for the shift to reusable bags.

"We mailed informational packets to retail establishments throughout the city with employee postings and point of sale stickers," said Scott Dybvad of the City of Corvallis; "but we're really looking to the community for outreach and education efforts." The City pulled together an outreach team to help collaborate locally and work on the efforts. The group came up with the idea of calling on the artistic and creative talents of Corvallis residents to help create a unique reusable bag and a branding logo that will be on educational materials, reusable bags, websites, and other public marketing and outreach venues.

About the Contest

The Reusable Bag and Logo Contest is open to all Corvallis residents and will start on Nov. 7 and run through Nov. 26. The winning entries will be displayed at the Benton County Library. The Contest has three categories: Reusable Bag (using new material), Reusable Bag (using recycled material), and a Logo Contest. All original art must reflect the spirit of promoting reusable bags and be original pieces produced by the entrant.

Contest Entry and Submission

To enter the contest and submit your entry, follow the steps below. **The deadline for submitting Logo and Reusable Bag entries is 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2013.**

1. Complete the entry form:

Download the form titled "[Entry Form & Artist's Consent, Waiver of Liability, Indemnity and Release.](#)" The form must be completed by the artist and submitted at the time of entry in order for the art to be eligible.

2. Turn in your submission:

To submit your logo or reusable bag entry, do the following:

- 1. Submission of Logo:** Either email your Logo submission to bringyourbag2013@gmail.com or drop it off on an appropriate media device to the Oregon State's School of Design and Human Environment (Oregon State University, 228 Milam Hall, 97331). Your emailed entry should be in a digital high-resolution format and scalable for various size uses from small to

large. Preferred digital format is a vector file, however jpg, png and similar media formats are acceptable.

2. **Submission of Reusable Bags:** Bring your reusable bag submission to Oregon State's School of Design and Human Environment Oregon State University, 228 Milam Hall, 97331. After the contest, pick up your entries at 228 Milam Hall (winning entries will be displayed after the contest).

The Bring Your Bag Team, and partners on this effort, reserve the right to edit, adapt, and publish the submitted winning Logo entry and may use the winning Logo in any media. Compensation will be in the form of the winning prize.

Judging

The logo and reusable bag entries will receive three awards, and will be judged by three types of individuals or groups:

- **Panel of Judges Award.** A judging panel will be appointed by the Bring Your Bag Team. This panel will include community members, OSU professors or advisors, councilors, and businesses.
- **Honorable Mention**
 1. **People's Choice.** Members from the Corvallis community will choose the Honorable Mention winner by visiting the displayed entries and voting.
 2. **Mayor's Choice.** Mayor Julie Manning will choose an Honorable Mention winner.

Prizes

The winners, chosen by the Panel of Judges, will be notified by phone or email. The winner of the Reusable Bag Contest (using recycled materials) will receive \$200.00 – donated by Marys Peak Group Sierra Club. The winner of the Reusable Bag Contest (using new materials) will receive \$200.00 – donated by Surfrider Foundation. The winner of the Logo Contest will receive a gift bag, valued at \$90.00 – donated by VisitCorvallis. The gift bag contains: Finley Wildlife Refuge cap, water bottle, T-shirt, hand-quilted wall hanging, and "The Spirit of Corvallis" book. The winner of the Mayor's Choice Reusable Bag made from recycled material will receive a Truce Design reusable bag valued at \$28.00. The winner of the People's Choice Reusable Bag made from recycled material will receive a Truce Design reusable bag valued at \$28.00.

Contest Sponsors

The Bring Your Bag Team would like to thank OSU's School of Design and Human Environment, Surfrider Foundation, and Marys Peak Group Sierra Club for supporting and sponsoring this effort.

The Bring Your Bag Team is seeking reusable bag sponsors, printing sponsors and other business partners for bag giveaways and special promotions to support outreach and education efforts.

If you are interested in being a contest sponsor or a member of the Bring You Bag Team, please email [REDACTED]

US hit by new stomach bug spreading around globe

By MIKE STOBBE | Associated Press – Thu, Jan 24, 2013

NEW YORK (AP) — A new strain of stomach bug sweeping the globe is taking over in the U.S., health officials say.

Since September, more than 140 outbreaks in the U.S. have been caused by the new Sydney strain of norovirus. It may not be unusually dangerous; some scientists don't think it is. But it is different, and many people might not be able to fight off its gut-wrenching effects.

Clearly, it's having an impact. The new strain is making people sick in Japan, Western Europe, and other parts of the world. It was first identified last year in Australia and called the Sydney strain.

In the U.S., it is now accounting for about 60 percent of norovirus outbreaks, according to report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Norovirus — once known as Norwalk virus — is highly contagious and often spreads in places like schools, cruise ships and nursing homes, especially during the winter. Last month, 220 people on the Queen Mary II were stricken during a Caribbean cruise.

Sometimes mistakenly called stomach flu, the virus causes bouts of vomiting and diarrhea for a few days.

Every two or three years, a new strain evolves — the last was in 2009. The Sydney strain's appearance has coincided with a spike in influenza, perhaps contributing to the perception that this is a particularly bad flu season in the U.S.

Ian Goodfellow, a prominent researcher at England's University of Cambridge, calls norovirus 'the Ferrari of viruses' for the speed at which it passes through a large group of people.

"It can sweep through an environment very, very quickly. You can be feeling quite fine one minute and within several hours suffer continuous vomiting and diarrhea," he said.

Health officials have grown better at detecting new strains and figuring out which one is the culprit. They now know that norovirus is also the most common cause of food poisoning in the U.S.

It's spread by infected food handlers who don't do a good job washing their hands after using the bathroom. But unlike salmonella and other foodborne illnesses, norovirus can also spread in the air, through droplets that fly when a sick person vomits.

"It's a headache" to try to control, said Dr. John Crane, a University of Buffalo infectious disease specialist who had to deal with a norovirus outbreak in a hospital ward a couple of years ago.

Each year, noroviruses cause an estimated 21 million illnesses and 800 deaths, the CDC says.

For those infected, there's really no medicine. They just have to ride it out for the day or two of severe symptoms, and guard against dehydration, experts said.

The illness even got the attention of comedian Stephen Colbert, who this week tweeted: "Remember, if you're in public and have the winter vomiting bug, be polite and vomit into your elbow."

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!

- *To:* Ward2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Subject:* Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- *From:* Betty Abadia <amarone3@xxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Sat, 26 Jan 2013 18:16:47 -0600 (CST)
- *Organization:* Sierra Club
- *Reply-to:* Betty Abadia <amarone3@xxxxxxxx>

Jan 26, 2013

Council Member Roen Hogg

OR

Dear Council Member Hogg,

I write to express my strong support of the Corvallis ordinance that bans single use plastic checkout bags.

Already, more than 50 downtown Corvallis businesses, and thousands of Corvallis citizens support this effort. All we need is City action. Banning plastic bags best addresses the problems of single-use plastic bag waste, and most effectively moves consumers to sustainable alternatives.

Our dependence on single-use plastic products has devastating effects on the environment. From the Great Pacific Garbage Patch to the thousands of marine animals who die each year, plastic bags are contributing to environmental damage to our ocean systems. There is no reason something we use for a few minutes should last a few hundred years.

Corvallis is known for its environmental standards nationwide, and has received numerous awards. Passing a ban here will have a positive

1/30/13

Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!

impact. Of the bag bans in effect in the US, none have demonstrably hurt consumers or local business, but they have saved consumers, cities, and businesses the expenses incurred from dealing with these products.

Corvallis has the chance to set an example for other communities, and lay the groundwork for a statewide solution in 2013. Please ban single use plastic checkout bags here in Corvallis. And in Portland as well!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Betty Abadia

[REDACTED]
Portland, OR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Prev by Date: **FW: Public Records Request**
- Next by Date: **School Zone on SE 3rd Street for Lincoln Elementary**
- Previous by thread: **Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!**
- Next by thread: **City of Corvallis, OR: Planning Commission - CANCELLED**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

Re: plastic bag ban

- *To:* Pete & Lisa <plb_dunn@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Re: plastic bag ban
- *From:* mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- *Date:* Mon, 28 Jan 2013 13:30:49 -0800 (PST)
- *Cc:* ward3 <ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Ward 8 <ward8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Mary Steckel <Mary.Steckel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Hello,

Thank you for your message.

As you referenced below, the 5 cent fee was strongly advocated by the grocers because paper bags are more costly than plastic. It was also advocated by the citizen group that initially proposed the ordinance (the Marys River chapter of the Sierra Club) because it encourages shoppers to use re-usable bags because that is the ultimate goal.

Since the ordinance is still relatively new (and is yet to be implemented by smaller local businesses), I believe the Council and staff are interested in hearing from citizens and businesses about how the implementation is going before determining whether to revise the ordinance. I am sharing your comments with Council Leadership and staff for their reference.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Pete & Lisa" <plb_dunn@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2013 6:36:14 PM
 Subject: plastic bag ban

Ms. Manning,

I am writing out of frustration with the city's new plastic bag ban. Although I live just outside the city limits, I do a majority of my shopping in Corvallis and feel the effects of this ban. I believe my family is environmentally conscious and either recycles the plastic bags we got or reuses them for other purposes. We are now forced to use a cloth bag (which we were already doing for major shopping) or be forced to pay a tax because we forgot our bag. The imposed \$0.05 "fee" is not that at all. Where does the money go...right back into the coffers of the businesses. It does not cost them \$0.05 to provide a paper bag. Yet, do they lower prices because of the extra revenue they are receiving for "bag fees"? Absolutely not!

The city government is mandating a "fee" which it does not collect and is only in place to act as a punishment - is this the role of government? Why don't I get \$0.05 back from the business for every bag I bring in (some businesses do this by the way) to act as an incentive to use cloth bags? Why is it that the city council has decided to act on a matter that I do not believe the general public supports? At what point, do you (the government) stop acting on behalf of the citizens to protect us from ourselves - it should be a choice of the consumer. If this is such an issue, maybe the consumer should have a choice between the two options. I think you will find most people will opt for the plastic bag.

I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my frustrations and hope you consider the consequences of this law and act to repeal it in a timely manner. I know for my part if it does not change I will shop outside of Corvallis as much as possible, as I know of others who already have taken that step due to this ban.

Sincerely, Pete

- Prev by Date: **RE: Investment Council meeting - postponement of scheduled meeting on Thur. Feb.7, 2013**
- Next by Date: **Re: School Zone on SE 3rd Street for Lincoln Elementary**
- Previous by thread: **World Report: French capture Timbuktu | Syria WMD worries | Iran's space monkey**
- Next by thread: **January 30 Special Executive Session**

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and the Department of Economics in the School of Arts and Sciences
at the University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH PAPER NO. 13-2

Grocery Bag Bans and Foodborne Illness

Jonathan Klick

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Joshua D. Wright

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

This paper can be downloaded without charge from the
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Grocery Bag Bans and Foodborne Illness

Jonathan Klick

Joshua D. Wright*

November 2, 2012

Abstract

Recently, many jurisdictions have implemented bans or imposed taxes upon plastic grocery bags on environmental grounds. San Francisco County was the first major US jurisdiction to enact such a regulation, implementing a ban in 2007. There is evidence, however, that reusable grocery bags, a common substitute for plastic bags, contain potentially harmful bacteria. We examine emergency room admissions related to these bacteria in the wake of the San Francisco ban. We find that ER visits spiked when the ban went into effect. Relative to other counties, ER admissions increase by at least one fourth, and deaths exhibit a similar increase.

* Klick (jklick@law.upenn.edu), Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania and Erasmus Chair of Empirical Legal Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam; Wright (jwrightg@gmu.edu), Professor, George Mason University School of Law and Department of Economics. We thank Nathan Harris, Natalie Hayes, and Elise Nelson for excellent research assistance. Klick thanks the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) for support for this project through its Julian Simon Fellowship.

Introduction

In an effort to reduce litter and protect marine animals, jurisdictions across the globe are considering banning plastic grocery bags. In the US, California leads the way. San Francisco enacted a county-wide ban covering large grocery stores and drug stores in 2007. It extended this ban to all retail establishments in early 2012. Los Angeles followed suit in 2012, as did a number of smaller cities throughout the state. Some municipalities have imposed taxes on the bags rather than implement direct bans.

These bans are designed to induce individuals to use reusable grocery bags, in the hope that a reduction in the use of plastic bags will lead to less litter. Recent studies, however, suggest that reusable grocery bags harbor harmful bacteria, the most important of which is *E. coli*. If individuals fail to clean their reusable bags, these bacteria may lead to contamination of the food transported in the bags. Such contamination has the potential to lead to health problems and even death.

We examine the pattern of emergency room admissions related to bacterial intestinal infections, especially those related to *E. coli* around the implementation of the San Francisco County ban in October 2007. We find that ER admissions increase by at least one fourth relative to other California counties. Subsequent bans in other California municipalities resulted in similar increases. An examination of deaths related to intestinal infections shows a comparable increase.

Using standard estimates of the statistical value of life, we show that the health costs associated with the San Francisco ban swamp any budgetary savings from reduced litter. This assessment is unlikely to be reversed even if fairly liberal estimates of the other environmental benefits are included.

We provide details about the motivation for and the provisions of the San Francisco ban in Section 2. We discuss the evidence regarding the health risks of reusable bags in Section 3. Section 4 provides our estimates of the effect of the San Francisco ban, and Section 5 provides a cost benefit analysis. Section 6 concludes.

2. Grocery Bag Bans

In 2007,¹ San Francisco adopted the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance (“PBRO”) prohibiting the distribution of non-compostable plastic checkout bags by supermarkets with more than \$2 million in annual gross sales and by pharmacies with at least five locations within San Francisco. The PBRO amended the San Francisco Environmental Code to require the affected stores to distribute only compostable plastic, recyclable paper, or reusable bags at checkout.

The PBRO cites as the motivation for the law San Francisco County’s duty to reduce the environmental impact of plastic checkout bags both locally and more broadly. The ordinance attributes the deaths of over 100,000 marine animals per year to plastic entanglement and states that over 12 million barrels of oil are required to produce the plastic bags used in the United States annually. The PBRO favorably references a bag tax in Ireland, and claims the Irish ordinance led to a 90 percent reduction in plastic checkout bag usage.

In addition to prohibiting the distribution of non-compostable plastic checkout bags, the PBRO regulates the distribution of compostable plastic bags, recyclable paper bags, and reusable bags. The PBRO provides that a compostable plastic bag must meet the American Society for Testing and Materials’s standards for compostability by a recognized verification entity, and must display the terms “Green Cart Compostable” and “Reusable” in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag. The PBRO further provides that any recyclable paper bag distributed by a covered store at a checkout must contain no old growth fiber, be 100 percent recyclable, contain at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled content, and display “recyclable” and “reusable” in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag. The PBRO also requires that reusable bags be made of cloth or other machine washable fabric, or made of durable plastic at least 2.25 mils thick.

Violation of the PBRO results in fines of up to \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation, and \$500 for each subsequent violation in a given year. The ordinance also

¹ The ban was adopted on April 20, 2007, and went into effect on October 20, 2007.

contemplates city administrators within the county imposing administrative penalties equal to the fines. The City Attorney may seek injunctive relief or civil penalties of up to \$200 for the first violation, \$400 for the second violation, and \$600 for each subsequent violation in a given year.

In February 2012, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors expanded the non-compostable plastic checkout bag ban to cover all retail and food establishments in San Francisco County. Effective October 1, 2012, stores must charge a minimum of \$0.10 for any bag provided to customers. The stores must list the bag charge separately on each customer's receipt. The mandatory \$0.10 charge does not apply to transactions paid for via food stamps or other government aid programs.

The expanded ordinance also details additional requirements for bags to be designated as "reusable." As of October 1, 2012, reusable bags must have a usable life greater than 125 uses, and be capable of carrying at least 22 pounds over a distance of at least 175 feet. Furthermore, reusable bags must be durable enough to be washed and disinfected at least 100 times. Because the usable life requirement exceeds the number of washes requirement, the ordinance assumes the bag will not be washed after every use.

Several other California municipalities banned plastic bags in the two years after the San Francisco ban,² including the City of Malibu, the Town of Fairfax, and the City of Palo Alto.

Malibu's ordinance prohibits retail establishments (including grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, convenience stores, and any store selling food, clothing, or personal items) from providing any plastic checkout bags (regardless of compostability) to a customer. Stores may provide recyclable paper bags, as well as single item plastic bags. The ordinance does not include any stipulated penalties.

In the Town of Fairfax, the plastic bag ordinance provides that all retail establishments may distribute only recyclable paper bags or reusable bags. The penalties for distributing a prohibited

² California law prohibits municipalities from instituting taxes or fees on plastic bags until at least 2013, which has resulted in local governments seeking to regulate plastic bag distribution implementing bans rather than taxes.

bag is up to \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for a second offense, and \$500 for each subsequent offense in a given year.

Palo Alto’s plastic bag ordinance prohibits supermarkets with at least \$2 million in annual gross revenue from distributing anything other than recyclable paper bags or reusable bags. Violators are subject to a penalty not greater than \$250 for the first two offenses. Three or more violations constitute a misdemeanor, which allows for fines up to \$1,000. Table 1 lists the grocery bag bans in California.³

Jurisdiction	Implementation Date
San Francisco (county and city)	October 20, 2007
Malibu (city)	November 26, 2008
Fairfax (city)	June 4, 2009
Palo Alto (city)	September 18, 2009

Each jurisdiction banning the use of plastic bags has done so with the express or implied purpose of promoting the use of reusable bags. The Palo Alto Council explained that its intent was to “encourage[] the use of reusable bags” (Palo Alto 2009). The Town of Fairfax also cited the State Legislature’s intent to encourage the use of reusable bags as part of the reason why it needed to adopt its ordinance (Town of Fairfax 2008). San Francisco’s ban required the use of paper bags, compostable plastic bags, or reusable bags (San Francisco 2007). Though reusable bags are one of three allowed options, the high cost of paper bags (6.8 times more expensive than normal plastic bags) and compostable plastic bags (2 to 10 times more expensive than normal plastic bags) makes reusable bags the most viable option (Nashville Wraps 2008; d2w Inside

³ Other California cities which have adopted bans include: Santa Monica, Calabasas, Long Beach, San Jose, Manhattan Beach, Pasadena, Monterey, Sunnyvale, Ojai, Millbrae, Laguna Beach, Los Angeles, Dana Point, Carpinteria, Ukiah, Watsonville, Solana Beach, Fort Bragg, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Santa Cruz. Other California counties include: Los Angeles (unincorporated areas), Santa Clara, Marin, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Alameda, Mendocino (unincorporated areas). Sixteen jurisdictions outside California have adopted laws banning or taxing plastic bags.

2010; Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association 2011; Chou and Garg 2010). Thus, the San Francisco likely increased the use of reusable bags.

There is some evidence plastic bag bans and attempts to encourage reusable bag use have been successful. There was an 18 percent decrease in plastic bag litter in San Francisco two years after the ban was implemented (City of San Francisco 2009). The Los Angeles Public Works Department documented a 95 percent decrease in plastic bag use (Los Angeles Department of Public Works 2012) soon after its ban took effect. Furthermore, the California Grocers Association found that 90 percent of their San Francisco customers were bringing their own reusable bags (Finz 2012).

3. What's In Your Bag?

Williams et al (2011) randomly selected reusable grocery bags from consumers in grocery stores in Arizona and California. They examined the bags, finding coliform bacteria in 51 percent of the bags tested. Coliform bacteria were more prevalent in the California bags, especially those collected in the Los Angeles area. *E. coli* was found in 8 percent of the bags examined. The study also found that most people did not use separate bags for meats and vegetables. Further, 97 percent of individuals indicated they never washed their reusable grocery bags. Bacteria appeared to grow at a faster rate if the bags were stored in car trunks. This study suggests there may be large risks associated with using reusable grocery bags, though it does imply that fastidiously washing bags can virtually eliminate the risks. However, the survey results suggest that virtually no one washes these bags.

This study highlights the risk of cross contamination involved with the use of these bags and the general tendency of their users not to clean them. Thus, it is possible that banning plastic grocery bags can lead to public health problems, as individuals substitute to reusable bags.

4. Plastic Bag Bans and Bacterial Infections

We focus on the San Francisco ban because it is the earliest ban in a major U.S. jurisdiction, allowing us to examine the longest post ban time series. To analyze emergency room visits, we used the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's Emergency Department and Ambulatory Surgery Data for each quarter from 2005-2010. These data provide the county of residence of each person admitted to a California ER, as well as the principal diagnosis for the individual using ICD-9 codes. Given the prevalence of coliform bacteria, especially *E. coli*, in reusable grocery bags, we focus on ER visits involving *E. coli*. Jin and Leslie (2003) used a similar method to determine how "hygiene improvements by restaurants" affected hospital admissions for food borne illnesses. In subsequent analyses, we examine other bacterial infections, including salmonella, campylobacter, and toxoplasmosis. Together, the CDC reports, these and *E. coli* account for 62 percent of all hospitalizations related to foodborne illnesses.⁴

We also examine annual death aggregated at the county level. We examine cause of death data from the CDC Wonder System. Given the confidentiality protocols of this data source, we are not able to examine all counties in California since county periods with few deaths attributable to a given cause of death are censored. To maximize our sample, we aggregate over all ICD-10 codes comprising "intestinal infectious diseases" (A00-A09).

Descriptive statistics are available in Table 2.

⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/foodborneburden/2011-foodborne-estimates.html/>. Another 26 percent are accounted for by norovirus infections.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Definition	Mean	Std. Dev.	Source
ER Visits for E. Coli	Number of emergency room admissions in given county in given quarter of a year where principal diagnosis code involved E. coli	84	179	California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
ER Visits for Salmonella	Number of emergency room admissions in given county in given quarter of a year where principal diagnosis code involved salmonella.	0.43	1.03	California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
ER Visits for Campylobacter	Number of emergency room admissions in given county in given quarter of a year where principal diagnosis code involved campylobacter.	0.33	0.81	California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
ER Visits for Toxoplasmosis	Number of emergency room admissions in given county in given quarter of a year where principal diagnosis code involved toxoplasmosis.	0.05	0.27	California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Deaths from intestinal diseases	Number of deaths in given county in given year attributed to causes listed under the ICD-10 heading "intestinal infectious diseases" (A00-A09).	123	186	CDC

4.a ER Visits and the Bag Ban

We examine admissions to California emergency rooms. ER data are aggregated at the quarterly level, allowing us to precisely isolate the relationship between any change in health outcome and the implementation of the San Francisco ban in the fourth quarter of 2007.

We aggregated the ER data by county of the patient's residence and quarter of year, counting all the instances where the patient's principal diagnosis involved E. coli according to the recorded ICD-9 code. The data allow us to examine every quarter from the beginning of 2005 through the end of 2010. We examine the natural log of the number of ER visits involving E. coli, controlling for county fixed effects and separate time fixed effects for each quarter. We cluster the standard errors at the county level to account for dependence over time within a county.⁵

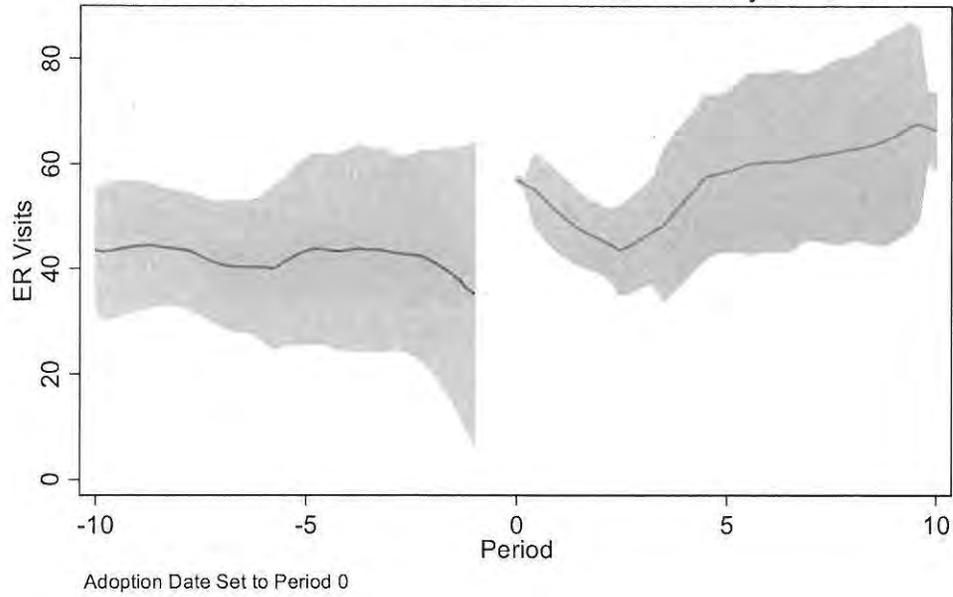
In the analysis of San Francisco County, we omit data for other counties when they too later pass plastic bag bans. Since the subsequent bans in the sample period involved sub-county level municipalities (Malibu in Los Angeles County, Fairfax in Marin County, and Palo Alto in Santa Clara County), these bans are not directly comparable to the San Francisco County ban. We do, however, examine the effects of these subsequent bans later in the article.

Figure 1 provides a local polynomial smoothed regression of the number of ER visits in San Francisco County allowing for a discontinuity between the third and the fourth quarters of 2007 when the bag ban was implemented. The quarter of adoption is set to 0 in the figure, and 10 periods before and after implementation are included, as well as the 95 percent confidence intervals.

⁵ If we account for multi-dimensional clustering by county and time period as described in Cameron, Gelbach, and Miller (2011), as might be appropriate if, for example, counties experience effects from changes in food supply chains at the same time, the conclusions are not affected.

Figure 1:

ER Visits Related to E. Coli in San Francisco County Per Quarter



There is a clear discontinuity at the time of adoption. Figure 2 illustrates that the rest of the Bay Area counties do not show the same discontinuity.

Figure 2:

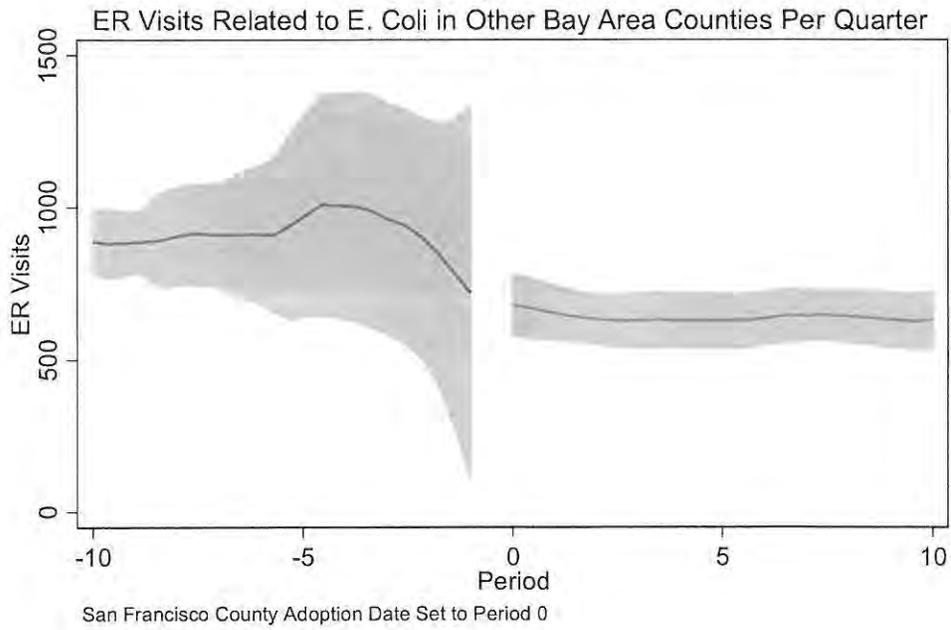


Table 3 provides the regression results using all California counties and then restricting the sample to just the Bay Area counties. In addition to county and period fixed effects, some of the specifications include county-specific linear trends.

Table 3				
Effect of San Francisco Plastic Bag Ban on ER Admissions for E. Coli				
(standard errors clustered at county level)				
	All CA Counties		Bay Area Counties Only	
Bag Ban	0.27*** (0.06)	0.52*** (0.07)	0.43*** (0.11)	0.68*** (0.12)
County FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Period FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Trends	No	Yes	No	Yes
Relative Effect	+32%	+68%	+53%	+97%
Observations	1,130	1,130	203	203

Note: Dependent variable is the natural log of the number of emergency room visits in given county in a given quarter where the principal diagnosis code involved E. coli. Data is omitted for quarters in which other counties contained a jurisdiction where a bag ban was in effect, specifically Los Angeles County starting in the 4th quarter of 2008 (due to a ban in Malibu), Marin County starting in the 2nd quarter of 2009 (due to a ban in Fairfax), and Santa Clara County starting in the 3rd quarter of 2009 (due to a ban in Palo Alto).

*** $p < 0.01$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)
** $p < 0.05$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)
* $p < 0.10$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

Regardless of the sample, the San Francisco County ban is associated with a statistically significant and particularly large increase in ER visits for E. Coli infections. We find increases between one fourth and two thirds, suggesting an increase in visits between 72 and 191 annually.

In Table 4, we end the sample in the 4th quarter of 2007 to isolate the immediate effect of the San Francisco County ban.

Table 4				
Immediate Effect of San Francisco Plastic Bag Ban on ER Admissions for E. Coli				
(standard errors clustered at county level)				
	All CA Counties		Bay Area Counties Only	
Bag Ban	0.41*** (0.08)	0.81*** (0.09)	0.66*** (0.14)	0.87*** (0.12)
County FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Period FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Trends	No	Yes	No	Yes
Relative Effect	+51%	+124%	+94%	+139%
Observations	574	574	108	108

Note: Dependent variable is the natural log of the number of emergency room visits in given county in a given quarter where the principal diagnosis code involved E. coli. Data is omitted for quarters beyond the 4th quarter of 2007 when San Francisco implemented its ban.

*** p < 0.01 (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

** p < 0.05 (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

* p < 0.10 (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

When we restrict attention to the first quarter the San Francisco ban was in place, the magnitude of our results is even larger. This suggests that the ban led to an increase in infections immediately upon implementation.

Table 5 provides results examining the other California bans as well. We present results both with and without San Francisco County included. For the sub-county bans (i.e., all of the examined bans except San Francisco), we coded all individuals from a county in which an individual jurisdiction adopted a ban as affected by the ban. This is surely too broad. However, because it is likely that individuals sometimes shop in other municipalities than those in which they reside, we decided on this approach as being the most conservative.

Table 5				
Effect of all California Plastic Bag Bans on ER Admissions for E. Coli				
(standard errors clustered at county level)				
	San Francisco County Included		San Francisco County Excluded	
Bag Ban	0.18*** (0.06)	0.25*** (0.09)	0.15** (0.06)	0.20** (0.10)
County FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Period FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Trends	No	Yes	No	Yes
Relative Effect	+20%	+29%	+16%	+22%
Observations	1,152	1,152	1,128	1,128
<p>Note: Dependent variable is the natural log of the number of emergency room visits in given county in a given quarter where the principal diagnosis code involved E. coli.</p> <p>*** $p < 0.01$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)</p> <p>** $p < 0.05$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)</p> <p>* $p < 0.10$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)</p>				

The results associated with the bans in Malibu, Fairfax, and Palo Alto are also statistically significant and consequential. However, as to be expected, the effects are substantially smaller than those found for the San Francisco County ban. Since each of these municipalities represents a small portion of the relevant county's population, the relative effect on ER visits is attenuated.

If we expand attention to the other bacterial infections that lead to hospitalizations, we find consistent evidence as shown in Table 6. In addition to E. Coli, the CDC reports that salmonella, campylobacter, and toxoplasmosis infections lead to significant hospitalizations nationwide.

Table 6				
Effect of San Francisco County Plastic Bag Ban on ER Admissions				
(standard errors clustered at county level)				
	E. Coli	Salmonella	Campylobacter	Toxoplasmosis
Bag Ban	0.27*** (0.06)	0.06*** (0.02)	0.24** (0.02)	-0.00 (0.01)
County FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Period FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County Trends	No	No	No	No
Relative Effect	+32%	+6%	+27%	-0%
Observations	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130

Note: Dependent variable is the natural log of the number of emergency room visits in given county in given quarter where the principal diagnosis code involved the relevant bacterial infection.

*** $p < 0.01$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

** $p < 0.05$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

* $p < 0.10$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

While there is no effect on toxoplasmosis, there are statistically significant increases in salmonella and campylobacter related ER admissions. Although not reported, the effects are similar if the sample is restricted to the Bay Area counties.

4.b The San Francisco Bag Ban and Deaths from Infectious Diseases

Bacterial infections related to food contamination can also lead to deaths in extreme circumstances. The San Francisco County ban went into effect in October 2007. Cause of death data are only available on an annual basis, and are currently available through 2009. We examine the period 2005-2009 and include all California counties that have un-censored death counts available for each of these years. This restriction leaves us with the following 10 counties

in addition to San Francisco: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura.

To account for scale differences in the magnitude of deaths across these counties, we examine the natural log of deaths. In our regressions, we include county-level fixed effects and common year effects.

Table 7 provides the results of this regression. We find that the San Francisco County ban is associated with a 46 percent increase in deaths from foodborne illnesses. This implies an increase of 5.5 annual deaths for the county. The effect is statistically significant at better than the 1 percent level. To provide confidence in the causal interpretation of this result, we analyze restricted samples that may provide a better counterfactual for San Francisco County. If we restrict attention to the three Bay area counties, San Francisco plus Alameda and Contra Costa, our estimated effect increases and remains statistically significant despite the decline in sample size. We also examine a sample restricted to counties with percentage changes in deaths between 2005 and 2006 that were similar to San Francisco's increase of 9 percent: Alameda (0 percent); Contra Costa (+12.5 percent); San Bernardino (+15 percent); and Ventura (+11.8 percent). Results for this set of counties were also similar.

Table 7			
Effect of San Francisco County Plastic Bag Ban on Deaths from Intestinal Diseases			
(standard errors clustered by county)			
	ln(deaths from intestinal infectious diseases)		
	All Counties	Bay Area Counties	Comparable Counties
Bag Ban	0.38*** (0.03)	0.40* (0.12)	0.37*** (0.07)
County Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
County-Trends	No	No	No
Relative Effect	+46%	+49%	+45%
Observations	55	15	25

Note: Dependent variable is the natural log of the number of deaths in given county in given year attributed to causes listed under the ICD-10 heading “intestinal infectious diseases” (A00-A09) according to the CDC.

*** $p < 0.01$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

** $p < 0.05$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

* $p < 0.10$ (against a two-sided test of a null hypothesis of the bag ban coefficient = 0)

The results concerning deaths are very similar to the ER results provided above. They are also very consistent across the different sample restrictions, suggesting a relative increase of at least 45 percent. Given that there were 12 deaths from intestinal infections in San Francisco County in the year before the plastic bag ban was implemented, this implies an increase of 5.4 additional deaths each year that can be attributed to the ban.

While the small sample size limits our analyses of the death data, examination of county specific trend models provides no evidence that the results discussed above are an artifact of pre-existing trends. The limited sample size also creates some inferential concerns which are compounded by concerns about inference in cases where there are few policy changes, such as those raised in

Conley and Taber (2011) and Gelbach, Helland, and Klick (forthcoming). Following the non-parametric approaches suggested in those papers leads to the conclusion that the results presented here are statistically different from zero, but those approaches do not account for clustering concerns; thus, any inferential claims are tentative. However, the practical significance of the results and the consistency of the ER admission results, including the specification examining multiple bans, suggest that plastic bag bans are associated with important health effects.

5. I Like Turtles

Our results suggest that the San Francisco ban led to, conservatively, 5.4 annual additional deaths. Using the EPA's current estimated value of a statistical life, 8.4 million in current dollars, this suggests an annual loss of about \$45 million without considering the additional hospital costs, either associated with these deaths or with the increased ER visits documented above, or the personal costs suffered by individuals who do not seek medical care.

Against these costs, in 2004 San Francisco estimated that plastic bag waste cost it \$8.5 million annually,⁶ which is \$10.3 million in current dollars. Especially given that plastic bags are generally estimated to be cheaper to make than substitute bags, this implies that any improvements to the environment owing to the bag ban need to be worth at least \$35 million annually to justify the bans on cost benefit grounds.

A precise valuation of the environmental benefits is hard to come by. However, many advocacy groups suggest that plastic refuse (from all sources, not just bags)⁷ kills 1 million birds and 100,000 other aquatic animals annually. A conservative estimate is that global plastic bag use is at least 500 billion bags annually, of which 180 million were used in San Francisco prior to the ban.⁸ If we assume that a jurisdiction's "share" of animal deaths is proportionate to bag use,⁹

⁶ See http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plastic_campaign/plastic_bags/problem

⁷ The original source upon which this estimate is based actually does not examine plastic bags but instead focuses primarily on plastic fishing equipment. See Laist (1987).

⁸ See <http://www.sfgate.com/green/article/S-F-FIRST-CITY-TO-BAN-PLASTIC-SHOPPING-BAGS-2606833.php>

and we ignore all other sources of plastic, this suggests that San Francisco's annual contribution to animal deaths is on the order of 400 birds and marine animals. This implies a break even valuation of each animal of about \$87,500. While it is difficult to put non-use values on these animals, there have been attempts to estimate replacement costs. For example, Brown (1992) surveyed replacement cost estimates for the animals affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill for the Alaska Attorney General's Office. Even if all of the affected animals were valued at the highest cost found for a bird, \$22,000 for an eagle in 1989 dollars (\$40,874 in 2012), this falls well short of the break even mark. These numbers are only rough guidelines, but they suggest that the current trend toward bag bans may be difficult to justify on cost benefit grounds.

Despite these concerns, it could be argued that a simple solution exists, namely fastidious washing of the reusable bags. Such a solution is problematic, however. First, washing such bags will itself have negative environmental consequences through excess water use.¹⁰ Further, the detergents necessary to clean the bags add to the environmental costs, as does the use of water hot enough to kill the bacteria.

An additional concern arises from the work of Williams et al, which shows that the normal storage option for these bags (i.e., in a car trunk) multiplies the underlying presence of coliform bacteria substantially. If an individual does not clean and dry the reusable bag completely, such storage might negate the marginal benefits of cleaning the bags in the first place. Lastly, because of the cost savings of plastic bags, which are primarily generated by the use of less energy in their production than reusable bags, reusable bags must be used quite often before they represent a net gain environmentally. For example, the UK Environment Agency (2011) estimated that a cotton bag would need to be used 131 times before it overcame the initial environmental deficit it represented relative to a plastic bag (assuming the plastic bag was used once and discarded). Washing these bags will likely reduce their effective life, reducing the likelihood they represent an environmental benefit.

⁹ Given San Francisco County's proximity to the ocean, perhaps a greater than proportionate share of plastic bag litter related wildlife deaths ought to be attributed to it.

¹⁰ While marginal costs may be low if bags can simply be added to existing wash loads, there would be some cost involved in using the higher temperature washes that would be necessary to eliminate the bacteria risk.

6. Conclusion

State and local governments have recently imposed bans or levied taxes upon plastic grocery bags. This trend is in response to environmental concerns that plastic bags contribute to litter and endanger marine animals. San Francisco County was the first major US jurisdiction to enact such a regulation, implementing a ban in 2007 and extending it to all retailers in 2012. There has been little empirical evidence proffered illuminating the costs and benefits of these bag bans. We undertake such an analysis in light of concerns that consumers might substitute from the banned or taxed bags toward reusable grocery bags, a common substitute and potential carrier of harmful bacteria such as *E. coli*. We examine deaths and emergency room admissions related to these bacteria in the wake of the San Francisco ban. We find that both deaths and ER visits spiked as soon as the ban went into effect. Relative to other counties, deaths in San Francisco increase by almost 50 percent, and ER visits increase by a comparable amount. Subsequent bans by other cities in California appear to be associated with similar effects. Conservative estimates of the costs and benefits of the San Francisco plastic bag ban suggest the health risks they impose are not likely offset by environmental benefits.

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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <ward3@xx>
- Subject: Bag Ban and Water Bill Fees
- From: Kerry H <kerry97330@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Sat, 2 Feb 2013 14:26:41 -0800

Greetings Richard,

I am writing to express my dismay at the bag ban that was passed by the city council. It is my belief that this was a bad decision made with the best intentions.

Both my wife and I have signed the petition to get this issue on the ballot for voter approval. I hope that you will support our efforts to have this ban decided by the majority of voters in the community and not by a vocal minority.

I want to live in a free and enlightened society where people are educated to make the correct behavioral decisions and not have these personal choice decisions made for us by the government. The bag ban is not in support of that goal and in fact is contrary to it.

My wife and I always try to use reusable bags when we shop but sometimes we forget. It's nice to have the option of getting a free recyclable paper bag when that happens but the bag ban just took that option away from us.

I would also like to know why more issues are not being put to the voters for approval. The bag ban, as well as the fees imposed on our city water bill, are circumventing the democratic process. Fees are just a form of taxation without representation. Why can't the voters decide how their tax money is spent? After all, it is the taxpayers' money and not the city council's.

I'm not sure the decisions being made by the council really represent the majority opinion of voters. Why not put these to a vote and see? I just don't understand.

Regards,

Kerry Hanson



Corvallis

- Prev by Date: Week in Review
- Next by Date: Absence at Monday's Chairs and Council
- Previous by thread: [SPAM] Northwest HUD Lines - February, 2013
- Next by thread: Absence at Monday's Chairs and Council
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Belle Lingerie
- From: Becki Goslow <bgoslow@xxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Sun, 3 Feb 2013 21:23:36 -0800

Dear Mayor Manning and all Council Members,

After reading the Corvallis G.T. about Donna Belle Lingerie, I am asking that you "grandfather" the use of Susan McMahon's business bags and other business' in the same boat.

The owner is willing to comply, but at the cost of a \$5,000 lose. We need to work with our small business'.

This is a business "trust" issue. Let business owners use up their current stock and switch over once their paper bags have run out.

I must admit--I did not realize how far reaching this bag issue would become. I do think it is a good idea, even if I forget my bag and drop by groceries all the way to the car--literally. It just needs to become a habit.

Please meet with business owners again--and grandfather them, so they do not have to close their doors over a bag.

Becki Goslow
Citizen
Ward 9

- Prev by Date: Absence at Monday's Chairs and Council
- Next by Date: Oregon Speaker Kotek Indicates At Town Hall Meeting That She's On

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: "mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: plastic bag ban
- From: cheran christensen <paws1971@xxxxxxxx>
- Date: Mon, 4 Feb 2013 22:42:04 -0800 (PST)
- Reply-to: cheran christensen <paws1971@xxxxxxxx>

Dear Mayor:

I would like to have more information on your City bag ban. I find it very offensive that I have to pay a .05 cent charge for each and every plastic bag that I use when purchasing items at a store.

- 1) I do believe that using the reusable fabric bags cause sickness to individuals such as salmonella poisoning. Most people do not clean their bags after use and then they transmit these diseases to everyone else exposed in the line of the grocery store. There have been more than one instance that someone got sick from these bags and how many more have gone unreported.
- 2) Your charging .05 cents per bag at this time. What prevents you from raising this fee at your whim.
- 3) Where does this money go to that is funded from these bags. Seems like no one knows where the money is going.
- 4) Why is it your responsibility as a Council Member/Mayor to impose these laws locally instead at a state level.
- 5) Why is it that the stores are charging for these bags but yet fast food restaurants do not. There are some places such as Taco Bell that still hand out plastic bags to their customers. If you do this for one industry then why not another.

Here is the final question for you:

Paper bags come from trees. Are you going to support our loggers going back into Oregon Forest and harvesting our trees for these bags when they run out.

My honest question is no. Your support the environment to the extreme and once you need to start cutting trees and running the risk of ruining our environment you will bring plastic bags back to our stores.

Thank you for taking the time in answering my questions.

Sincerely,

David Christensen

paws1971@xxxxxxxxx

P.S. I try to avoid Corvallis at all cost. It is extremely Liberal with a socialist agenda.

- Prev by Date: Letter from Harding Neighborhood Association regarding recent flooding event
- Next by Date: GovDelivery Webcast: Government Communications Success - Register Now
- Previous by thread: plastic bag ban
- Next by thread: New Smart Meter report
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: "mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Bag bill
- From: "google+http://g.co/idv/VrZdYLtiOo" <mikefrankkennedy@xxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2013 13:53:07 -0800

Sent from my iPad; My wife and I always plan a monthly trip to the Corvallis winco, goodwill and various places to dine. With the new and very frustrating bag rules you have implemented we will now do that at Salem instead. We live in Albany and our last trip at winco the cashier had totaled the bill charging us for 5 bags, rang up another person and we needed a few more bags. We ended up carrying out half of our purchases in the cart.

- Prev by Date: RE: plastic bag ban
- Next by Date: Kim Stafford at the Library February 21
- Previous by thread: Benefit Concert Announcement
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- Subject: Repeal the Plastic Bag Ban
- From: "S. Thomas Lewis" <sthomaslewis@xxxxxxxx>
- Date: Thu, 7 Feb 2013 15:21:40 -0800

Dear Mayor Manning:

I am very much opposed to the plastic bag ban, which became effective on 1 January 2013. I consider it to be another intrusion of government into our private lives and the operations of businesses.

The type of shopping bags that a business issues to its customers should be between the business and the customer, and not involve any government: city, county, state, or nation.

Sincerely,

S. Thomas Lewis

[REDACTED]

Corvallis, OR 97333

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Prev by Date: Dell's downward spiral, Beats by Dre, Apple AV, projection mapping
- Next by Date: RE: Possible Regional Solution Team meeting with the city
- Previous by thread: Dell's downward spiral, Beats by Dre, Apple AV, projection mapping
- Next by thread: Meet and greet!
- Index(es):
 - Date
 - Thread

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- To: "Council" <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Bag ban note
- From: ward3 <ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2013 15:42:54 -0800

Title: Bag ban note

Good Afternoon,

In reading the minutes from the Feb. 4th meeting, including the comments about the bag ban I came to realize that I have one piece of information that might be useful. As you may remember, at its first reading I voted against the ban. My reason was to provide time for me to add to the record specific reasons that the ban would benefit Corvallis.

Upon reflection, I realized that my negative vote also provided the opportunity for opponents to propose amendments at the second reading. There were various ideas floating at that time for useful amendments. I called the Chamber of Commerce to alert them to that possibility and suggested that they contact councilors, that they felt comfortable working with, to recommend such changes. The Chamber replied that they did not want to pursue that avenue at that time.

Richard

- Prev by Date: Chamber Legislative Briefing 2013-03-04
- Next by Date: Newport Seafood & Wine Garage Sale
- Previous by thread: Tomorrow's Council meeting
- Next by thread: Newport Seafood & Wine Garage Sale
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Re: Bag Ban
- From: "Robert M. Anthony MCPO, USCG\ (ret\)" <rma@xxxxxxxx>
- Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2013 14:08:45 -0800

Sorry I took so long to reply to your e-mail concerning the 5 cent tax on paper bags. When I shop, I obviously look for the best prices and convenience. A nickel here and a nickel there do add up. Having to guesstimate how many bags I need to take, the cross contamination of those bags, etc., make for inconvenience. Like I said, no more patronizing Corvallis merchants (including John and Phil's), no more purchases at or contributions to OSU as long as the city throws up (pukes?) hurdles. However, I'm sure the Sierra Club will be willing to make up the shortfall.

You might try reading the recent article on your bag ban in the Barometer. Interesting.

You might like to know that the Sierra Club and one of it's affiliates contacted me to access a project of theirs through my property. Permission denied.

----- Original Message ----- From: <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
To: "Robert M. Anthony MCPO, USCG (ret)" <rma@xxxxxxxx>
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 1:34 PM
Subject: Re: Bag Ban

Hello,

Thank you for your message. As you may be aware, this issue was brought to the City Council by the local chapter of the Sierra Club. The 5 cent pass-

through fee was strongly advocated both by the grocers (because paper bags cost more than plastic) and the Sierra Club (as an incentive to bring reusable bags rather than using paper). Similar ordinances are currently in place in Portland and Eugene, and Newport voters are scheduled to vote on the issue soon.

The Corvallis City Council has indicated that it will continue to monitor the implementation of the ordinance in the coming months in case revisions may be indicated.

I am sorry to learn that this ordinance will affect your decision about shopping in Corvallis in the future.

Sincerely,

Julie Manning
Mayor

----- Original Message -----

From: "Robert M. Anthony MCPO, USCG(ret)" <rma@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

To: mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2013 11:14:44 AM

Subject: Bag Ban

As I live on the Coast, biweekly trips are made to the valley for shopping. Due to the enactment of the plastic bag ban, my family nor I will no longer be doing any shopping in Corvallis. While I somewhat support the ban on plastic, I find the 5 cent "tax" on paper bags to be ridiculous. I do save and utilize just about every plastic bag I get including bread wrappers. By the way, grocery plastic bags are not made from oil but rather a waste byproduct from natural gas refining.

Robert Anthony MCPO, USCG (ret)

[REDACTED]
Waldport, OR [REDACTED]

rma@xxxxxxxxxxxx

- Prev by Date: LEED Material and Resources Webinar Series - Early-Bird Deadline Approaching
- Next by Date: Tomorrow's Council meeting
- Previous by thread: Bag Ban
- Next by thread: Municipal Court Judge
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <ward6@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Re: Re:
- From: "Kelly" <jscurlly70@xxxxxxx>
- Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2013 11:12:01 -0800

Counselor Hirsch, Thank you for your reply this morning. I don't feel that my e-mail was inaccurate or exaggerating, concerning counselor Mike Beilstein. He does seem out of touch with his statement that "it is what the people want except for a noisy few." Since surveying the neighborhood residence seems to be what Mr. Beilstein is advocating according to the G-T, he is not taking into account those of us who don't live in the neighborhood but do drive Highland and Grant almost daily. You said in the G-T today that you knew of two people who like the circle and that was Mr. Beilstein and Mary Steckel. No need to defend Mr. Beilstein as he seems more than capable of defending himself. I do have the right as a tax payer to voice my concerns. Mr. Beilstein may care deeply but does not listen well to all of his constituents (the noisy few). I realize that one counselor can not please everyone but there has been so much negative response before and after this traffic circle went in, that I can't be convinced that anyone really listened to the tax payer. Now, Let's be perfectly honest about who initiated the horrific bag ban. It was the Sierra club and not the general public. I do believe that the issue will come to vote and you may very well be surprised at the outcome. Either way, I have taken my shopping business to Albany for groceries and clothes shopping as Mega Foods, Rosses and Kohl's still treat customers with respect and I am not walking out of the store with groceries or clothing in hand. One of my greatest concerns is the cleanliness of bringing bags into the store. I witnessed a customer coming out of the restroom with her bags under her arm. I know for a FACT that there is no place to set these bags except the floor or hang them on the door. After contacting the manager and assistant manager with my concerns and a solution: A bag check stand outside the bathrooms, and because nothing has been done, I won't fight them I will

just take my dollars elsewhere.

Have a good day.

Sally Kelly

-----Original Message----- From: ward6@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 10:15 AM

To: Kelly

Cc: mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Subject: Re:

Ms. Kelly,

It is my experience working with Counselor Beilstein for now 3 terms, that he cares deeply and intends to represent all constituents in Ward 5 impartially, regardless of how contentious the discussion. The traffic circle is a case in point! He likes it, he believes most people like it, yet it it was Counselor Beilstein who made the motion to start the process for its removal.

It my be easier for some, but is difficult for me to be a volunteer City Councilor and receive hyperbolic and inaccurate criticism.

I welcome criticism if it is fair and accurate. However, as long as a citizen is taking the time to complain, it would sure be more effective to take the extra few minutes to get the facts straight.

The bag ban was initiated by citizens and I estimate supported in letters and testimony by a 30 to 1 margin, if not more. If the folks trying to get it on the ballot ever get enough signatures to put it to a vote, the passionate - but minority opponents - will be sadly disappointed at the outcome.

Lastly, I have always complained about the traffic circle personally, and have always advocated for its removal. I even participated in an OSU student project a couple of years ago about how much people hate it. Even though it seems counterintuitive that it could be safer than the alternatives as the experts claim, facts are facts. And even though all of the current City Councilors try to base our decisions on the facts, this one is in the hands of the citizens who are responsible for initiating traffic circle in the first place.

Sincerely,
Joel Hirsch
City Council - Ward 6

----- Original Message -----

From: "Kelly" <jscurlly70@xxxxxxxx>
To: mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 7:00:01 AM

Good morning, I am writing to the mayor and the whole city counsel, rather than to my ward 5 councilor, Mike Beilstein, because in the past, my correspondence with Mr. Beilstein has proved to be contentious. I don't feel he listens to anyone who disagrees with him. His statement this morning in the G-T "I think the people want the circle, It's just a few outspoken people who don't.", just proves the fact that he is out of touch with his constituents. Like in the bag ban issue, Mr. Beilstein, really has no idea, nor does he care, what we, the people, want. He has an agenda and he is going to push it, no matter the cost. A stop light, or even stop signs, in place of the ridiculous traffic circle, would be so much easier to navigate and cause so much less contention and less expense.

Sally Kelly

- References:
 - Re:
 - From: ward6
- Prev by Date: Happy Lunar New Year!
- Next by Date: Re: Public Safety Tax
- Previous by thread: Re:
- Next by thread: Happy Lunar New Year!
- Index(es):

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: "ward1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <ward1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Plastic Bag Ban
- From: Jay Gile <jaygile@xxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2013 18:26:11 +0700

All of our friends and acquaintances support the plastic bag ban in it's current form. We are tired of reading about people whining about the ban, especially Te owner of Bella Donna. I am sorry that she made a poor business decision but it is not the City's responsibility to bail her out. The details of the ban have been available for months. A prudent business person would not have purchased a multi year supply after the ban was passes without thoroughly understanding how the ban would impact her business.

Please support the current ban.

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

- Prev by Date: Public Safety Tax on the Utility Bill
- Next by Date: [no subject]
- Previous by thread: Public Safety Tax on the Utility Bill
- Next by thread: [no subject]
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: BAGS !!!
- From: kevin wheeler <kevinwheelercv@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Sat, 23 Feb 2013 13:49:08 -0800

The \$.05 charge for bags in the city of Corvallis is disturbing.

You people allow "PARASITES" like Wal-Mart come into the community and suck it dry at the expense of businesses that have created that community then you decide to charge \$.05 a bag. Nice way to help the economic situation of the community !!!

You think you could do some good by taking on trashy houses, police pulling people over for fictitious burn out tail lights, and the homeless at every corner that almost causes accidents that walks out in front of automobiles in hopes of getting a handout. Or maybe you could use some energy on traffic jams at some intersections.

Who ever

times the stop lights in Corvallis is on drugs or did it from horse back or both !!!

The city of Corvallis will not see another dime of my money !!!

- Prev by Date: Neer Avenue
- Next by Date: Re: TGM Grant Program Summary
- Previous by thread: RE: Neer Avenue
- Next by thread: Oregonian Says Fairness Is A Political Problem Solver. Kotek, Coal, Constituents, Lobbyists And Public Pension War.
- Index(es):
 - Date
 - Thread

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <mayor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Bag Tax
- From: "Robert M. Anthony MCPO, USCG\ (ret\)" <rma@xxxxxxxx>
- Date: Sun, 24 Feb 2013 07:52:11 -0800

Just to let you know, I was in Corvallis on Wednesday last and stopped at BiMart on 9th. St. I had a fairly large shopping list and took inventory there to see if they had the things I needed and they did. I later took that list and filled it at the BiMart in Lincoln City where they don't have a five cent bag tax. But I did use the rest room at the Corvallis store! You'll have to look into a pisser tax.

By the way, we went to Springfield and did the majority of the shopping. Very nice to get back in the U.S.A and it's not too far south.

Robert Anthony MCPO, USCG(ret)

████████████████████

Waldport, OR ██████████

rma@xxxxxxxx

- Prev by Date: Corvallis, turn off your lights for Earth Hour on March 23rd
- Next by Date: Oregonian Says Fairness Is A Political Problem Solver. Kotek, Coal, Constituents, Lobbyists And Public Pension War.
- Previous by thread: BAGS !!!
- Next by thread: Oregonian Says Fairness Is A Political Problem Solver. Kotek, Coal, Constituents, Lobbyists And Public Pension War.
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <ward7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Finally joining the "few outspoken"
- From: "mary stander" <marystander@xxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Fri, 8 Mar 2013 12:47:44 -0800

Hi Bruce,

It's getting to the point that I get mad nearly every day when I read the G-T. This started several weeks ago when Councilor Beilstein, in bold print, was quoted as saying "I think the people want the circle. It's just a few outspoken people who don't." What I read was – "If you don't agree with me keep your mouth shut."

I drive home from Osborn Aquatic Center every week day morning sometime between 8 and 9. I turn west from 10th onto Grant. If people wonder why some folks stop – I can tell them. It's because you can't trust people to wait their turn. To make matters worse, in my small daily survey, people going from east to west blow through the circle at high speeds. And that's the direction that actually has a 15 MPH sign.

I understand that the people being surveyed about the circle are those who were originally surveyed before the circle was installed, but most of us use that road at some time and we all get to pay for it. I would like to see a vote by everyone. Not that it matters. According to the G-T this morning the city is already moving forward with the project. Why spend money on a survey at all if the circle is a done deal?

Now moving on to the bag ban. I don't mind the ban so much, but really do resent that the ban was crammed down our throats by a whacko in a plastic bag dress. Again, **EVERYONE SHOULD BE VOTING ON THESE ISSUES.**

I've lived in Corvallis since I came here in 1964 to go to college (with a few years away living in Vancouver, BC). I've always loved Corvallis and felt comfortable and safe here. Maybe it's a matter of aging, but I'm becoming more and more uncomfortable here. The university has encroached into family areas, parking in some areas is next to impossible, tall pre-slum housing blocks the sky, and more crimes are slowly worming their way into all neighborhoods. I foresee a time when I'll be moving on because this city is not what it once was and is not becoming what it aspires to be.

Mary Alice Stander



MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Not Quite In the Bag
- From: Beers Biz <beersbiz@xxxxxxxx>
- Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2013 14:03:08 -0700
- Cc: Beers Biz <beersbiz@xxxxxxxx>

Tuesday AM 3/12/13

Hello City Council,

Would you please publicize some more information about the new bag ban?

I agree that the plastic bag ban is a good idea, but I have never heard how that was connected to a charge for each paper bag provided by stores.

I wonder about the logic: If we use reusable bags to take home groceries, what do we use to put our trash and recycling in? I have always re-used the paper bags for this purpose.

If we encourage reusable bag use, people won't have paper bags. They will have to purchase bags (yet another expense!), which are only available in plastic. This will lead to many more plastic bags in our landfills.

Wasn't preventing plastic waste the purpose of the plastic bag ban?

Don't we want to encourage use of paper bags produced from local wood waste products?

And where does the money spent on paper bags go?

Please explain, to me and the rest of town, because no one I've asked seems to understand how the current arrangement makes sense!

Thank you,
Marion Beers

- Prev by Date: March 19 HSC Meeting
- Next by Date: Benton County names new technology leader
- Previous by thread: March 19 HSC Meeting
- Next by thread: Benton County names new technology leader
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: ward3 <ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Subject: Re: Feedback
- From: miltweaver@xxxxxxxxxxxx
- Date: Thu, 14 Mar 2013 06:54:40 +0000 (UTC)

Richard,

I'm curious about who is doing the improvement work to the ordinance. Would you be able to provide who is making the improvements and what the changes are?

I can understand how it seems 9 months late and I must admit I was late to the party. I have lived in Corvallis for 30 years and this is the first I have ever been involved with City issues. (4th generation Oregonian 1852) I wasn't even aware of the discussion until I got a free subscription to the GT two days after the passage of the ordinance. I subsequently started researching the public records that pertained to the ordinance and was quite surprised by the information that I found. The action alert that Debra Higgsbee-Sudyka initiated resulted in 230 computer generated form emails, from Mary's peak Sierra Club members, that flooded the Council all contained misleading or false information. The ordinance seemed well supported, but upon close examination it produced only 230 responses out of 2700 members(MPSC # membership from website) of that club. Only thirty form letters, also containing misleading information, were generated by Environment Oregon from 500 Corvallis members(membership # taken from testimony at council meeting). This shows poor support even in these clubs.

Another interesting email by Debra HS. stated that when she contacted stores about shopping bags that she was referred to the Northwest Grocery Association, but when I contacted the store(prior to reading Debra's letter) about the same information I was referred to people in the Corporate offices that handled either public relations or managers that handled shopping bag purchases. Not once was I referred to the NWGA. What this created was a question of collusion. Did the Sierra club, Environment Oregon, Surfrider Foundation, and NWGA conspire to gain the passage of the ordinance which resulted in a profit making, market controlling scam? At first I thought it was ridiculous, but then I noticed that all three organizations letters and flyer's contained the same misleading or false information. That they supported each others moves or motions and sat on the same committees. They basically controlled the environment around the City Council by flooding the council meetings and emails. I have heard that

they even heckled one opposing person at the council meeting. The City Council was blindsided. The clubs attempted to cut off oppositional testimony from outside Corvallis even though all the club members that sat on the stakeholders committees were from outside Corvallis. They used close legal advise and used statements that were true on their own but mislead when combined with other statements. Example: Plastic causes the death of 100,000 birds and wildlife. The deception was that it was listed on the reasons for banning shopping bags. It gave the appearance that shopping bags were the cause of the deaths. No clarification was made or offered that it was small bits of plastic that was the cause. Failure to clarify misleading information that convinces a person to take action which results in personal or financial gain is Fraud. This ploy was used in almost every email, flyer and even in their petitions from the business owners. The business owners signatures in support was also misleading. Of the 55 signatures over half were from businesses that were exempt (restaurants) or businesses that would not use bags. Four signatures were from two businesses, but counted separately.

recycling is another area that was presented in a misleading manner. Debra HS presented a confusing almost non existent recycling process and stated that most used bags went to China. The facts are that thin filmed plastic bags are recycled by plastic bag makers to remake bags and other items.

I understand the motive of the NWGA (profit and control of competition), but I think the fee on paper bags has failed to accomplish the goal of the Sierra Club. (damage or reduce the use of paper bags, harvest trees) After speaking with members of the timber industry I quickly realized that they are pleased with the removal of their biggest competition and the increased sale of paper bags. Club members have expressed frustration with the shift to made in China thicker non recyclable tote bags.

As I've progressed through the records I see some major flaws with the ordinance; increases green house emissions through the increase use of paper bags, made in China and shipped in container ships(listed as a major contributor of marine plastic) thick plastic tote bags which will end up taking more space and time in our landfills, gives taxes to private corporations when our schools and public services need the money, and has created a cloud of mistrust in the ability of the City Council to protect/support it's citizens. These are just some other areas mentioned by petition signing residents. The latest is that it is a sales tax which is against the Oregon Constitution.

As to the misleading information I can document numerous other examples upon request. On one flyer all of the items listed were false or misleading, but one. That one I have not been able to verify true or false.

I was told that it's not illegal to lie to the City Council. My question is; does the money make it a crime?

Milt

From: "ward3" <ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
To: miltweaver@xxxxxxxxxx
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 11:41:23 AM
Subject: RE: Feedback

Milt,

Thanks for your open attitude about conversations on the Bag ban. I understand that one or more councilors are working to improve the current language of the ordinance to reduce unintended consequences.

As for getting together to discuss the ban, I received a large number of communications and had a large number of conversations leading up to the vote on the bag ban. I can't say that I am as open as you are to ongoing conversations on the bag ban, which from my perspective are 9 months late. As I've said before, I regret that this issue has taken the amount of council time that it has to date. I am satisfied that the public outreach program prior to the vote was extensive and inclusive.

Richard

From: miltweaver@xxxxxxxxxx [mailto:miltweaver@xxxxxxxxxx]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:17 AM
To: ward3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Subject: Feedback

Dear Councilor Richard Harvey, Please see attached letter. Thanks, Milt

- Follow-Ups:
 - RE: Feedback
 - From: ward3

- References:
 - RE: Feedback
 - From: ward3

- Prev by Date: Top News: Staying High and Dry Takes Land Use Planning
- Next by Date: Growing Iran-al Qaeda tensions | Smallpox drug debate | Google privacy problems
- Previous by thread: RE: Feedback
- Next by thread: RE: Feedback
- Index(es):
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- To: Ward2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- Subject: Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- From: Jessica Bannester <503jgb@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2013 19:11:36 -0500 (CDT)
- Organization: Sierra Club
- Reply-to: Jessica Bannester <503jgb@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

Mar 25, 2013

Council Member Roen Hogg

OR

Dear Council Member Hogg,

I write to express my strong support of the Corvallis ordinance that bans single use plastic checkout bags.

Already, more than 50 downtown Corvallis businesses, and thousands of Corvallis citizens support this effort. All we need is City action. Banning plastic bags best addresses the problems of single-use plastic bag waste, and most effectively moves consumers to sustainable alternatives.

Our dependence on single-use plastic products has devastating effects on the environment. From the Great Pacific Garbage Patch to the thousands of marine animals who die each year, plastic bags are contributing to environmental damage to our ocean systems. There is no reason something we use for a few minutes should last a few hundred years.

Corvallis is known for its environmental standards nationwide, and has received numerous awards. Passing a ban here will have a positive

3/29/13

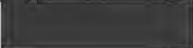
Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!

impact. Of the bag bans in effect in the US, none have demonstrably hurt consumers or local business, but they have saved consumers, cities, and businesses the expenses incurred from dealing with these products.

Corvallis has the chance to set an example for other communities, and lay the groundwork for a statewide solution in 2013. Please ban single use plastic checkout bags here in Corvallis.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jessica Bannester


Portland, OR 

- Prev by Date: Thank you for Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- Next by Date: EfficientGov 3.26.2013 -
- Previous by thread: Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- Next by thread: One Million Moms for Gun Control - OR/Mid-Willamette Valley Rally
- Index(es):
 - Date
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MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- To: Ward2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- Subject: Thank you for Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- From: Jessica Bannester <503jgb@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2013 19:11:36 -0500 (CDT)
- Organization: Sierra Club
- Reply-to: Jessica Bannester <503jgb@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

Mar 25, 2013

Council Member Roen Hogg
OR

Dear Council Member Hogg,

Thank you for banning single-use plastic checkout bags with a 5-cent pass-through cost on paper bags. Your vote is very much appreciated because you voted for the most effective way to reduce plastic in our community.

Corvallis will now have the proud distinction of being the second city in Oregon to banish single-use plastic checkout bags. Corvallis will even have more to brag about because we are the first city in Oregon to have a 5-cent pass-through cost on paper bags, and where the ban applies to all retail stores.

This means we will cut back on waste and it will give us a good incentive to remember our reusable bags. It will also make Corvallis' single-use plastic bag ban much stronger and more effective.

Thank you for continuing Corvallis's tradition of setting an example for other communities. We are known for our environmental standards and this will help the community and our local businesses thrive.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jessica Bannester

[REDACTED]
Portland, OR [REDACTED]

- Prev by Date: 49th Street Annexation - City Council Notice
- Next by Date: Please Support Banning the Bag in Corvallis!
- Previous by thread: 49th Street Annexation - City Council Notice
- Next by thread: EfficientGov 3.26.2013 -
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PFMA

Public Fleet Managers Association

Joint PFMA/OPFMG/NAFA Pacific Northwest Chapter meeting

Host: Barbara Basnett – Fleet Superintendent

Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA
(360) 696-8478

AGENDA

Thursday, May 16, 2013

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Welcome & Introductions	Fred Chun
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Organizational Reports: Minutes, Financial & Training	Various
9:30 am – 10:20 am	Mercury Consulting Fleet right-sizing and utilization	Paul Lauria
10:20 am – 11:00 am	CEI Fleet Collision Management Services	Kathi Croze
11:00 am – Noon	NAFA Education and Certifications	Patrick McCarren
Noon – 12:40 pm	Lunch	Lunch
12:40 pm – 2:00 pm	Ford Motor Company New Ford Vehicles Display	Steve Hoe Columbia Auto Group

2013 Meetings

June TBD: Joint BC/PFMA meeting

July 25: Eastern Washington region TBD

October 24 – Thurston County Fleet Facility

Driving Direction and Parking Information

Water Resources Education Center

4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver WA 98661

- Travel South on I-5
- Merge onto WA-14 via Exit 1A toward Camas
- Take the SE Columbia Way exit, Exit 1, toward Vancouver Nat'l Historic Reserve
- Keep right to take the SE Columbia Way ramp
- Turn slight right onto SE Columbia Way
- Take the 1st left to stay on SE Columbia Way
- SE Columbia Way become SE Columbia Pky
- SE Columbia Pky becomes SE Columbia Way
- Make a U-turn in the traffic circle and the Water Resources Education Center is on the right
- 4600 SE Columbia Way

Attachment E

Feedback Received by Staff

Copies of emails and other materials received by staff follow.

Feedback from phone calls received by staff:

1/4/13	Citizen call	Alsea resident advocating for the status quo. Banning plastic is ok, but charging for paper is ridiculous.
1/4/13	Citizen call	OSU student looking for information on how the ban came to be. How many signatures needed to overturn? I directed them to the website for history of the ordinance and recommended that they talk with Kathy Louie about the requirements to overturn.
2/6/13	Citizen call	Expressed frustration with the nickel fee being required of food stamp customers.
3/13/13	Citizen call	Allow exemption on an individual basis for people in need (e.g. on food stamps, disabled, poor looking) to get free bags. Shouldn't put the stores in a compromised position of violating the ordinance. Perhaps the store manager can provide the ok on a case by case basis where they don't have to answer back to the City. When the law is so tedious that they're harming needy people, then the law needs to be revised.
3/18/13	Citizen call	Call to comment on the good job BiMart is doing by reusing cardboard boxes for customer carryout.
4/1/13	Citizen call	Plastic bags have many alternative uses, more so than paper bags. Killing more trees by using paper bags. Paper bag not worth the nickel because there are no further uses.

Dybvad, Scott

From: Susan Wechsler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 8:35 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Cc: Ward 2; [REDACTED]
Subject: Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance

Hi Scott,

As you know, I am the volunteer shop manager at the Heartland Humane Society Thrift Shop (formerly Cat's Meow), a non-profit organization.

Our shop utilizes 100% re-used bags, which are dropped off by our customers, donors, and other supporters. When I first heard that this ordinance was being considered, I was very concerned about the possibility of negative consequences, namely that it would punish **re-use** of existing bags. As you undoubtedly realize, the only thing better for the environment than recycling, is the **re-use** of existing products.

So, I voiced my concerns, early on, to both Debra Higbee-Sudyka from the Sierra Club Marys Peak Group (cc'd on this email), as well as to those crafting the ordinance. Unfortunately, it seems that, in spite of my efforts and the seemingly unanimous support of those I spoke with, the exclusion for RE-USE of existing bags fell through the cracks.

I would really like to see this addressed before the ordinance would start to have an adverse impact on my non-profit, and other vendors trying to do the right thing for the environment.

Please keep me updated as to other opportunities that may come up at which I can press my case. Thank you for your time!

Warm regards,
Susan Wechsler
Volunteer Manager
Heartland Humane Society Thrift Shop
(Formerly Cat's Meow Thrift Shop)

Dybvad, Scott

From: gary quinn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 9:31 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

What an asshole, I hope your job goes onto the chopping block. Yes we the public are so stupid about plastic bag use. I will get my plastic bags from out of town. May your dept and have a short non sustainable life and take debra with you. I know where to leave my dog shit.

Dybvad, Scott

From: Spencer Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

To Whom It May Concern:

Do those of you that have pushed so hard for this understand AT ALL what it's like to be poor and live off of food stamps and WIC? Those of us in that situation have NO extra to purchase bags that have been proven to carry eColi as most are not washable (or of course the ones that are washable require MORE laundry which I thought wasn't so "green"). I don't know where I'm supposed to get the extra \$ because even cents matter when you don't make enough to cover your bills and live on student loans. In our situation we are working our BUTTS off to try and make ends meet now so we can provide a better future for our family. I don't understand why those in this kind of authority NEVER think of the little guy. Small steps towards government control of everything in our lives I guess! Funny too I had ZERO warning of this as we are poor and can't afford the newspaper and get NO TV channels where we live because we can't afford basic cable to get our local channels because it was a choice of that or Internet and Internet is important for my husband to do school successfully and for me to try and continue earning a little money with my online business.

After going to a grocery store and seeing their signs and having a cashier who hadn't even heard of it before arriving to work I did some digging and found this site after looking on the online Gazette. I have to say this is what struck me most out of this article (found here: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/preparing-for-the-bag-ban/article_a49fa3e6-4fc6-11e2-8061-001a4bcf887a.html)

"We're making hidden costs visible, going from hidden at the cash register to out in the open. That's a big shift. It's only a tax on those who choose a behavior."

Violators are subject to a \$200 fine, but Dybvad said education is the top priority, not punishment.

A TAX?! TAXED ENOUGH ALREADY! Big brother is trying to tax our "behavior" of being poor and not being able to afford bags? Are you kidding me? And a fine to those who don't comply? Not everyone USED plastic bags in the first place and many who do don't throw them away they drop them in the plastic bag recycling or reuse them for garbage that cannot be recycled. Not everything green saves greens and unfortunately yet again the rich people who throw this crap out and force things through and everyone beneath them to comply or be taxed don't even think about the middle class or poor who are BARELY making ends meet and those that are just a little too "rich" for food stamps are lucky to barely be able to buy a small amount of groceries (I've been there-we were barely able to afford \$100 of groceries a month for a family of 4 before my husband totally lost income going to school) and every penny takes food out of a child's mouth.

So, before you go around thinking you're penalizing people for a "bad behavior" think of the unattended consequences. I'm directing this at EVERYONE that is in support of this. I doubt any of you really want to keep food out of a child's mouth or clothes off of their back when pennies in this economy REALLY add up.

I would like to know the proper people that I can contact to share my story and fight for the TAX to be removed.

Ashley Barrett

A concerned citizen of Corvallis who is considering grocery shopping in Albany instead!

Dybvad, Scott

From: Dybvad, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 8:57 AM
To: 'miltweaver@[REDACTED]'
Subject: RE: store violations

Milt,

The enforcement section of the ordinance reads, "...shall begin January 1, 2013 for retailers with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees..." We are interpreting that to be the number of FTEs a retail establishment has under single ownership within Corvallis city limits. So for example, Bi-Mart has two stores under single ownership (I believe) in Corvallis. Individually each store may not have 50 FTEs, but combined they do so they must comply as of 1/1/13. TJ Maxx only has one store in Corvallis and it has less than 50 FTEs.

The Safeway situation is similar to Winco's. As cashiers and community members get used to the new ordinance I expect us to go through an adjustment period where we all figure out how many bags we need. Right now I'm interpreting those situations as the store being courteous as their customers and cashiers learn while also avoiding a disruption to the flow in the checkout lane. As the community gets used to the ordinance, I will more strictly enforce those violations. If you tell me which Safeway you saw this at, I'll call and talk to the store manager.

911 is for emergencies. You can call the police department's non-emergency number but they will refer it to me.

Scott

From: miltweaver@[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 4:53 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Re: store violations

TJ Max is a National Chain store with far in excess of 50 employees. The ordinance reads 50 employees, there is no provision that states "with in the city of Corvallis"? It is a violation as the ordinance reads. Safeway is utilizing a volunteer honor system to indicate the number of bags you purchase. If a customer only indicates one bag, but uses two or three they are not making customers pay for the additional bags. Because this is an ordinance/ law violation can we call 911 and report the violation? What is the procedure for reporting the violations? I'm still requesting all public records from you office that concerns the bag ban, reports of violations and actions taken. I will submit the form. Thanks, Milt

From: "Scott Dybvad" <Scott.Dybvad@corvallisoregon.gov>
To: "miltweaver@[REDACTED]"
Sent: Monday, January 7, 2013 3:13:04 PM
Subject: RE: store violations

Milt,

Thank you for submitting these comments. Here is what I have found related to the violations you mention:

- TJ Maxx in Corvallis has less than 50 FTEs at their Corvallis location. The ordinance currently applies only to stores with more than 50 FTEs.

- The Winco Store Manager understands the ordinance correctly that retail establishments must charge 5 cents each for paper bags provided at checkout. He will retrain the cashiers on this issue.

I have questions about Safeway. What specifically were they doing that was in violation of the ordinance? Which Safeway store did this occur at?

About your public records request – I have attached a Public Records Request Form for you to complete and submit to me. Once that is submitted, I can get to work collecting that information for you.

Scott

Scott Dybvad
Sustainability Program Specialist
City of Corvallis
(541) 766-6331
Scott.Dybvad@CorvallisOregon.gov

From: miltweaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:56 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: store violations

TJ Max is still using plastic bags. A clear violation of the ordinance. WinCo, if a customer claims one bag, but uses 4 it's the clerks discretion if they charge for the other 3. They said it's because the 5 cents covers the cost of 4 bags. This is a store policy that is creating ordinance violations. Safeway is using an honor system and does not address customers that do not pay for all the bags used. This store policy is creating numerous violations of the ordinance. This is an official complaint of violations and I'm requesting copies of all public records, documentation regarding complaints, contacts, requests for information and actions taken on all violations regarding the bag ban ordinance. If you have any questions you may contact me at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Corvallis or call [REDACTED]. Thanks, Milt

Dybvad, Scott

From: Kirk Case [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2013 12:05 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Bag Ban

Scott,

I wasn't quite sure who to send my e-mail to so you are the lucky recipient. I just wanted to share my displeasure about the bag ban. I think it is a shortsighted and not very well thought out. The biggest example I can think of is the fact that it is for "one time use" bags. This is kind of a joke because at least in our household the plastic bags get used at least twice and sometimes more. They also save us money so that we don't have to buy garbage bags. Instead we spend more money on thicker bags. I hope you have a good day and thank you for taking the time to read the e-mail.

-Kirk Case
[REDACTED]

Dybvad, Scott

From: Helen Fausett [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 4:54 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Bag ban is a travesty

I just read that it was reported that the bag ban is going "fine" with consumers. I think the City Councilors should be REQUIRED to sit at a checkout stand for a few hours to get the real story. I just love to have someone in front of me put old bags with cat hair and dog hair stuck to them (and who knows what else) onto the same belt that I put the food I will be feeding to my family. If the city gives out plastic bags for people to dispose of dog waste in city parks, why is it not OK for us to use plastic bags to keep our stores sanitary? (By the way, most consumers were already REUSING their plastic grocery bags to dispose of pet waste, line garbage cans, carry lunch to work, etc. So, where is the benefit of this self-serving, illegal ban?)

Luckily, our family lives in South Benton County so we will be doing our shopping in Junction City whenever possible. It will be a cold day in hell before I will pay even 5 cents on the whim of some ill-informed city councilors.

Helen Fausett

Dybvad, Scott

From: Rebecca Landis [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 8:05 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

Scott:

I have been working on a longer set of notes for vendors, and I am rereading the ordinance itself in addition to the other materials you've provided.

I see more clearly that providing or making available the banned carryout bags to customers is prohibited. I think this confirms my interpretation about not having them in the stalls at all, and I think it also would stand against a retailer leaving them out at the entrance.

I have confirmed that the co-op would sell me brown grocery bags to deal with the WIC issue.

I would love to be able to cut and paste from the ordinance. The city's archive system drives me nuts -- I cannot download or copy this particular document, just read it. Usually I can beat it into submission. I am not inclined to contacting the IT staff. I have tried this before, and they seem to think it's a great system. It was obsolete when the city bought it years ago.

Could we have a pdf of the ordinance where you post the FAQs and such?

I do have copies of the Eugene and Portland ordinances, which fairly were easy to obtain if you are good at searching as I am. But they don't offer a nice a package of info as you did, and I want to say I appreciate everything you did with the rollout.

Rebecca Landis
Market Director
Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets
[REDACTED]

Dybvad, Scott

From: Rick Hangartner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 10:14 PM
To: De Jong, Kris; Dybvad, Scott
Cc: Steckel, Mary
Subject: Following up on today's meeting
Attachments: J Infect Dis.-2012-Repp-1639-41.pdf; Hall 2012 JID.pdf; Lopman 2012 Curr Opin Virol.pdf

Dear Kris and Scott,

In view of today's meeting, I am bringing this item from the AP today to the City's attention:

US hit by new stomach bug spreading around globe

<http://news.yahoo.com/us-hit-stomach-bug-spreading-around-globe-190113794.html>

I am available to talk tomorrow (Friday) before 2PM about this.

Best regards,
Rick

Dybvad, Scott

From: Rick Hangartner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 7:11 PM
To: De Jong, Kris; Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Re: Thanks for talking with me today

Dear Kris and Scott,

I looked in to the DC situation. What I found as of 2011, is that the DC enacted a "bag tax", not a ban, which imposed a \$0.05 charge on each plastic or paper single use bag. You can find the ordinance here:

<http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/ChapterHome.aspx?ChapterNumber=21-10>

If this is your understanding then there are two things I have to note:

- 1) The reports as of 2011 I could find only can document that people reduced bag consumption. That does not mean they switched to reusable bags, much less in the same numbers as a proportion of population that would occur in the model adopted in Oregon.
- 2) I haven't gone through the full text because the DC website is not user friendly. However, the ordinance does NOT state it's purpose is encouraging potentially risky behavior of having people move to reused bags:

1000 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to implement the provisions of the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2009, effective September 23, 2009 (D.C. Law 18-55; D.C. Official Code § 2-1226.51 et seq.).

The Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2009 itself does NOT ban single use plastic bags at all. It just specifies that they must be high-density polyethylene film, be 100% recyclable, and imposes a \$0.05 fee.

So the answer to your question is that DC is largely irrelevant unless Council can prove the rate or reusable bags is greatly increased in the manner intended by a ban.

Best regards,
Rick

On Thu, Jan 24, 2013 at 5:16 PM, Rick Hangartner [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi Kris and Scott,

Thanks for making the time available to talk with me today. I realize I was throwing out a lot of information, and of course being rather passionate about the matter, so I appreciate you bearing with me.

As I see it, citizens who are concerned about the health issues of the ordinance have been painted into a corner by the Council (or perhaps the Council has painted themselves into a corner?):

Section 8.14.010 Purpose

1) The purpose of this Chapter is to prohibit retail establishments from distributing single use plastic carryout bags to their customers and to encourage the distribution and use of reusable options in order to avoid the negative environmental consequences found with the use of single use plastic carryout bags.

By that I mean this legislation is what the Council, the NWGA, the Mary's Peak Sierra Club, random supporters, and likely the timber industry, saw as a marriage of convenience to advance their own agendas. Encouraging a potentially risky behavior of reusable options that disregards public, population, worker, and individual health is instrumental to that marriage, and has not been a consideration in it's own right as it should be. In addition, the Council demonstrated an petulant unwillingness to listen to relevant, quality information that called the wisdom of the ordinance into question, to the point of outright disrespect for the staff, the public, and store employees.

Sadly this behavior shows there is little to demonstrate that sound arguments can overcome Councilors' egos or even be given a hearing. At the bottom line, Councilors would have to publicly admit that they acted imprudently and so far most of them have shown little hint they have that in their personal character, at least when acting as an individual member of a collective decision making body. It seems likely that almost the only way this can happen is if they feel public disgust for how they have behaved.

In my view, the staff's role as information providers to the Council includes reminding them of this. Moreover, I'd suggest that staff has an obligation to the public to not assist Councilors in closing their ears and minds to well-founded and deserved criticism of poorly considered positions and actions they have taken when the evidence warrants. Based on that, I believe there is more for us to discuss about how citizens can work with staff to present Council with information about the potential risk to public health the ordinance engenders, even though Councilors have failed to give this due consideration on their own initiative as they should have and all evidence suggests they probably will continue to refuse to do so. Only in that way will they and they alone be seen by the public as solely accountable for their disrespectful attitude towards everyone, but especially store employees. It may even be that this will result in a public rebuke through approval of an initiative to repeal the ordinance. I look forward to meeting with you again at your earliest convenience to discuss all of this further.

Best regards,
Rick

--

"The map is not the territory" - Korzybski 1931
"The plural of anecdote IS data" - Wolfinger 1969
"The plural of anecdote is not data" - "experts" today (Kotsonis 1996?)
"The data is not the territory" - me

Dybvad, Scott

From: E Parnon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2013 11:26 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: bags okay?

I was surprised that Michael's Craft store at 9th and Garfield is using plastic bags at the checkout. After reading the City's bag page, is this because their bags are extra thick (reusable) or are they out of compliance with the bag ban?

Thanks.

(My husband was a large consumer of single-use bags from Winco and now that he has to bring his own bags is totally converted to using them and would not go back, but it took the bag ban to get him to do it.)

--

Ellissa Parnon

Dybvad, Scott

From: De Jong, Kris
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: FW: Additional public health concern about reusable bags
Attachments: laundrylabels.pdf

For the record...

Thx,
Kris

From: rick hangartner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 3:31 PM
To: Steckel, Mary; De Jong, Kris
Subject: Re: Additional public health concern about reusable bags

Hi Mary and Kris,

Attached is a facsimile and two photographs of tags in some reusable bags that Fred Mayer and Winco distribute.

I'm not sure what the disclaimer:

This Bag/Item does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts.

even implies in what is supposed to be an environmentally friendly bag.

The Earthwise bag also caught my eye because of this other disclaimer:

Contains no post consumer recycled material.

because it again seems odd in a what is supposed to be an environmentally friendly bag. And also because it has been suggested that these spunbond polypropylene bags have a service life of about 10 washings of the nature required to sanitize them, or about only 10 uses.

Best regards,
Rick

On Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 3:14 PM, rick hangartner [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Mary and Kris,

This was just brought to my attention by folks in Washington DC.

Notice on Reusable Bags and Lead

<http://rrc.dc.gov/green/cwp/view,a,1231,q,463725.asp>

Apparently it has something to do with the paint on some bags. I don't know how old this notice is but Google searches suggest it dates from 2011 and I'm trying to find out more. Perhaps you can advise me on whether you know if this notice is still relevant to bags made in China being sold in Corvallis grocery stores.

If it turns out that you're not sure about that or that it is still relevant, it seems to me that the staff could be obligated to: 1) investigate whether the City should issue a similar notice and report this to Council, or 2) if the staff cannot investigate this on its own initiative, bring this notice to the Council's attention for a decision whether the City should issue a similar warning.

I have noticed that the spunbond polypropylene bags sold at Market of Choice, Fred Mayer, and Winco are produced in China. I don't know if the paint on them was applied by bag finishers in the US and does not have lead, or if it is of a type to which this Notice applies. Perhaps you do and can advise me.

Sanitizing these bags requires they be washed in hot water, with agitation. I have personally confirmed this causes the paint on these bags to flake off and the bags to "begin to show (obvious) signs of deterioration" otherwise.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner



earthwise

Made in China
 100% Non Woven Polypropylene
 Machine Wash, Gentle Cycle
 Do Not Bleach, Do Not Tumble Dry
 This Bag Does Not Contain Lead, Cadmium or
 Any Other Heavy Metal in Toxic Amounts
 Contains No Post Consumer Recycled Material

www.earthwisebags.com

Non-Woven PP Shopping Bags



earthwise
 bag company, inc.
 2250 S. Tubeway Ave, Commerce, CA
 Made in China
 100% non woven polypropylene
 Cold Hand Wash
 Do Not Bleach
 Do Not Tumble Dry
www.earthwisebags.com

Non Woven Polypropylene | Do not dry clean
 Do not Bleach | Line dry | Do not iron | Hand wash cold



www.greenbagco.com

THIS BAG DOES NOT CONTAIN LEAD, CADMIUM, OR ANY OTHER
 HEAVY METAL IN TOXIC AMOUNTS



GREEN BAG CO.
 MADE IN CHINA

Dybvad, Scott

From: De Jong, Kris
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: FW: Additional public health concern about reusable bags

For the record...

Thx,
Kris

From: rick hangartner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 3:15 PM
To: Steckel, Mary; De Jong, Kris
Subject: Additional public health concern about reusable bags

Dear Mary and Kris,

This was just brought to my attention by folks in Washington DC.

Notice on Reusable Bags and Lead

<http://rrc.dc.gov/green/cwp/view,a,1231,q,463725.asp>

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If it turns out that you're not sure about that or that it is still relevant, it seems to me that the staff could be obligated to: 1) investigate whether the City should issue a similar notice and report this to Council, or 2) if the staff cannot investigate this on its own initiative, bring this notice to the Council's attention for a decision whether the City should issue a similar warning.

I have noticed that the spunbond polypropylene bags sold at Market of Choice, Fred Mayer, and Winco are produced in China. I don't know if the paint on them was applied by bag finishers in the US and does not have lead, or if it is of a type to which this Notice applies. Perhaps you do and can advise me.

Sanitizing these bags requires they be washed in hot water, with agitation. I have personally confirmed this causes the paint on these bags to flake off and the bags to "begin to show (obvious) signs of deterioration" otherwise.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner



Notice on Reusable Bags and Lead

Green Hot Topics



Green DC
Comprehensive resource
on environmental issues.

- Green DC Home
- Green Energy DC
- Green Hot Topics
- Mayor's Green Team
- Green Services
- Green Partners
- Green Library



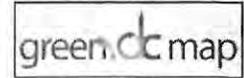
Resident eServices

- Online Services
- Online Forms
- Searchable Databases

[More eServices](#)

Due to recent concerns about a small amount of lead found in reusable bags produced in China, DDOE will immediately stop distribution of our inventory of these bags. The bags pose no health threat to the public if they are used as intended. Neither do they pose risk of lead contamination to food that is placed on them, in them, or to hands that touch them. Accordingly, DDOE provides the following guidance and recommendations:

1. People who have reusable shopping bags with colorful designs on them and/or bags that are made of synthetic materials should keep them away from young children, as the bags may pose a health risk to children if they chew on them.
2. People with such bags should discard them before the bags begin to show signs of deterioration.
3. For more information on reusable bags, please visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website at www.cpsc.gov.



Natural Environment



Climate Change



Leading By Example



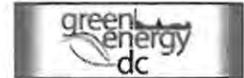
Natural Environment



Sustainable Development



Waste and Hazards



Green Energy DC

[More...](#)

Agency Links

- District Department of the Environment (DDOE)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Office of the Clean City
- Recycle DC, Department of Public Works (DPW)

[More...](#)

Dybvad, Scott

From: Beers Park [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:31 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Still Baffled

Wednesday AM 1/30/13

Hi Scott,

Thanks so much for your prompt reply.

The web page FAQ for Shoppers had the following suggestions:

"What are some ideas for getting along without plastic bags?"

A: *Dealing with pet waste:* There will still be many plastic bags in circulation. You can continue to use bread bags, produce, bulk or cereal bags.

Lining a garbage can: Line your garbage can with newspaper and rinse it out periodically. Or buy some lightweight plastic bags and reuse them, dumping the contents into your outdoor garbage can before relining your can with them. Reuse the bag from your cat or dog food."

Lining with newspaper is completely insane, so they are going with buying plastic bags!! How does this keep plastic bags out of the environment? Sorry, but I don't have time or patience to scan over the meeting minutes recording how they came up with this less than brilliant plan.

Your name is given as the contact if citizens have any more questions. So, no, my questions are not answered! Since I live outside the city boundaries, I have no representation on the City Council. Any ideas who might take responsibility for this?

Thanks again,
Marion

Marion,

Thanks for writing with your questions. I can't answer them all but I can direct you to some resources where you can find information about the public process and City Council's thinking behind the new ordinance.

The five cent bag charge stays with the stores. The City does not require any reporting from the stores about their bag charges.

Even though I was heavily involved in the public process and attended most of the Council and Administrative Services Committee meetings, I'm still not certain why some components were included in the ordinance (like the five cent charge). The City has a website on the plastic bag ordinance at www.corvallisoregon.gov/plasticbags. There is a History section there with meeting minutes and staff reports - you'll get a sense of the process we went through to provide info to Council to make a decision. You may be

able to discern through that info the answers to your questions.

I hope that information helps. If not, please let me know.

Scott

Scott Dybvad
Sustainability Program Specialist
City of Corvallis
(541) 766-6331
Scott.Dybvad@CorvallisOregon.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Beers Park [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:26 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Baffled a Bagful

Wednesday AM 1/30/13

Hi Scott,

I recently read a small entry in the GT about the new city bag policy. There has been so little information circulated. Would you please answer a couple of questions?

First, who gets the 5 cents that we now pay for each paper bag?

Second, is there a piece of the puzzle I am missing?

I thought the whole idea of banning the plastic bags was to prevent them from clogging the environment. I am all for that! But how did the 5 cent charge follow on to that so directly?

What are people using to put their garbage and recycling in? I've always used the compostable paper bags. If I use my totes to get groceries, then I have to buy plastic bags to use for my disposables! Doesn't that cancel out the original purpose of the plastic bag ban?

No one I have asked seems to have answers to these questions! If you do, it might be a good idea to get the word out!

Thanks very much for your attention,
Marion Beers
[REDACTED]

Dybvad, Scott

From: Nic [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 11:35 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

This is the stupidest thing you have done yet. Stop micromanaging everyone's lives and just do your jobs.

February 13, 2013

Hi Mary and Kris,

Some things maybe to keep in mind about the Klick and Wright study, and comments in the Saunder's article:

- 1) Klick and Wright address only one potential risk to public, population, employee, and individual health.
- 2) Klick and Wright ARE following the peer review process for their disciplines (economics and law). They deposited the paper in the Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN) where it is now receiving "crowdsourced" peer review from those in their disciplines. After some period of discussion, if they have submitted it to a journal, the journal will go through further review. The reality in these days of the social media and the web is that journal reviewers weigh heavily how the paper fared in that public exposure through SSRN when deciding if the article should be published in relevant journals. This is happening in all fields, including public health. If Aragon is a credible scholar (he says he is adjunct faculty in the UC Berkeley School of Public Health) he knows this.
- 3) In CA, from what I've found government has no legal authority to require stores to report bag usage statistics, and that isn't surprising. So data about usage is hard to come by, it would have to be self-reported by the industry. Ironically that wouldn't be accepted as credible data by any self-respecting public health officials.
- 4) From my investigation, CA is like OR in that Public Health Departments have not jurisdiction, and therefore not authority, to collect the kind of data that would be needed to inform the kind of supposed "peer review" that could discredit the Klick and Wright study that Aragon uses to try to dismiss it.
- 5) Given all of this Klick and Wright were also doing responsible scholarship by saying they had used the data that was available to provide enough basis to argue that this needs to be investigated further.

Until all of the systemic issues cited are resolved, it's problematic at best (and expensive) to do the required study. In the public health realm, it is seldom acceptable and definitely not prudent to support, much less legislatively encourage, behavior that we have some solid basis and suggestive evidence to be concerned are unwise on the basis we chose to have and sustain systemic barriers that make it difficult to investigate the risks appropriately. We err on the side of caution and protecting public health by discouraging the behavior.

I'd be happy to work with you any way you find productive to consider the paper and the wider potential health risks of reused bags and reuse behaviors in our grocery stores.

Thanks.

Best regards,

Rick



Re: Questions about SF bag ban

Rick Hangartner

Wed, Feb 13, 2013 at 6:29 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Jack,

I did a little more digging and found you are the "Commercial Zero Waste Coordinator" for the city and the county. From that, it seems to me you would be the person who can answer two additional questions:

1) Do you collect and or have data on the adoption of substitute plastic bag products by consumers for secondary uses they may have made of the single use plastic bags covered in the ban program you administer? If you and/or your program don't have responsibility for collecting this data, or deriving estimates, can you tell me what program in the city or county does? Or is there is systemic ignorance (technical use of the term) in the city and county of whether and how the ban may have induced consumer adoption of substitute products?

2) Single use plastic bags at the time and point of disposal would be residential waste, since in retail establishments they are a product provided to consumers, not disposed of as commercial waste. So I'm wondering if you can provide a brief explanation of the reasoning how your "Commercial Zero Waste Disposal" program apparently gained jurisdiction over residential waste disposal?

Thanks.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner, PhD

On Tue, Feb 12, 2013 at 3:46 PM, Rick Hangartner [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Jack,

Seems you are the guy who everybody says is supposed to know the answer to these two questions, so hopefully you can help me.

1) Are retailers in SF required/authorized by law to collect a fee for each non-reusable bag they supply a customer? If so, how much is it and who gets the fee (the city, county, state, retailer, etc.)?

2) Who is keeping and reporting any statistics about reuse behaviors, versus substitute non-reusable options (probably paper bags), since the ban went into effect in 2007? I've found some indication the city, county, state, etc. can't. And it seems retail representatives are releasing verifiable data publicly.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner, PhD



Question about your recent comments in a SF Chronicle article

Rick Hangartner

Wed, Feb 13, 2013 at 7:12 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Aragon,

I noticed you were quoted in a SF Chronicle story that has at least made its way up the West Coast:

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Could-a-ban-on-plastic-bags-be-fatal-4266802.php>

San Francisco health officer Tomás Aragón reviewed the Wharton paper and found "a biologically plausible hypothesis" but "sloppy" research. "It's a complicated topic. It's a little surprising that he would put this out there without a peer review," he added. If the professors had consulted with an epidemiologist, they would have understood how the city's unique demographics contribute to specific intestinal issues. (Unlike Aragón, I'm trying to be delicate here and not share too much information.)

As a PhD myself, I'm of course familiar with how comments about "sloppy research" and questions of "peer review" can be misleading to those who may not be aware of the research enterprise. SF city's and county' unique demographics may lead to behaviors that "contribute to specific intestinal issues". It is not possible from the story to ascertain whether those behaviors are explanatory factors for the apparent observed increase in infectious disease rates and deaths or secondary factors that contribute to the rate or amount of increase. So I'm wondering if you you would mind providing the explanation you offered Ms. Saunders but she only references?

Also, it seems you might be the guy who can answer another question. To provide the required background, let me summarize that I've found that all of the jurisdictions I've contacted around the country have an interesting jurisdictional hole when it comes to grocery stores and management of the environmental transmission of infectious disease. The products, facilities, and employees of grocery stores are regulated by an authority whose responsibility of the food supply, and therefore generally limited to food-borne contamination acquired somewhere in the supply chain production to checkout. Public health authorities have jurisdiction over infectious disease tracking and containment in residential and other settings, but not inside the doors of grocery stores unless an outbreak has been traced to an establishment. Public health authorities, on the other hand, generally have authority over establishments who serve food because those are not considered food distribution facilities within the regulatory expertise of those with authority over distribution channels. Consumer behaviors that may contribute to the environmental transmission of infectious disease or other hazardous environmental contaminants between consumers and consumers and employees in grocery stores falls outside the technical jurisdiction of either. In fact, I've been told by federal authorities who are aware of this jurisdictional issue that it may be that only entities with "police" powers (technical sense of the term) have jurisdiction. In this case, that would mean OSHA or a state-equivalent for employees, and those powers would first require legislative designation of an enforceable hazard.

All that said, the only immediate consequence of these jurisdictional strictures that really matters is that there appears to generally be a systemic ignorance (technical use of the term) when it comes to monitoring or understanding the role of customer behaviors in the environmental transmission of infectious disease in grocery stores, and reused bags and reuse behaviors specifically. I'm wondering if you can tell me who has jurisdiction in your city and county over grocery stores when it comes to not only food safety, but behaviorally-linked risks in grocery stores to public, population, worker, and individual health?

Thanks for your attention to this inquiry.

Best regards,

Rick Hangartner, PhD



SF Chronicle story, question

Rick Hangartner

Tue, Feb 12, 2013 at 3:33 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Dave,

I noticed you were quoted in a SF Chronicle story that has made its way up the West Coast at least:

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Could-a-ban-on-plastic-bags-be-fatal-4266802.php>

Dave Heylen of the California Grocers Association ripped the study for not understanding something really basic about how the San Francisco bag ban worked at first. "People weren't using reusable bags, they were using paper bags," Heylen said.

I am wondering if you have any publicly available data about this, and ideally time series data, about the options people adopted from the time the ban went into effect until some time in the future from that date that you could share?

Thanks very much.

Best regards,
Rick



Re: Question about your recent comments in a SF Chronicle article

Rick Hangartner [REDACTED]

Wed, Feb 20, 2013 at 4:07 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Garcia,

Obviously, question 1 should have read:

1) Is Aragon's memo your Department's final public statement on the Klick and **Wright** paper?

My apologies for the error and any confusion this may have caused.

Best regards,
Rick

On Wed, Feb 20, 2013 at 3:58 PM, Rick Hangartner [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dr. Garcia,

I am forwarding an email I sent Dr. Aragon one week ago seeking more substantive information about comments he made to the press.

Since then, a memo he wrote to your Public Health Information Officer addressing the issue at controversy, apparently for informing your Department's response about the Klick and Wright article to the press and public, but not my specific questions has come to my attention.

I think my questions are still relevant. Unfortunately, based on the technical, logical, and behavioral qualities of the argumentation he has chosen to put on display in his memo, I have less confidence his answers will be meaningful. I'd be happy to discuss my questions and concerns with you, but I don't know that it would be appropriate to waste your time with that.

Therefore, although I renew my questions for the record and would still welcome answers, I have four other questions that I think are relevant in view of the problematic nature of Aragon's memo. I'll just state them for brevity:

- 1) Is Aragon's memo your Department's final public statement on the Klick and Aragon paper?
- 2) Is Aragon's memo your Department's final public statement on the issue of the potential risk due to food-borne bacterial infections to the personal health of those who practice reuse behaviors?
- 3) Is Aragon's memo your Department's final public statement on the potential risks to public, population, employee, and individual health of resused carryout bags and reuse behaviors?
- 4) What other direct research or monitoring, if any, is your Department doing concerning the potential risks to public, population, employee, and individual health of resused carryout bags and reuse behaviors?

Thank you for any answers you can provide to these questions.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner, PhD

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rick Hangartner** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Feb 13, 2013 at 7:12 AM
Subject: Question about your recent comments in a SF Chronicle article
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Aragon,

I noticed you were quoted in a SF Chronicle story that has at least made its way up the West Coast:

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Could-a-ban-on-plastic-bags-be-fatal-4266802.php>

San Francisco health officer Tomás Aragón reviewed the Wharton paper and found "a biologically plausible hypothesis" but "sloppy" research. "It's a complicated topic. It's a little surprising that he would put this out there without a peer review," he added. If the professors had consulted with an epidemiologist, they would have understood how the city's unique demographics contribute to specific intestinal issues. (Unlike Aragón, I'm trying to be delicate here and not share too much information.)

As a PhD myself, I'm of course familiar with how comments about "sloppy research" and questions of "peer review" can be misleading to those who may not be aware of the research enterprise. SF city's and county' unique demographics may lead to behaviors that "contribute to specific intestinal issues". It is not possible from the story to ascertain whether those behaviors are explanatory factors for the apparent observed increase in infectious disease rates and deaths or secondary factors that contribute to the rate or amount of increase. So I'm wondering if you would mind providing the explanation you offered Ms. Saunders but she only references?

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Thanks for your attention to this inquiry.

Best regards,
Rick Hangartner, PhD

—
"The map is not the territory" - Korzybski 1931
"The plural of anecdote IS data" - Wolfinger 1969
"The plural of anecdote is not data" - "experts" today (Kotsonis 1996?)
"The data is not the territory" - me



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Health Officer

February 8, 2013, Updated: February 10, 2013

To: Eileen Shields, Public Health Information Officer
From: Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH, Health Officer
Re: Klick J, Wright JD. Grocery Bag Bans and Foodborne Illness. U of Penn, Inst for Law & Econ Research Paper No. 13-2. November 2, 2012. Available from <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2196481>. Accessed on February 7, 2013.

This memo is to respond to a recent unpublished¹ research paper concluding that the San Francisco ban on plastic bags has led to an increase in bacterial foodborne illnesses and deaths. This paper is from Jonathan Klick and Joshua D. Wright from the University of Pennsylvania Institute for Law & Economics. Based on our review of this paper, and our disease surveillance and death registry data, the Klick & Wright's conclusion that San Francisco's policy of banning of plastic bags has caused a significant increase in gastrointestinal bacterial infections and a "46 percent increase in the deaths from foodborne illnesses" is not warranted.

Here are some of the limitations of their study:

- The Klick & Wright study is classified as an ecological study; that is, if factor A (reusable bags) increased in a location, and then factor B (gastrointestinal bacterial infections) increase in the same location, therefore, factor A caused factor B. Drawing causal conclusions from this type of study is called an "ecological fallacy."² The basic study flaw is that persons that use reusable bags frequently may not be the same persons that were diagnosed with gastrointestinal bacterial infections in their study. This is the reason epidemiologists will not use ecological studies to test causal hypotheses. At best, ecologic studies raise epidemiologic causal hypotheses but cannot test them.
- In testing causal hypotheses, it is necessary to measure the outcome (gastrointestinal infections) *and* exposure to the putative cause (reusable bags) *in the same persons*. Because of their study design, this was not possible.
- In testing causal hypotheses, it is necessary to "control for" alternative causal explanations (called "confounders"). Because of their study design, this was not possible. For example, gastrointestinal bacterial infections are not only caused from contaminated food, but also from contaminated water, improper food handling or preparation, or from person-to-person spread (such as sexual activity, especially in men who have sex with men). In any causal study, investigators always adjust for the "usual suspects."
- The authors use emergency department (ED) data to represent infection incidence in San Francisco. People with these infections seek many sources of care, including urgent care, their own doctors, and no care, as well as going to the ED. So ED data are very incomplete. By California law, selected laboratory-confirmed diagnoses are reported to the health department. Our disease registry is the proper basis for surveillance of microbiological data on these infections in our population. The counts and rates of these infections fluctuate over time.

Table 1: San Francisco Resident Deaths from ICD-10 Codes A00–A09

ICD-10	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
A021	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
A047 ^a	3	3	8	3	10	8	18	18	15	25	111
A048	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	5
A049	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
A081	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
A084	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4
A09	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
A090 ^b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	8
A099 ^c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Total	3	4	8	4	11	12	21	24	25	28	140
A047 ^a	3	3	8	3	10	8	18	18	15	25	111
Not A047	0	1	0	1	1	4	3	6	10	3	29

^a A047 Enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile*

^b A090 Other and unspecified gastroenteritis and colitis of infectious origin

^c A099 Gastroenteritis and colitis of unspecified origin

From our surveillance data, there has been an increase in campylobacteriosis, no increase in salmonellosis, and no increase in enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (Appendix: Figures 1 and 2). Interpreting these changes is not straightforward. The epidemiology of enteric pathogens in San Francisco differs compared to surrounding counties because we are an urban center with a larger population of ethnic immigrants and men who have sex with men (MSM).³ Research studies need to adjust for these population differences.

- The authors analyze deaths due to ICD-10 cause of death codes A00-A09 (intestinal infectious diseases). From 2001 through 2010 San Francisco had a total of 140 deaths from these causes. However, 111 of them (79%) were for code A047 (Enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile*). These infections have indeed increased in San Francisco since 2005 (before the ban) (Table 1). Toxin-producing *C. difficile* causes enterocolitis through overgrowth when exposed to antibiotics, most commonly in hospitalized patients. However, in recent years we have seen an unexplained increase of *C. difficile* enterocolitis in the United States, Europe, and Canada. The increase in San Francisco probably reflects this international increase. Foodborne exposures is not yet an established cause of *C. difficile* enterocolitis, but is an active area of research.^{4 5}

For these reasons, the authors should not have included *C. difficile* deaths in their analysis. Without *C. difficile*, there were a total of 29 deaths in these codes over 10 years through 2010. So their analysis of deaths, and costs due to deaths, is completely invalid as evidence for their argument about reusable bags.

¹This paper has not been submitted for rigorous scientific peer review and publication.

²Piantadosi S, Byar DP, Green SB. The ecological fallacy. *Am J Epidemiol.* 1988 May;127(5):893-904. Review. PubMed PMID: 3282433.

³Aragón TJ, Vugia DJ, Shallow S, Samuel MC, Reingold A, Angulo FJ, Bradford WZ. Case-control study of shigellosis in San Francisco: The role of sexual transmission and HIV infection. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2007 Feb 1;44(3):327-34. Epub 2006 Dec 29. PubMed PMID: 17205436.

⁴Rupnik M, Wilcox MH, Gerding DN. *Clostridium difficile* infection: New developments in epidemiology and pathogenesis. *Nat Rev Microbiol.* 2009 Jul;7(7):526-36. doi: 10.1038/nrmicro2164. Review. PubMed PMID: 19528959.

⁵Gould LH, Limbago B. *Clostridium difficile* in food and domestic animals: A new foodborne pathogen? *Clin Infect Dis.* 2010 Sep 1;51(5):577-82. doi: 10.1086/655692. Review. PubMed PMID: 20642351.

Klick & Wright's approach of asking about the (potential) health effects of a policy change is a valid and important public health research approach we call "Health Impact Assessments" (HIAs).⁶ ⁷ The San Francisco Department of Public Health is a strong proponent and user of the HIA approach.⁸ ⁹ ¹⁰ We recommend that the authors consider using the Institute of Medicine HIA framework and, for this topic, build strong research collaborations with experts in public health and infectious disease epidemiology. In San Francisco, we are vigilant in monitoring and studying infectious diseases. San Francisco is one of selected counties participating in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) California Emerging Infections Program (CEIP), which conducts infectious disease epidemiologic research through well-designed, rigorous scientific studies. CEIP has conducted research studies of foodborne illness for many years in the San Francisco Bay Area and has contributed significantly to our scientific understanding of foodborne illness epidemiology (see <http://www.ceip.us/foodnet.htm>).

Finally, the idea that widespread use of reusable bags may cause gastrointestinal infections if they are not regularly cleaned is plausible. However, the hypothesis that there is a significant increase in gastrointestinal foodborne illnesses and deaths due to reusable bags has not been tested, much less demonstrated in this study. It would be a disservice to San Francisco residents and visitors to alarm them by claiming that it has been. It could be useful, however, to remind people to use safe food-handling practices, including maintaining the cleanliness of everything they use to transport, handle, and prepare food.

⁶Health impact assessment is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. Health impact assessment provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects

⁷Institute of Medicine, Committee on Health Impact Assessment; National Research Council. Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment. The National Academies Press, 2011. Available from: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13229

⁸Bhatia R, Corburn J. Lessons from San Francisco: Health impact assessments have advanced political conditions for improving population health. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2011 Dec;30(12):2410-8. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2010.1303. PubMed PMID: 22147870.

⁹Bhatia R, Wernham A. Integrating human health into environmental impact assessment: An unrealized opportunity for environmental health and justice. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2008 Aug;116(8):991-1000. doi: 10.1289/ehp.11132. Review. PubMed PMID: 18709140; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2516559.

¹⁰Bhatia R. Protecting health using an environmental impact assessment: A case study of San Francisco land use decisionmaking. *Am J Public Health*. 2007 Mar;97(3):406-13. Epub 2007 Jan 31. PubMed PMID: 17267726; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1805033.

Figure 1. Cases of Campylobacteriosis, Enterotoxigenic E. coli, and Salmonellosis, San Francisco, 1986-2011

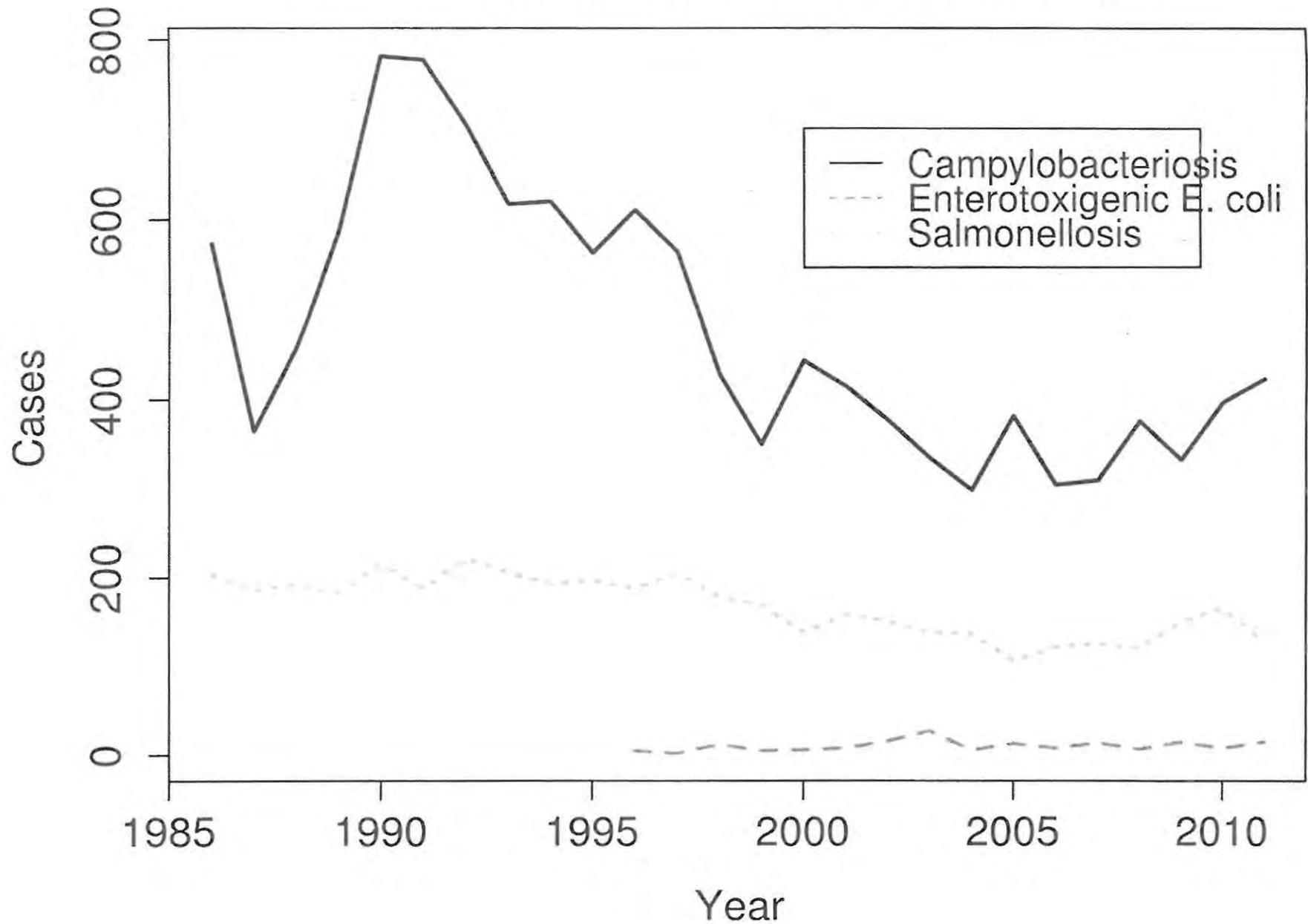
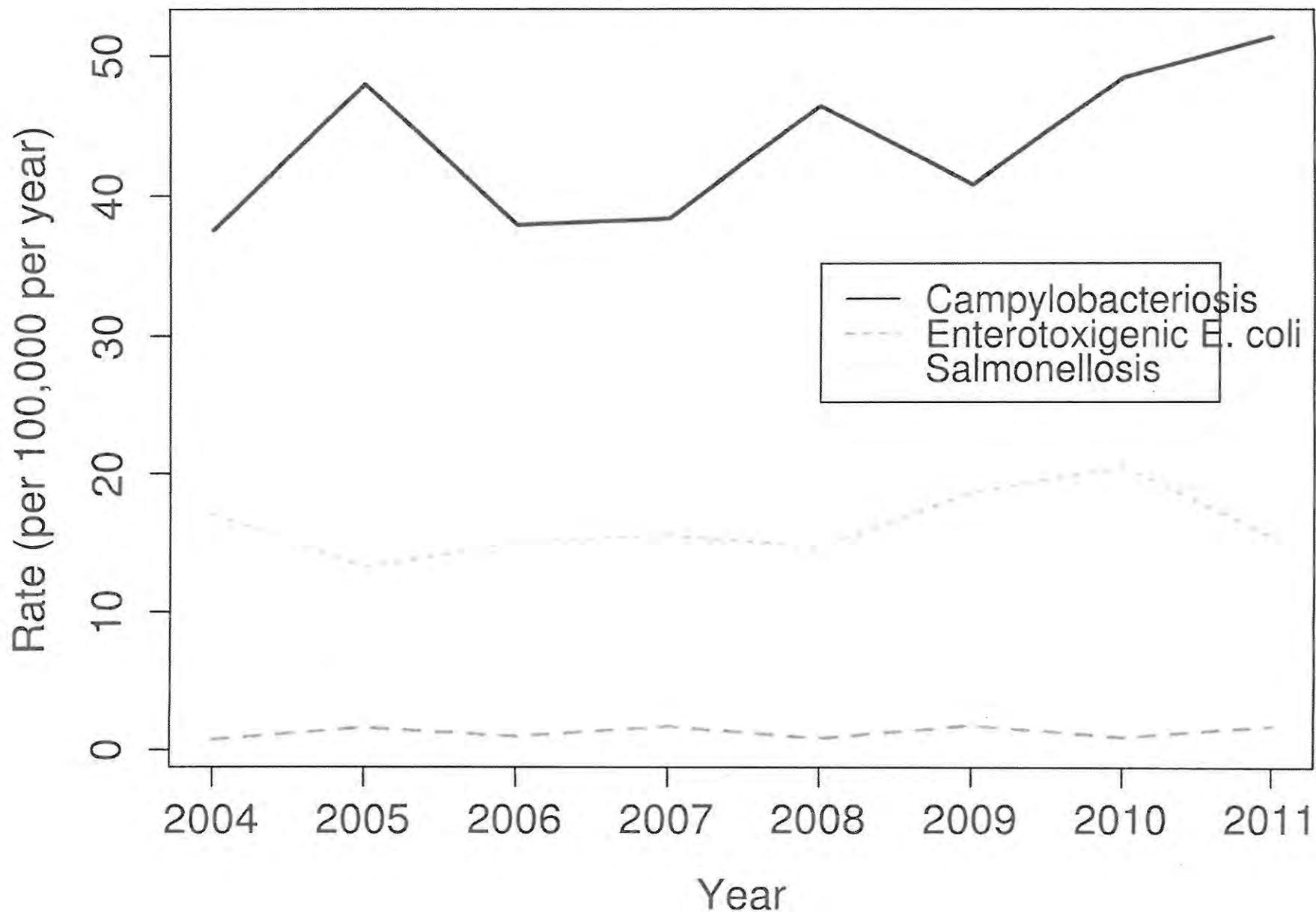


Figure 2. Rates of Campylobacteriosis, Enterotoxigenic E. coli, and Salmonellosis, San Francisco, 2004-2011



Hi Mary.

I'd like to talk w/ you or
Kris about the interpretation of
this w/ regard to the bag ban and
reused bags and reuse behaviors

Thanks
Rick

FOR Mary Steckel

PUBLIC WORKS
Received

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BREAKING NEWS | Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is Dead After Long Battle With Cancer| LIVE: CBS4 News at 5, 5:30 & 6:00 p.m.

CDC Warns Of Spread Of Deadly Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

March 5, 2013 2:34 PM

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ATLANTA (CBSMiami) – An antibiotic-resistant family of bacteria continues to spread throughout the U.S. health care system and is now prompting warnings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The bacteria, Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), kill up to half of the patients who get the bloodstream infections from the disease. The disease has evolved a resistance to carbapenems, also called last-

resort antibiotics.

In addition, the CRE bacteria can reportedly transfer its resistance to other bacteria within its family. The transfer of resistance can create additional life-threatening infections for patients in hospitals, longer-term health care facilities, and possibly otherwise healthy people, according to the CDC.

The CDC said almost all CRE infections occur in people receiving "significant medical care in hospitals, long-term acute care facilities, or nursing homes."



Reporting John Kiephart

Filed Under

Health, Local, 2013, Central Florida Local

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Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae, Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bloodstream Infections, Hospital Acquired Infections, Nursing Homes, Long-Term Acute Care Facilities



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My girlfriend felt a large lump in her left breast, please where can we find the Jackson Mobile Mammogram bus so she can get a free mammogram?

mmf0GvYVaEzXvATlou
4HcaYVinhVTI

"CRE are nightmare bacteria. Our strongest antibiotics don't work and patients are left with potentially untreatable infections," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "Doctors, hospital leaders, and public health, must work together now to implement CDC's "detect and protect" strategy and stop these infections from spreading."

According to numbers from the CDC, almost 200 hospitals and long-term care facilities across the nation treated at least one person infected with the CRE bacteria. The CDC's Vital Signs report said that the percentage of CRE increased by fourfold over the last decade and that one particular form of CRE, a resistant form of Klebsiella pneumonia, has increased sevenfold.

Still, according to the CDC said the disease is preventable by: enforcing use of infection control precautions, grouping patients with CRE together, having facilities alert each other when patients with CRE are transferred, and using antibiotics wisely among other recommendations.

The CDC said the disease can be controlled through coordinated efforts. It cited a long-term care facility in Florida that worked with the CDC and dropped the percentage of patients getting CRE from 44 percent to zero.

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Press Release

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2013

Contact: Division of News & Electronic Media (<http://www.cdc.gov/media>), Office of Communication
(404) 639-3286

Digital Press Kit: New CDC Vital Signs: Lethal, Drug-resistant Bacteria Spreading in U.S. Healthcare Facilities (<http://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/>)

NEW: Broadcast quality clips featuring CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., on the Vital Signs: Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae are available at this link: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/audioVideo.htm>.

(<http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/audioVideo.htm>) In addition, we are providing a link to b-roll footage of CDC's Healthcare-Associated Infections Laboratory at http://www.cdc.gov/media/b_roll.html (http://www.cdc.gov/media/b_roll.html)

CDC: Action needed now to halt spread of deadly bacteria

Data show more inpatients suffering infections from bacteria resistant to all or nearly all antibiotics

A family of bacteria has become increasingly resistant to last-resort antibiotics during the past decade, and more hospitalized patients are getting lethal infections that, in some cases, are impossible to cure. The findings, published today in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Vital Signs (<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HAI/CRE>) report, are a call to action for the entire health care community to work urgently – individually, regionally and nationally – to protect patients. During just the first half of 2012, almost 200 hospitals and long-term acute care facilities treated at least one patient infected with these bacteria.

The bacteria, Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE (<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/cre/index.html>)), kill up to half of patients who get bloodstream infections from them. In addition to spreading among patients, often on the hands of health care personnel, CRE bacteria can transfer their resistance to other bacteria within their family. This type of spread can create additional life-threatening infections for patients in hospitals and potentially for otherwise healthy people. Currently, almost all CRE infections occur in people receiving significant medical care in hospitals, long-term acute care facilities, or nursing homes.

“CRE are nightmare bacteria. Our strongest antibiotics don't work and patients are left with potentially untreatable infections,” said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. “Doctors, hospital leaders, and public health, must work together now to implement CDC's “detect and protect” strategy and stop these infections from spreading.”

Enterobacteriaceae are a family of more than 70 bacteria including *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli*

that normally live in the digestive system. Over time, some of these bacteria have become resistant to a group of antibiotics known as carbapenems, often referred to as last-resort antibiotics. During the last decade, CDC has tracked (<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/TrackingCRE.html>) one type of CRE from a single health care facility to health care facilities in at least 42 states. In some medical facilities, these bacteria already pose a routine challenge to health care professionals.

The Vital Signs report describes that although CRE bacteria are not yet common nationally, the percentage of Enterobacteriaceae that are CRE increased by fourfold in the past decade. One type of CRE, a resistant form of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, has shown a sevenfold increase in the last decade. In the U.S., northeastern states report the most cases of CRE.

According to the report, during the first half of 2012, four percent of hospitals treated a patient with a CRE infection. About 18 percent of long-term acute care facilities treated a patient with a CRE infection during that time.

In 2012, CDC released a concise, practical CRE prevention toolkit (<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/index.html>) with in-depth recommendations for hospitals, long-term acute care facilities, nursing homes and health departments. Key recommendations include:

- enforcing use of infection control precautions (standard and contact precautions)
- grouping patients with CRE together
- dedicating staff, rooms and equipment to the care of patients with CRE, whenever possible
- having facilities alert each other when patients with CRE transfer back and forth
- asking patients whether they have recently received care somewhere else (including another country)
- using antibiotics wisely

In addition, CDC recommends screening patients in certain scenarios to determine if they are carrying CRE. Because of the way CRE can be carried by patients from one health care setting to another, facilities are encouraged to work together regionally to implement CRE prevention programs.

These core prevention measures are critical and can significantly reduce the problem today and for the future. In addition, continued investment into research and technology, such as a testing approach called Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD), is critical to further prevent and more quickly identify CRE.

In some parts of the world, CRE appear to be more common, and evidence shows they can be controlled. Israel recently employed a coordinated effort in its 27 hospitals and dropped CRE rates by more than 70 percent. Several facilities and states in the U.S. have also seen similar reductions.

“We have seen in outbreak after outbreak that when facilities and regions follow CDC’s prevention guidelines, CRE can be controlled and even stopped,” said Michael Bell, M.D., acting director of CDC’s Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. “As trusted health care providers, it is our responsibility to prevent further spread of these deadly bacteria.”

Vital Signs (<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns>) is a CDC report that appears on the first Tuesday of the

month as part of the CDC journal Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>), or MMWR. The report provides the latest data and information on key health indicators. These are cancer prevention, obesity, tobacco use, motor vehicle passenger safety, prescription drug overdose, HIV/AIDS, alcohol use, health care–associated infections, cardiovascular health, teen pregnancy, food safety and viral hepatitis.

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Clinicians

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) Infection: Clinician FAQs

What are CRE?

CRE stands for “carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae.” Enterobacteriaceae are a family of bacteria that are often found in people’s gastrointestinal tract that can cause infections both in community and healthcare settings. Some Enterobacteriaceae have become resistant to all or almost all antibiotics. In general, CRE test nonsusceptible to at least one of the carbapenem antibiotics and/or produce an enzyme (carbapenemase) that can make them resistant to these antibiotics. These bacteria often have other resistance mechanisms that render them nonsusceptible to many other classes of commonly used antibiotics. These bacteria were uncommon in the United States before 1992. Since then they have become more common primarily due to the spread of Enterobacteriaceae that produce a carbapenemase called KPC (*Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase).

How do Enterobacteriaceae become resistant to carbapenems?

Unlike other multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) like MRSA for which a single mechanism leads to methicillin resistance, CRE can become nonsusceptible to carbapenems due to a number of mechanisms. Before the recent emergence of carbapenamases like KPC (*Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase), most CRE in the United States likely were resistant to carbapenems through a combination of mechanisms (e.g., a beta-lactamase combined with a porin mutation that limited the ability of carbapenems to get into the bacteria). In 2001, a *K. pneumoniae* isolate that possessed a novel carbapenemase called KPC was recognized in the United States. The genes that code for KPC are on a highly mobile genetic element that can be transmitted from one bacterium to another thereby spreading resistance. KPC-producing bacteria have spread widely across the United States. In addition to KPC, a number of other carbapenemases exist that can lead to carbapenem resistance; examples of these include New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM), Verona Integron-Encoded Metallo-beta-lactamase (VIM), and Imipenemase Metallo-beta-lactamase (IMP). These metallo-beta-lactamases are more common outside the United States but have been identified rarely in this country, most commonly in patients with exposure to healthcare in endemic countries. Of note, some Enterobacteriaceae are intrinsically nonsusceptible to the carbapenem imipenem, such as *Morganella morganii*, *Proteus* species, and *Providencia* species.

How common are metallo-beta-lactamase-producing CRE like NDM and VIM in The United States?

Although CDC does not conduct systematic surveillance for these organisms, NDM- and VIM-producing Enterobacteriaceae appear to be uncommon in the United States based on CDC’s passive surveillance for these organisms. Metallo-beta-lactamases have been primarily identified in patients who had exposure to healthcare in endemic countries.

Why are CRE considered epidemiologically important?

CRE are important for a number of reasons. First, these organisms are often resistant to multiple classes of antimicrobials substantially limiting treatment options. Second, infections caused by these organisms are associated with high mortality rates, up to 50% in some studies. Third, many CRE possess carbapenemases which can be transmitted from one Enterobacteriaceae to another potentially facilitating transmission of resistance. Fourth, Enterobacteriaceae are a common cause of infections in both community and healthcare settings. Carbapenem resistance among these organisms could therefore have far-reaching impact. For these reasons, CDC has developed [recommendations designed to decrease transmission of CRE \(/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/f-level-prevention-supmeasures.html#facility-summary\)](#).

What is the difference between CRE colonization and infection?

When found in clinical culture, CRE can represent an infection or colonization. Colonization means that the organism can be found on the body but it is not causing any symptoms or disease. Colonizing CRE strains can go on to cause infections if they gain access to body sites that are usually sterile like the bladder, the lungs, or the bloodstream. Infections are usually associated with symptoms which vary based on the site that is infected (e.g., cough if in the lungs, urinary symptoms if in the bladder) but can also include general symptoms like fever or chills.

Which patients are at increased risk for CRE acquisition?

The main risk factors for CRE acquisition in the United States include exposure to healthcare and exposure to antimicrobials. Healthcare-related risk factors include poor functional status, exposure to an intensive care unit, and mechanical ventilation. Outbreaks of CRE have been associated with exposure to long-term care settings. Several antimicrobials have been associated with CRE acquisition including carbapenems, cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, and vancomycin.

What can clinicians do to prevent CRE transmission?

Strategies to eliminate CRE transmission in healthcare settings focus primarily on recognizing cases, placing colonized or infected patients on Contact Precautions, and using medical devices and antimicrobials wisely. Specific detailed recommendations on preventing CRE transmission in healthcare settings can be found in the [2012 CRE Toolkit \(/hai/organisms/cre/index.html\)](#).

What infections do CRE cause?

CRE can cause infections in almost any part of the body including bloodstream infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and intra-abdominal abscesses. Based on information from a CDC pilot surveillance system most CRE infections involve the urinary tract, often in people who have a urinary catheter or have urinary retention. It is important to note that CRE kill up to half of patients who get bloodstream infections from them.

How are CRE transmitted?

In healthcare settings, CRE are usually transmitted from person to person often via the hands of healthcare personnel or via contaminated medical equipment. As Enterobacteriaceae can commonly be found in stool or wounds, contact with these might be particularly concerning. Ensuring the use of

personal protective equipment during and good hand hygiene following exposure to the patient's immediate environment, especially when cleaning up stool or changing wound dressings, is very important. The role of transmission directly from the environment to patients is controversial and requires further investigation.

When can Contact Precautions be discontinued for patients colonized or infected with CRE?

There is currently not enough information for CDC to make a general recommendation on when isolation can be discontinued for patients colonized or infected with CRE. Of note, in investigations in which CDC has participated, it is clear that patients can be colonized for long periods of time (e.g., months). In addition, if considering discontinuing Contact Precautions based on the results of surveillance cultures, it is probably best not to base this decision on the results of a single negative culture as previous experience suggests that patients can be intermittently positive on serial surveillance cultures.

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Environmental Contamination by Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*

A. Lerner, A. Adler, J. Abu-Hanna, I. Meitus, S. Navon-Venezia, Y. Carmeli

Division of Epidemiology, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

In the last decade, the global emergence of carbapenem resistance in *Enterobacteriaceae* has posed great concern to public health. Data concerning the role of environmental contamination in the dissemination of carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) are currently lacking. Here, we aimed to examine the extent of CRE contamination in various sites in the immediate surroundings of CRE carriers and to assess the effects of sampling time and cleaning regimens on the recovery rate. We evaluated the performance of two sampling methods, CHROMAgar KPC contact plate and eSwab, for the detection of environmental CRE. eSwab was followed either by direct plating or by broth enrichment. First, 14 sites in the close vicinity of the carrier were evaluated for environmental contamination, and 5, which were found to be contaminated, were further studied. The environmental contamination decreased with distance from the patient; the bed area was the most contaminated site. Additionally, we found that the sampling time and the cleaning regimen were critical factors affecting the prevalence of environmental CRE contamination. We found that the CHROMAgar KPC contact plate method was a more effective technique for detecting environmental CRE than were eSwab-based methods. In summary, our study demonstrated that the vicinity of patients colonized with CRE is often contaminated by these organisms. Using selective contact plates to detect environmental contamination may guide cleaning efficacy and assist with outbreak investigation in an effort to limit the spread of CRE.

Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) have become a major threat to public health worldwide (1–3). These organisms are spreading globally, primarily in the health care setting. Physical separation by isolating carriers and dedicated staff resulted in containing CRE outbreaks (4). Hospital environments contaminated by infected patients may serve as a source for the spread of these bacteria, either directly or indirectly via health care personnel (5, 6). However, the actual presence of environmental contamination by CRE has not been studied.

Detection of contamination of the health care environment requires specialized methods that were mainly studied for various Gram-positive organisms, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterococcus* species, and *Clostridium difficile* (7–9). No standardized methods of CRE environmental culture have been developed. Thus, the aims of our work were to show the presence of environmental contamination by CRE, to identify the sites that are likely to be contaminated, to evaluate the performance of different environmental culturing methods for recovery of environmental CRE (eCRE), and to evaluate the effects of various parameters on the recovery rate.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Setting and patient selection. The study was conducted as part of an ongoing surveillance program that had been implemented at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (TASMC), a 1,200-bed tertiary care hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel. From December 2010 through May 2011, cultures were collected from the environment of 29 *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase (KPC)-producing CRE carriers, on 2 separate internal medicine wards. Five patients were sampled twice at different time points at intervals of approximately 3 months. Therefore, we referred to a total of 34 patients who were sampled during this study. Environmental samples were collected twice per each patient's sampling: in the morning and at noon, 24 and 4 h after rooms were cleaned and patient clothes and sheets were changed, respectively.

Environmental sampling design. Environmental sampling was coordinated and supervised by the Infection Control Program at TASMC. An initial preliminary study was performed in order to determine the sampling sites for CRE (detailed in Results). After the preliminary study, five sampling sites surrounding each CRE-colonized patient were chosen for eCRE sampling: sheet surfaces around the pillow, crotch, and legs; the personal bedside table; and the infusion pump (20/34 patients). In each ward tested, samples were also taken from an unoccupied bed, to evaluate for nonspecific environmental contamination. Environmental samples were immediately (within 30 min) transferred to the laboratory for further workup.

Cultivation methods for environmental samples. Two environmental sampling methods were compared for the recovery of eCRE: (i) direct application of CHROMAgar KPC contact plates supplemented with 0.7 g/liter lecithin and 4.5 ml/liter Tween 80 (CP; HyLabs, Rehovot, Israel) and surface sampling by eSwab (ES; Copan Diagnostics, Italy), either (ii) followed by direct streaking on CHROMAgar KPC plates (HyLabs, Israel) or (iii) following enrichment in brain heart infusion (BHI) broth (ESBB).

Sampling was performed as follows. (i) CP-CHROMAgar KPC contact plates (5-cm diameter, 19.625-cm² area) were pressed to the tested surface for 3 to 5 s and then incubated at 37°C for 18 h. (ii) For ES, the eSwab was moved at right angles up and down within a 10- by 10-cm area defined by a sterile square template frame for approximately 1 min. The swab was then placed in the eSwab fluid-containing tube and transported to the lab. After 1-min vortexing at maximum speed, 200 μ l of the suspension was spread onto a CHROMAgar KPC plate and placed for incu-

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Address correspondence to Y. Carmeli, yshuda@tasmc.health.gov.il.

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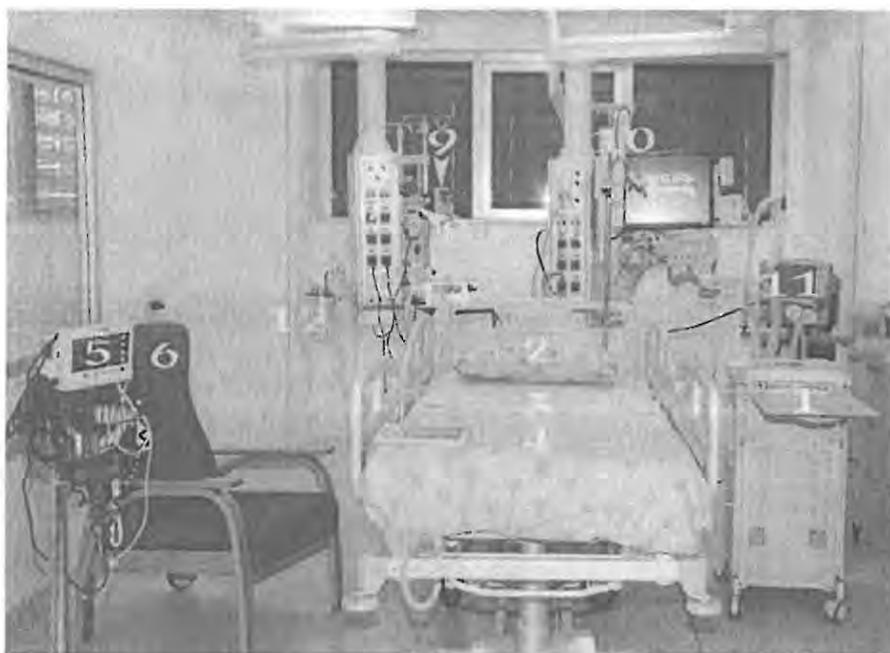


FIG 1 Locations of testing for environmental CRE (eCRE). 1, personal bedside table; 2 to 4, bed linen around the pillow (2), crotch (3), and legs (4); 5, pulse oximeter; 6, personal bedside chair; 7, electrical outlet line; 8, manual respirator bag; 9, infusion pump; 10, dedicated stethoscope; 11, ventilator; 12, suction machine; 13, cardiovascular monitor screen; 14, enteral feeding pump.

bation at 37°C for 48 h. (iii) For ESBB, environmental sampling was performed as described for ES followed by an enrichment step in which 50 μ l of the eSwab medium was inoculated into 3 ml of BHI broth and incubated at 37°C with shaking at 150 rpm for 48 h. Subsequently, approximately 10 μ l of the broth was spread with cotton-tipped applicators on a CHROMAgar KPC plate, which was then incubated at 37°C for 48 h.

Characterization of CRE from patients and environmental culture. Detection and identification of CRE in patients were done as previously described (10, 11). Identification of eCRE colonies was performed based on growth characteristics on CHROMAgar KPC according to the manufacturer's instructions (*Klebsiella* and *Enterobacter* species, medium-size dark metallic blue colonies; *Escherichia coli*, medium to large pink/dark rose colonies). Blue and pink colonies were tested by *bla*_{KPC} PCR (11) and further confirmed using the Vitek 2 system (bioMérieux).

Data analysis. Bivariate analysis of categorical variables was done using the χ^2 test. Analyses were done using the JMP IN v3.2.1 software (SAS Institute Inc.).

RESULTS

Identification of sites contaminated with eCRE. We first sought to identify the environmental sites that were contaminated in the vicinity of the CRE carriers. Fourteen sites were surveyed 6 times for eCRE using CHROMAgar KPC contact plates: bed linen around the head (pillow), crotch, and legs; personal bedside table; infusion pump; personal chair; dedicated stethoscope; electrical outlet line; suction machine; respirator; cardiovascular monitor screen; pulse oximeter; manual respirator bag; and enteral feeding pump (Fig. 1). eCRE were identified in only 5 of the 14 sites sampled: sheet surfaces around the pillow, crotch, and legs; personal bedside table; and infusion pump. Based on these preliminary data, these sites were further tested in our study.

Five empty beds from the two wards were surveyed for eCRE contamination, to test for nonspecific contamination. None of them were found to be contaminated with eCRE.

Recovery of eCRE using each sampling method. Nine hundred twenty-eight environmental samples were collected in this study from the vicinity of 34 known KPC-producing CRE carriers using the 3 different sampling methods—CP, ES, and ESBB. Five sites were sampled from each carrier, except for the infusion pump, which was present in the surroundings of 20/34 patients. One patient was not sampled around the legs, and two ESBB samples were accidentally discarded. A positive eCRE culture was identified at least once in 30/34 patients (88%).

We evaluated the role of the following variables in the recovery rate of eCRE: the sampling and cultivation method, the sampling site, the time of sampling, and the ward. Of the 928 samples, 224 were positive for eCRE by any of the tested methods (24%). The recovery rates of the three sampling methods were 32%, 24%, and 16% for CP, ESBB, and ES, respectively (Fig. 2A).

Recovery rates at different sampling sites. The recovery rates of eCRE at the different sites were 68/204 (33%) at the pillow, 63/202 (31%) at the crotch, 46/198 (23%) at the legs, 19/120 (16%) at the infusion pump, and 28/204 (14%) at the personal bedside table ($P < 0.0001$; Fig. 2B). The distribution of these positive eCRE as a function of the sampling-cultivation method is shown in Table 1. The CP method was superior at the infusion pump and personal bedside table sites but was inferior to the eSwab sampling methods (ES and ESBB) at the pillow site ($P > 0.05$ for all) (Table 1).

Effect of routine cleaning and ward on recovery of eCRE. In order to examine the effect of routine cleaning on the persistence

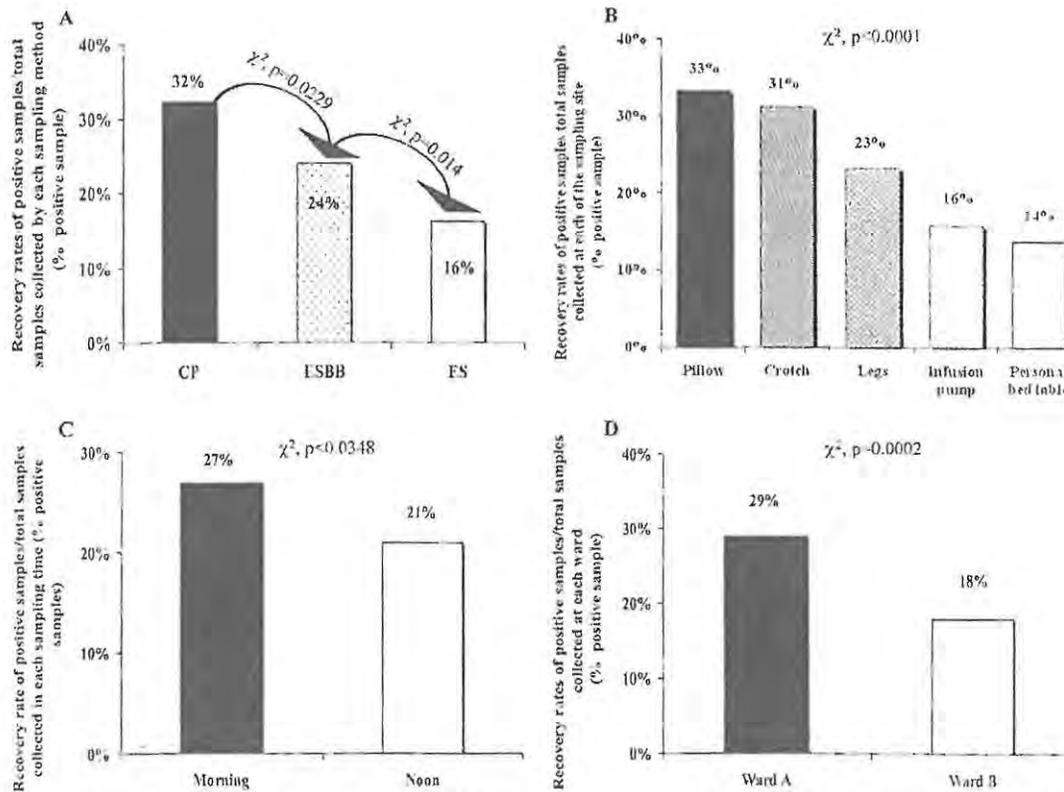


FIG 2 Recovery rates (% positive samples) of environmental CRE (eCRE) from the patients' surroundings. (A) The effect of the 3 sampling-cultivation methods on the recovery rate of eCRE. CP, CHROMAgar KPC contact plates; ES, eSwab sampling, direct plating onto CHROMAgar KPC plates; ESBB, eSwab sampling, broth enrichment prior to plating; (B) The recovery rates of eCRE from 5 different sites in the vicinity of the carriers: pillow, crotch, legs, personal bedside table, and infusion pump. (C) The effect of sampling time on the recovery rate of eCRE. Morning and noon samples were done before and 4 h after clothing and sheet replacement, respectively. (D) The recovery rate of eCRE from two wards at TASMU.

of CRE in the environment, we sampled at two different time points during the day: in the morning and at noon, before and 4 h after clothing and sheet replacement, respectively. Four hundred sixty-five samples were collected in the morning, and 463 were collected at noon. In the morning, 126/465 (27%) of the samples tested positive for eCRE, whereas only 98/463 (21%) were positive at noon ($P < 0.05$; Fig. 2C).

Five hundred four environmental samples were collected from ward A and 424 were collected from ward B, from the vicinity of 18 and 16 patients, respectively. The recovery rates differed significantly—146/504 (29%) at ward A and 78/424 (18%) at ward B ($P = 0.0002$; Fig. 2D). We have examined the recovery rate data for eCRE at the different sampling sites in each ward. In only one site, the infusion pump, was the recovery rate of eCRE lower in

ward A than in ward B (3% versus 18%, respectively, $P = 0.0002$), while at the leg site the recovery rate in ward A was higher than that in ward B (25% versus 13%, respectively, $P = 0.0367$).

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we documented the contamination of the hospital environment, in the vicinity of KPC-producing CRE carriers. eCRE were detected in the surroundings of 88% of these patients. This finding has ominous implications regarding the ability of the environment to serve as a vector for transmission of CRE in the health care setting.

We identified several factors, both methodological and environmental, that significantly affect the retrieval rate of eCRE. First, we found that the sampling-cultivation method has great impli-

TABLE 1 Recovery of eCRE using different sampling methods and sampling sites^b

eCRE sampling method	<i>P</i> value ^a	No. of eCRE-positive samples/total positive samples recovered at the respective sampling site (% recovery)				
		Pillow	Crotch	Legs	Personal bedside table	Infusion pump
CP	0.1619	24/100 (24)	29/100 (29)	20/100 (20)	16/100 (16)	11/100 (11)
ES	0.0011	19/50 (38)	15/50 (30)	10/50 (20)	5/50 (10)	1/50 (2)
ESBB	0.0051	25/74 (34)	19/74 (26)	16/74 (22)	7/74 (9)	7/74 (9)

^a The *P* value relates to the differences between sites for a particular sampling method.

^b CP, CHROMAgar KPC contact plates; ES, eSwab sampling, direct plating onto CHROMAgar KPC plates; ESBB, eSwab sampling followed by broth enrichment prior to plating.

cations for the sensitivity of the sampling. We compared the performances of CHROMAgar contact plates (CP) and eSwabs (ES) as sampling tools. The CHROMAgar KPC medium was chosen based on a previous study of ours that showed its high performance in detecting KPC-producing CRE (10). The additive surface-active components (lecithin and Tween 80) were added to eliminate the effect of disinfectants present in the environment that may inhibit growth of microorganisms (12, 13). The eSwab was chosen thanks to its increased sensitivity that could be ascribed both to the flocculated characteristics and to the transport Amies solution, which acts as a nonselective fluid and facilitates sampling of bacteria (14). In addition to the 2 sampling methods, we also added an enrichment step that was compared with direct plating from the swab, in order to improve the recovery of slow-growing bacteria (15, 16).

All sampling methods, CP, ES with enrichment, and ES without enrichment, were able to recover CRE from the environment. Overall, the CP method was superior to ES despite the fact that a greater surface area was sampled by the swab (100 cm²) than by the contact plate (19.625 cm²). Our findings are in accordance with other studies, which observed a better recovery of environmental infectious bacteria with contact plates than with the swab method followed by a direct plating or enrichment step (17, 18), although this difference may vary according to the organism sought. Obee et al. (18) showed a higher recovery rate of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from a stainless steel table using methicillin contact plates than using a swab method. In contrast, Lemmen et al. (17) showed that Rodac plates were superior to the swab technique in detecting Gram-positive cocci, whereas the swab method exhibited higher performance in detecting Gram-negative rods. The authors also obtained improvement in the detection rate for Gram-negative bacteria by using an enrichment step after swab sampling.

Previous studies suggested several explanations for the shortcomings of the swab method in sampling the hospital surroundings for infectious bacteria. These include the following: damage to the bacterial cells during swabbing (18); adhesion of bacterial cells to the swab fabrics, which can then be trapped within the swab bud (14, 15, 19, 20); the amount of pressure being applied to the swab handle during swabbing, which can limit the number of bacteria collected from the surface (19); and the transport medium, which can affect bacterial survival (20, 21). Thus, it is possible that the lower recovery rates obtained by the swab method in our study might result from one or several of these factors.

We were able to improve significantly the recovery rate of the swab method (Fig. 2A) by applying an enrichment step prior to plating. This observation is in accordance with previous studies on various bacteria. Hallgren et al. (7) were able to obtain a significant increase in the detection sensitivity of vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) from the environment using a selective broth enrichment step compared to direct plating.

Contamination by drug-resistant bacteria may be found on several surfaces, including the floor, the bed frame, the furniture, the patients' clothes, and the bed sheets (22). In the first part of our study, we identified 5 locations that are most likely to be contaminated—the bed surfaces, the infusion pump, and the personal table. We found that the detection rate of eCRE is reduced with increased distance from the carrier, with the bed surfaces being the most contaminated sites. This reduction is probably due to the fact that medical equipment and items at a distance from the pa-

tients are less exposed to hand touch or body secretions of CRE carriers. Similar findings were previously observed with different organisms. Dancer (23) reported that the bed linen, patients' gowns, and the over-bed table were the areas most contaminated with MRSA compared with other items such as the bed rails, bedside lockers, and infusion pumps. Similarly, Lemmen et al. (16) observed reduction in the detection rate of multiresistant Gram-positive bacteria with distance from the patients harboring these organisms. However, this trend was not observed for the Gram-negative bacteria.

The environmental surface being sampled may play a role in the detection efficiency of the different sampling methods. Several surface characteristics such as surface charge, topography, and hydrophobicity can affect the retrieval efficiency of the collection method. According to the work of Obee et al. (18), contact plates are effective in observing bacteria on flat and regular surfaces, while swabbing is sufficient for dry surfaces. Accordingly, in our study, the contact plate method was inferior to eSwab in detecting bacteria at the irregularly shaped pillow site, considered to be non-flat and less accessible for sampling, but was superior at the personal bedside table and infusion pump sites, which are flat and regular surfaces.

Two environmental factors were found to affect the recovery rate of eCRE. First, the time from cleaning to sampling was a significant factor. Although hardly surprising, it highlights the importance of frequent cleaning, especially in the vicinity of carriers of resistant bacteria, in order to reduce the potential of environment-related transmission. However, shortly after cleaning the patient's close vicinity is recontaminated. Furthermore, we were able to observe differences in the cleaning quality between ward A and ward B, as ward A was significantly more contaminated than ward B. This may be explained by factors such as the degree of crowdedness, the staff/patient ratio, and also differences in the infrastructure. The difference was especially pronounced in the recovery of eCRE from the bedside equipment (personal bedside table and infusion pump). As the two wards are at the same institution and sharing similar resources, it indicates the importance of attention by the ward management to meticulous cleaning routines. Also, it demonstrates the potential value of environmental cultures as a quality indicator tool in the health care setting.

In conclusion, the study performed in our hospital has shown the existence of CRE contamination in the patients' surroundings in different wards and the utility of different sampling-cultivation methods. It highlights the importance of standard cleaning regimens for surfaces and items in the patients' immediate surroundings and awareness of their role in CRE dissemination and transmission to other patients.

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Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*

1. DISEASE REPORTING

1.1. Purpose of Reporting and Surveillance

1. To prevent transmission of infections with carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) within or among healthcare facilities, or between healthcare facilities and the community.
2. To identify outbreaks and potential sources or sites of ongoing transmission.
3. To better characterize the epidemiology of these infections.

1.2 Laboratory and Physician Reporting Requirements

1. Providers and labs will report cases to LHDs within one working day.
2. Clinical and reference laboratories will forward isolates (collected from sterile sites and urine) to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory; OSPHL will, in turn, forward the isolates to CDC.

1.3 Local Health Department Reporting and Follow-Up Responsibilities

1. LHDs will verify the case's name, date of birth, sex, and hospitalization status; LHDs will also attempt to ascertain the locus of acquisition (e.g., out-of-state hospital) and site (e.g., lungs, bladder) of the patient's infection or colonization.
2. Report cases to OPHD within one working day. OPHD epidemiologists will work with healthcare systems to implement control measures and additional surveillance as indicated in CDC's response toolkit, available at <https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/CRE/Documents/CRE-guidance-508.pdf>

2.1 Etiologic Agent

The *Enterobacteriaceae* are a large family of Gram-negative bacilli, many members of which are upstanding residents of the human gastrointestinal tract. A full list of genera can be found below or online at http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/CRE/Documents/genera_list.pdf. Currently available carbapenem antibiotics, commonly used to treat severe, hospital-associated infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria, are doripenem, ertapenem, imipenem, and meropenem. Carbapenem resistance in *Enterobacteriaceae* can occur by many mechanisms, including the production of a carbapenemase (such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase, KPC) or a metallo-beta-lactamase.

In the U.S., CRE were first reported in North Carolina in 1999; since then, they have been reported in at least 32 states. Unfortunately, carbapenem resistance genes can be transmitted among bacteria of different genera, so that once CRE emerge in a given area, the carbapenem antibiotics may lose their effectiveness against many different organisms. If CRE become prevalent, empiric therapy will necessitate antibiotics that have broader antibacterial spectra and are much more expensive; and some patients may die for lack of prompt and effective treatment. If we can rapidly identify and isolate patients with CRE we may be able to prevent or delay their becoming endemic in Oregon.

Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*

2.2 Description of Illness

Up to this point in the United States, CRE have mainly caused healthcare-associated infections, and usually affect those with compromised immune function. CRE can cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, urinary tract infections, intra-abdominal infections, and surgical site infections, among others.

Infections caused by CRE most commonly occur among people who have chronic medical conditions, frequent or prolonged stays in healthcare settings, invasive medical devices (e.g. ventilators or intravenous catheters), or a history of taking certain antibiotics for long periods of time.

2.3 Sources and Routes of Transmission

In the healthcare setting, healthy patients may be colonized; transmission to others may occur via the hands of healthcare workers or contaminated environmental surfaces, medical devices, or equipment.

3. CASE DEFINITIONS AND LABORATORY SERVICES

3.1 Confirmed Case

Bacteria of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family (http://public.health.oregon.gov/Diseases/Conditions/DiseasesAZ/CRE/Documents/genera_list.pdf, and available for ACDP epidemiologists in on-call log) found to be non-susceptible to the carbapenem antibiotics as demonstrated by any of the following:

- gene sequence specific for carbapenemase; (PCR) or
- phenotypic test (e.g., Modified Hodge) positive for production of carbapenemase; or
- resistance to any third-generation cephalosporin antibiotic (e.g., cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, ceftazidime), **along with** any of the following elevated minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) for a carbapenem antibiotic:
 - MIC for doripenem ≥ 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ or
 - MIC for ertapenem ≥ 2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$; or
 - MIC for imipenem ≥ 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$; or
 - MIC for meropenem ≥ 4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

3.2 Services Available (or not) at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

Clinical laboratories should forward isolates meeting the above case definition and cultured from any normally sterile site or from urine OSPHL will forward isolates to CDC for further susceptibility testing and genetic subtyping.

4. CASE INVESTIGATION, EDUCATION, AND FOLLOW-UP

4.1 Case Investigation

Consult OPHD epidemiologists within one working day. Investigation and control efforts will generally be along the lines of CDC's response toolkit (<https://public.health.oregon.gov/Diseases/Conditions/DiseasesAZ/CRE/Documents/CRE-guidance-508.pdf>) but will necessarily be customized to the circumstances.

4.2 Case Follow-up

Record the disposition of the patient through hospital discharge — i.e., whether the patient died, was transferred to another hospital or a long-term-care facility, or discharged home. If the patient is transferred to another healthcare facility, advise the infection prevention staff at the receiving facility.

4.3 Repeat Culture Results

Repeat positive culture results for the same carbapenem-resistant organism, regardless of the anatomical site of collection, should be recorded in the same case record **if collected within 30 days** of the collection date for the initial positive culture. After 30 days, a new positive culture for the same organism should be entered as a new incident case.

A positive culture for a different CRE organism (different genus and species) should be entered as a new incident case.

Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*

APPENDIX - List of genera in the *Enterobacteriaceae* family

<i>Averyella</i>	<i>Pragia</i>
<i>Budvicia</i>	<i>Proteus</i>*
<i>Buttiauxella</i>	<i>Providencia</i>*
<i>Cedecea</i>	<i>Rahnella</i>
<i>Citrobacter</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>
<i>Cronobacter</i>	<i>Serratia</i>
<i>Edwardsiella</i>	<i>Shigella</i>
<i>Enterobacter</i>	<i>Tauntonella</i>
<i>Escherichia</i>	<i>Trabulsiella</i>
<i>Ewingella</i>	<i>Xenorhabdus</i>
<i>Hafnia</i>	<i>Yersinia</i>
<i>Klebsiella</i>	<i>Yokenella</i>
<i>Kluyvera</i>	Enteric Group 58
<i>Leclercia</i>	Enteric Group 59
<i>Leminorella</i>	Enteric Group 60
<i>Moellerella</i>	Enteric Group 63
<i>Morganella</i>*	Enteric Group 64
<i>Pantoea</i>	Enteric Group 68
<i>Photobacterium</i>	Enteric Group 69
<i>Plesiomonas</i>	Enteric Group 137

*Elevated MICs to imipenem in ***Morganella* spp., *Proteus* spp., and *Providencia* spp.** are frequently due to mechanisms other than carbapenemases. Please do NOT send isolates of these genera to OSPHL except by clinician request.

UPDATE LOG

April 2012: Clarified reporting procedure for repeat culture results and added list of genera (M. Cunningham)

January 2012: Newly created guidelines to be in line with new reporting requirements. (M. Cunningham)

November 2012. Fixed broken hyperlinks; added doripenem resistance to case definition. (T. Poissant)

January 2013. Updated new MIC breakpoint for ertapenem. (T. Poissant)

Frequently Asked Questions about...

Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)

Q. What are Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*?

A. Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*, or "CRE", are a group of bacteria that are highly resistant to antibiotics. Until recently, the bacteria were susceptible to a class of antibiotics called carbapenems, which were developed to treat bacteria that were resistant to other drugs. Due to the overuse of these antibiotics, some types of *Enterobacteriaceae* such as *Escherichia* (*E. coli*), *Enterobacter*, *Klebsiella*, and *Salmonella* have now developed resistance to carbapenems.

Q. Where are CRE found?

A. *Enterobacteriaceae* bacteria occur naturally in the environment and sometimes infect humans. *Enterobacteriaceae* that have acquired resistance to carbapenems are sometimes found in healthcare settings due to high levels of antibiotic use.

Q. What are the symptoms of infection?

A. *Enterobacteriaceae* can cause a variety of infections ranging from gastrointestinal illness to pneumonia to invasive infections of the bloodstream or other body organs. Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* cause the same infections, but the infections are much harder to treat.

Q. How does someone catch CRE?

A. CRE can be transmitted via direct person-to-person contact with an infected person or through indirect contact with objects or environmental surfaces, such as patient care equipment, bed rails, and door knobs.

Q. Why may patients in healthcare settings be at risk for contracting CRE?

A. Risk factors for acquiring a CRE infection include prolonged hospital stays, frequent antibiotic use, chronic or medical conditions, recent surgery or transplants, and catheter or ventilator use. Many patients fall into one of these risk factor categories and can be at a higher risk for contracting CRE infections.

Q. Can CRE be treated?

A. Yes, but it is very difficult to treat effectively due to its resistance to a wide variety of antibiotics. There has been limited success treating CRE infections with certain types of antibiotics to which CRE bacteria have not yet developed resistance.

Q. What is the best way to prevent the spread of CRE?

A. Thorough hand washing and strict contact precautions are effective at preventing the spread of CRE in the healthcare setting. It is recommended that any patient infected or colonized with CRE be placed in a single room when possible. In addition, regular environmental cleaning with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectant is also important. In addition, medical care providers should practice good antibiotic stewardship when prescribing antibiotics to prevent the further development of resistant strains of bacteria.

Contact your local health department if you have additional questions about CRE

Attachment F

Letters to the Editor

From 1/1/13 through 3/31/13



Letter: Bag ban now will bring home a load of unintended consequences

JANUARY 02, 2013 9:00 AM

It's not surprising that Safeway and Fred Meyer want you to think of the bag ban as "stop smoking or unleaded gas" because they will make a huge profit (est. \$350,000 a year tabulating only seven Northwest Grocer's Association stores) from this ordinance.

The statement from Joe Gilliam should read, "We are gloating that we (NWGA) conspired with Debra Higbee-Sudyka of the Sierra Club, who used misleading information, to add the 5-cent fee to the ordinance" (Pure profit).

Quoting from the record of the Administrative Service Committee minutes, the NWGA representative stated, "The NWGA does not support a recommendation that does not include a pass through fee." No money, no environmental support! They also manipulated the market by adding the requirement that all their competitors must charge a fee. Trader Joe's is not a member, doesn't use plastic, and no fee for paper bags, but now they must.

Health tip: University of Arizona found 97 percent of interviewed shoppers never washed their reusable bags and half the bags sampled had coliform bacteria, including E. coli.

A market sample found no "Made in USA" labeled reusable bags in stores. Even Chico, bag lady, bags are made in China. Your choice; buy a reusable "Made in China" bag supporting carbon emissions leader China, increase corporate profits or send thicker plastic bags to landfills? What, stuck with all three and it hasn't even solved the plastic disaster? Nice ordinance. Do you have the money and time to sew?

Milt Weaver, Corvallis



Editorial: It's too early to tell on bag ban

JANUARY 07, 2013 9:15 AM • CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES

The curtain rose last week on Corvallis' ban on some single-use plastic bags, and the initial reviews – at least judging by the chatter on the Gazette-Times social media sites – were decidedly mixed.

The bag ban went into effect last week for large retailers, those with more than 50 employees. Smaller businesses will have to comply with the ban starting on July 1.

The most noticeable immediate effect last week came at larger grocery stores, where the age-old question "Paper or Plastic?" suddenly was a quaint relic of the past.

Your choices now are more limited: You can pay a nickel a shot for paper bags, which helps offset the store's added costs. (Paper bags actually tend to cost more than that.) Or you can bring your own bags – either the reusable cloth kinds or old bags that you've saved for just this purpose and plan to use over and over until they revert back to the pulp or petroleum from whence they came.

Or you can go sans bags and juggle your items as you leave the store. (This, by the way, would be the next logical step for a measure that would seek to curb rampant consumerism: A ban on bags altogether.)

Some people are enthusiastic about the bag ban, at least through its first week. Some people hate it – and it's not out of the question that its actual implementation could provide a jolt to that slow-rolling campaign to put the measure to a public vote.

Longtime readers of the G-T's editorial page know that we've never been crazy about the bag ban. In part, we thought that this was an issue best handled at the state level, but a bill we thought was a sure thing somehow stalled in a recent legislative session.

But with that said, our advice is that it's too early to make a final judgment about how the ban is working: Less than a week is not enough time.

And we won't know until this summer how it works at smaller retailers.

It could be that whatever irritation we have with the ban starts to fade at about the same time that we stop writing "2012" on our checks. For those of us who still write checks.

In the meantime, one last thing: Regardless of your views on the bag ban, it doesn't do any good to heap abuse on the cashiers. Those folks are just doing their jobs. They didn't propose the ban. They didn't debate it. They didn't get a chance to vote on it. They're just trying to pack your groceries in a manner that complies with the law.

Hold your venom for where it belongs: On the G-T's social media sites.



Letter: Here is a sentence to serve for mayor and city council

JANUARY 07, 2013 9:00 AM

Today, I observed results of the bag ban imposed by the Corvallis City Council.

Unsuspecting shoppers were required to either carry their unbagged groceries to their car or pay an additional 5 cents per paper bag used. I saw elderly and disabled people dropping groceries en route to their car, and financially strapped families forced to pay more to get their groceries home.

Although I strongly support sustainability, I abhor decisions made in absence of innovative strategy designed to successfully implement policy. Therefore, as a member of the judging public, I hereby sentence the mayor and City Council to the following:

- Each will serve four hours a week for two weeks at one of the following stores: downtown Safeway, Fred Meyer, Safeway on Circle Boulevard or Grocery Outlet on Ninth Street.
- Each will help carry groceries from checkout to the cars of shopping patrons, with first priority given to the elderly, disabled and mothers/fathers with small children attending.
- I will serve full sentence time with each of them to ensure we all experience the full breadth of the council's decision.
- At the end of the two-week period, each of us will be required to submit in writing to the public our top three suggestions on what we would propose to innovate implementation of the bag ban for all Corvallis citizens. (They should) expect a call from me. I will schedule their service time with the stores.

If they want to be leaders in sustainability, lead by experience!

Catherine M. Mater, Corvallis



Letter: Population growth still biggest environmental problem we face

JANUARY 08, 2013 9:00 AM

The ban on plastic bags in Corvallis is not going to significantly alter my behavior because I always asked for paper bags and reused them to bundle my other paper recyclables, such as newspapers and letters, before tossing them in the curbside collection tub.

I'll grudgingly pay a nickel to keep doing this because it prevents litter flying away from loose papers when the robotic grab arm tosses the recycle tub's contents into the garbage truck.

Paper bag fees are another example of nickel-and-dime nuisance fees being increasingly passed onto customers, such as airline fees, which were previously included in the service.

Fees accomplish little other than enriching a few and irritating everyone, because they ignore the root problem of unsustainable consumption due to excessive population growth.

Zero population growth used to be a widely supported goal, but it is opposed by greedy Wall Street plutocrats who also reward companies for building products that must be thrown out frequently.

If legislators sincerely cared about the environment, they would require manufacturers to sincerely make products that were supportable and repairable for decades.

I am old enough to recall when the word "sanitized" was still printed on grocery bags before society became overly dependent on antiseptics and antibiotics, which has tragically led to resistant strains of pathogens.

I bet most reusable grocery bags will become dirty and a vector for diseases.

Thomas Kraemer, Corvallis



Letter: Don't berate store clerks; berate the city council over bag ban

JANUARY 10, 2013 9:00 AM

On Jan. 4, the Gazette-Times sent a raspberry to all those individuals who were giving store clerks a hard time about charging them for paper bags, informing its audience that it isn't the stores themselves that are responsible for the ban.

While I whole-heartedly agree with the G-T on its admonishment, I felt they were remiss in not reminding you who was responsible.

That's important because if you want to do something about the ban, you need to address that issue to the correct authority, and that would be your city council.

The council's strings are pulled by an elite collection of the city's uber-liberals and progressives that are rubber-stamping ridiculous, meaningless ideas designed subconsciously to give themselves a sense of empowerment.

Inconveniencing the rest of us for the benefit of whatever pet social cause they've latched onto is just another means of measuring how much power and control they have achieved.

It's like letting your little brother make up the rules the rest of your family has to follow.

The rules will be numerous and arbitrary because now he gets to make them.

If you don't like the bag ban, contact the city. Don't berate your store clerk; berate your council members.

Find out what ward you live in and pay attention to what they're doing, and you won't be surprised.

Vote those people out and replace them with more pragmatic people who aren't so easily swayed by people wearing costumes and silly over-emotional appeals.

Remember: you're the boss, not them.

Harry Mallory, Corvallis



Letter: Bag ban does not warrant all the whining it is generating

JANUARY 11, 2013 9:00 AM

Enough whining already. Bringing your own bags when you shop is no big deal. Stop acting like the world has come to an end because you have to think ahead the tiniest little bit.

The banned bags are a menace to wildlife, and it's the smallest of inconveniences for us. And when we do forget, as I already have, the stores have paper bags for a nickel.

So, stop whining. Better yet, take some pride that Corvallis is among the leaders on a step that many cities and states will follow.

David Landau, Corvallis



Editorial: Fee for bags could fire up voters

JANUARY 15, 2013 9:15 AM • CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES

Some members of the Corvallis City Council appeared to be surprised last week at the news that the “overwhelming” public support for the city’s ban on some single-use plastic bags was perhaps not as overwhelming as it might have appeared last year, when the council approved it.

Truth is, there was plenty of opposition to the proposal last year, but there was plenty of support as well. Our guess is that, had the measure been referred to the ballot — which may yet happen — it likely would have passed, but by something less than an overwhelming margin.

There are fresh complaints about the bag ban these days, as the council learned at a meeting last week, because the ban finally has gone into effect at some larger Corvallis retailers, mostly grocery stores. (The ban goes into effect at smaller retailers in July.)

It’s possible that the fresh uproar will help fire up a long-simmering effort to refer the bag ban to Corvallis voters. Such an election, although it almost certainly would trigger a return visit to Corvallis by the Bag Monster (a costume made up of some 500 plastic bags, cleverly crafted by a California-based manufacturer of reusable bags), also likely would turn into an unneeded distraction for a council and city government that has more important issues on its agenda.

The council has a couple of options: It could do nothing and assume that the issue will blow over once people get more used to the ban.

Or it could follow the lead outlined last week by C&K Market, the company that owns Ray’s Food Place locations in Philomath and North Albany, among other stores. The company announced that it no longer will offer plastic bags to its customers at checkout.

But it will offer paper bags for no additional charge. (It also will offer reusable bags for sale and will continue to offer a 5-cent refund for customers who bring in their own bags.)

Ray’s wouldn’t be able to get away with that in Corvallis, where the bag ordinance requires retailers to charge 5 cents for each paper bag. One of our editorials on this topic a couple of weeks ago sloppily missed a key reason why ban advocates pushed for that charge: It’s not really to reimburse retailers for the paper bags, especially considering that most retailers already have taken stock of those costs as part of their overhead.

No, the nickel charge is intended to try to change consumer behavior: The idea is to encourage consumers to shift to reusable bags.

That’s not a dark secret; ban advocates were clear about their intentions as they pushed for the ordinance.

But amending the ordinance to eliminate or make optional the 5-cent charge could go a long

way to defuse any anger consumers feel about the ban. Whether the council sees fit to even open this particular bag likely will depend on whether anger over the ban continues to build or blows away like a lonely plastic bag caught on the wind.



Letter: Modify the bag ban; remove the nickel cost for paper bags

JANUARY 16, 2013 8:45 AM

I'm not opposed to reducing the single-use plastic bags that fall apart easily, leaving the customer to pick up their cans as they roll all over the car.

However, I am opposed to being charged for something that has been available — paper bags!

I feel this new ordinance is too extreme. I wish our city councilors had put more thought into this and made it more reasonable.

Perhaps, eliminate single-use plastic bags from grocery stores where they are passed out the most, but don't eliminate free bags of any kind from all stores.

I find it interesting that Councilor Joel Hirsch reported that the bag ban had "overwhelming support." Who was he referring to? The community? The council?

I recall reading numerous articles about a small group of very vocal people and some bag lady speaking to the need for this new ordinance, while citing misleading/untrue data. I hardly consider that "overwhelming support."

I think the responsible thing to do is to revisit this ordinance and make it more reasonable. Or, put it to a vote of the Corvallis citizens.

J. Deanne Buchanan

Corvallis



Letter: A nickel is a bigger deal for some people than it is to others

JANUARY 17, 2013 9:00 AM

David Landau's comments about (the bag ban) made me sad (Letters, "Bag ban does not warrant all the whining it's generating").

Apparently he is a "have" and doesn't understand how important a nickel can be to some families. And he continues the misinformation about the danger of this type of bag.

I use mine, as many do for many other things such as garbage containers, storing plants and also as a deterrent to invading animals in my yard. This is how I learned that this thin bag deteriorates in just a few months when left out in the weather.

I was also a "have not" for many years and every nickel was used carefully. There are many people like me shopping in Corvallis. They know that the stores save money when they don't have to provide plastic bags and they are adding a nickel for every paper bag used. Paper bags are part of the overhead of the store. So they are probably quite happy about the new law. I think it is plenty to whine about if you are homeless or out of work or just living from payday to payday.

Margaret Calcote, Philomath



Letter: About that plastic bag ban: Can't letter-writers just get over it now?

JANUARY 18, 2013 9:00 AM

Can people please write letters to the editor about something else other than plastic bags?

I will suggest something radical here ... wait for it: There are more pressing matters. As columnist Edward Wasserman noted Jan. 17, "Get over it!"

Yvonne McCallister, Corvallis



Mailbag: Bag ban ill-advised

JANUARY 20, 2013 7:30 AM

It is sadly ironic that an Albany paper mill, which made stock for paper grocery bags, shut down production and eliminated local jobs shortly before the city of Corvallis banned plastic grocery bags.

We Corvallis liberals, who religiously “buy local,” are anguished that the mandated 5-cent-per-bag fee is discouraging the use of locally made, environmentally correct, recyclable paper bags. Worse, the fee is causing some to irrationally waste gas by driving to Albany or Philomath, where being pro-choice is more than just about abortion.

More seriously, I believe the Corvallis plastic bag ban will lead to an increased incident of repetitive stress injuries among Corvallis grocery store clerks because stores won't be able to replace check stands with ones ergonomically engineered to prevent RSI with the wide variety of reusable bags owned by customers. RSI is a real problem for workers, despite the fact that company health insurance plans often treat it as a mental disorder or an act of malingering worthy of being fired.

Thomas Kraemer

Corvallis (Jan. 13)



Letter: The bag ban a small price to pay for helping beleaguered wildlife

JANUARY 21, 2013 9:00 AM

I like the bag ban. I'm glad we're not spreading as much plastic in the landscape — particularly in the Willamette River, where the plastic eventually floats out to sea and has the potential to kill sea turtles and seabirds.

While it's a minor annoyance to always have to bring my own bags, I find it's a small price to pay. By now I've gotten in the habit of keeping my bags in the car and just grabbing them on the way into the store. No big deal.

Dave Mellinger, Corvallis



Letter: Alert shoppers actually can make some money off plastic bag ban

JANUARY 22, 2013 9:00 AM

Recently, I have heard people complaining that they cannot afford to spend the 5 cents on paper bags due to the bag ban. One fact that these people don't seem to mention is that many stores will give you a refund if you bring in your own bag. If you are a shopper at WinCo like I am, they give you a 6 cents refund per bag.

So, buy that paper bag, bring it back in the next time you shop, and you will be one cent richer per bag. You might even make a little money.

This bag ban is a win-win for our pocketbooks and for our environment.

And if you are so poor that you cannot buy the paper bag to begin your process of making money, all you need to do is collect a pop can, turn it in, and you will have the payment for your new bag. That doesn't sound too hard, does it?

But really, the whole point of the bag ban is to get us all to start using recyclable bags. And when I go to WinCo, I see a large percentage of the people there using recyclable bags, so I feel that the bag ban is working.

We all need to take some personal responsibility and do our part for our environment and even though the bag ban will not save the world, at least it is a step in the right direction.

Peter Noone, Albany



Letter: Council, revoke single-use plastic bag ban pending further study

JANUARY 22, 2013 9:00 AM

I'd like to comment on the single-use plastic bag ban that went into effect Jan. 1:

Regarding the charge of five cents per paper bag:

I still haven't read of how the unemployed or those on food stamps are going to pay for this. I had recently gone to the grocery store; I had to pay a nickel for two paper bags. They ripped horrendously, spilling my packages of meat and other food items. I hadn't gotten them out of the shopping cart yet and into my car.

Whereas, when I was able to get the "single-use" plastic bags, I didn't have to worry about any of them ripping on me.

Paper bags also take quite a while to degrade. I don't believe that a thorough study on this has been done.

Single-use plastic bags still are reused by many, including me, so therefore, the term "single-use" is erroneous.

Any existing studies seem to be biased, lopsided, where it benefits the person conducting it.

The benefits to the city seem nonexistent. The claim that many support this is erroneous as well.

Finally, if a vote was taken, I believe the people of Corvallis would decide against such a ban.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this ordinance be withdrawn until a more complete study (can be done) and a vote put before the citizens of Corvallis on this and other matters that all citizens of Corvallis should and can vote on in the next election.

Rhyanna DeTuathana, Corvallis



Letter: A nickel in the checkout line could help out with adjusting to bag ban

JANUARY 31, 2013 9:00 AM

I'd like to put in my 2 cents ... uh, I mean my 5 cents.

Here's a possible solution for folks who can't afford to pay for a grocery bag:

Just like we often see a bowl of pennies to help out customers who need an extra penny, how about if there is a bowl of nickels for those who can't afford to pay for a bag?

I would donate to the bowl, and I'm sure many others would, too.

It should only be used by those who really need it.

Sharon Thormahlen, Corvallis

Letter: With some give and take, we can get out of the plastic bag rut

1 HOUR AGO

Seems to me the bag issue rests on two assumptions: 1. Plastic bags are harmful to the environment, 2. Plastic bags waste valuable resources, thus are costly. If we do not agree with these assumptions, our dialog is limited.

Those who view bags-on-the-riverbank as harmful have addressed the problem with a bag ban, through local democracy; of, by and for the people.

No, government should not interfere with our private lives, except when we cause harm.

What about cost? Is it fair that those who bring their own bags should pay the built-in bag costs for those who don't? Let's take some responsibility: you pay for yours, and I'll pay for mine.

Who "pushed" for the 5-cent bag fee? My information is that the retailers insisted upon that charge. True?

So, how much does it cost to drive to a neighboring town to save a couple of nickels? Check the pumps; do the math.

Let's just do the right thing and keep a couple of bags in the car. If you need a nickel, I'll give you a nickel; if you need a bag, I'll give you a bag. It's not that hard.

Bill Hayden, Albany

Letter: Out-of-town customers in for rude shock at Corvallis checkouts

3 HOURS AGO

It is hard to understand. The Corvallis City Council in its wisdom passed a (plastic grocery checkout bag ban) ordinance and, at the same time, the local merchants spent lots of dollars promoting "shop locally" (which supplies employment and taxes).

(Recently), a family member from Washington state went shopping at Home Depot. She purchased four small plants. The checkout lady informed her that it would cost 5 cents for a paper bag to put the plants in to carry them home.

Is this the way to promote "shop locally"?

Not many visitors coming to Corvallis for an Oregon State University event or to visit a family member carry a paper bag or something to put a purchase in at the last moment.

Maybe it is time for our new council to reconsider and repeal the plastic bag ban ordinance and really support the local merchants instead of causing people to want to shop outside of Corvallis. At least repeal the portion that makes the shopper buy a bag to carry the purchase. I believe most shops have already included the cost of the bags in their overhead cost as they price the product.

Ray Stephenson, Corvallis



Letter: 'Browsing baskets' can be bought and sub for bags

FEBRUARY 08, 2013 9:00 AM

If my stroke-related low vision blindness had not deteriorated so much, I would be leading a recall campaign against Corvallis City Council representatives who supported mandating a fee of five cents per paper grocery bag.

The five cents bag fee will fail to promote reusable bags similar to how the 5 cents deposit mandated by the Oregon Bottle Bill has failed in its goal of stopping beverage makers from packaging virtually all drinks in disposable and debatably recyclable plastic or metal containers instead of the thick glass bottles, which back then were routinely returned, washed out and refilled.

Although bottle deposits have failed to promote reuse, at least bottle deposits still reduce litter by paying children and the homeless to pick up discarded cans.

In contrast, paper bag fees serve no other purpose other than to be a nuisance that might lead to sanitation problems and more ergonomic repetitive stress injuries in grocery checkers.

Personally, I wanted something easier to use than reusable bags and so I bought several "browsing baskets" because they already supply the professional library archiving products used by my private research library.

Thomas Kraemer

Corvallis



Letter: Cartoon suggesting reusable bags spread disease was ridiculous

FEBRUARY 11, 2013 9:00 AM

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, there appeared a cartoon on the editorial page that would have us believe that the plastic bag ban will cause clerks in supermarkets to get sick and die.

Ridiculous!

I always use hand sanitizer after shopping because of the germs transmitted by keypads, door knobs, pens at keypads, people coughing and taking change from the clerks. The clerks also take money and checks from people who shop, and are just as likely to transmit a (deathly? — I think not) disease.

The arguments that people have come up with to keep their precious plastic bags are weak, and it's time to suck it up and learn to deal.

Rebecca Stillwell

Albany



Letter: Data needed to back statement on loss of business to bag ban

FEBRUARY 12, 2013 9:00 AM

The Gazette-Times quoted Kevin Dwyer of the Chamber of Commerce in the Feb. 9 article, "Council hints at changing bag ban," as saying that the bag ban " is producing impediments for new businesses that want to come here."

Please share the data. How many businesses have not located to Corvallis because of our bag ban?

Christy Stevens

Corvallis

Letter: Enough already with the griping over the plastic bag ban

FEBRUARY 12, 2013 9:00 AM

I have lost track of all the letters to the editor sent by folks excoriating City Hall for enacting the plastic bag ban.

And if that was not bad enough, stores are now charging a nickel for a paper bag to customers who did not bring their reusable bag.

Now this unbearable burden of 5 cents on an average of \$10 of groceries works out to one half of one percent of your grocery bill. I hardly think that this one half of one percent would send anyone to the poorhouse and why is it that we don't hear a peep when the neighborhood gas station shows \$3.65 a gallon when only last week it was \$3.45?

Is it because cars don't run on paper bags?

OK, enough already on these silly plastic/paper bag squabbles.

Leo de Vogel

Corvallis

Letter: Corvallis is now stuck with its flawed plastic bag ban

FEBRUARY 13, 2013 9:00 AM

The City Council is stuck with the bag ban ordinance. They thought they passed a majority-supported, environment-

saving dream ordinance, only to learn that the reusable bags they demand we buy are not recyclable, deteriorate after 4-5 washings, (banned bags can be reused that many times), take up more space in the landfill and are a potential health hazard.

They defiantly refuse to discuss these issues in hopes that they will go away. They don't want to hear that it takes 70 percent less energy to make a thin plastic bag than a paper bag.

They don't seem to care that most of the tote bags they are forcing us to use are made and shipped from China, increasing carbon emissions, and that shipping is one of the major causes of plastic pollution that does harm wildlife.

Councilors Richard Hervey and Joel Hirsch moved and seconded to remove the sentence that required the fee to be listed on your sales receipt. So you may not know what you're charged unless you add the totals.

They set the minimum fee at five cents, but their motivation is that when the fees go higher, it will force people to change.

Some supporters of the fee would like the fee to be \$1.25 or higher. Yes, even at 5 cents, you can already see it is forcing shoppers to buy carbon emissions bags made in China!

Yes, we are being mandated to pollute our environment. Ballot the ban!

Milt Weaver, Corvallis

Letter: Rewards, not fees, are way to gain acceptance of reusable bags

FEBRUARY 15, 2013 1:00 PM

According to their Facebook page, "Bag It Corvallis is a local effort to ban single-use plastic bags in Corvallis and institute a five-cent fee to encourage the use of sustainable recyclable bags."

Will a five-cent fee encourage the use of reusable bags? As a professional dog trainer, I've learned that rewards, rather than punishment, drive behavior. Behavioral principles apply to people as well.

Both species try to avoid punishment rather than to change the behavior that's being punished. They also develop fear and anger toward the punisher.

For instance, speeders watch for police officers rather than slow down.

The five-cent fee for paper bags is a punishment, however minor. When people direct their anger to hapless checkout clerks, it's bad enough, but it would be unfortunate if the whole environmental movement suffered a backlash over a few extra nickels.

On the other hand, Ray's Markets in Philomath and North Albany are using a system based on rewards. They give free paper bags and reward the use of reusable bags. Ray's reward-based system will motivate consumers to change their behavior without arousing resentment like Corvallis' punishment-based system does.

Let's rethink the mandatory charge for paper bags and allow retailers in Corvallis to use an effective, reward-based system to encourage using recyclable bags.

Sheila Smith

Corvallis

Letter: Could the bag ban make people sick? Let's consider the evidence

FEBRUARY 18, 2013 9:00 AM

The OSU Daily Barometer recently ran a column that referenced an article from the University of Pennsylvania examining plastic grocery bag bans and foodborne illness.

The findings: "There is evidence that reusable grocery bags — a common substitute for plastic bags — contain potentially harmful bacteria. ER visits spiked as soon as the bag ban went into effect. Relative to other counties, ER admissions increase by at least one fourth, and deaths exhibit a similar increase."

So, to the guy at Fred Meyer who put 12 apples in his cloth bag, changed his mind and put them all back; to the woman who took her bags into the restroom with her at WinCo; to the man in Safeway who was comparing prices on two items and holding his bag in his mouth, and to the woman who put all her cloth bags on the floor to attend to her crying child: Thanks for helping to pass along your bacteria and viruses to everyone else.

The bag ban is bad policy if it endangers the health and safety of Corvallis residents. The City Council should take another look at the ramifications of their actions.

Jeff Hale, Corvallis

Letter: Another reason to get rid of problematic five-cent bag fee

FEBRUARY 21, 2013 9:00 AM

The Feb. 18 story "Basket Bandits?" asked if the Corvallis anti-bag law is motivating customers to steal the plastic shopping baskets loaned to customers. I am surprised that a local merchant hasn't started to sell these baskets because apparently they are good enough to steal!

To prevent basket theft, one store security expert told me that stores typically imprint their name on the baskets.

To avoid being accused of stealing the shopping baskets that I legally bought, I put my name on them and bought a different color than used by most stores in Corvallis. I tried providing links to where I bought them in my previous Feb. 8 letter, "Browsing baskets' can be bought and sub for bags," but the editor rightfully cut my references to comply with the newspaper's editorial policies.

Store security experts also typically recommend the standard policy of bagging all purchases to make shoplifters easier to spot, but this standard method has been undermined by the Corvallis law requiring a fee of five cents per paper bag. This is another reason to vote out all Corvallis City Council representatives who support keeping the fee of five cents per paper bag.

Thomas Kraemer

Corvallis

Letter: Don't expect public to go running after 'the environmental schtick'

FEBRUARY 21, 2013 9:00 AM

I was amused by Sheila Smith's dog training analogy regarding the unnecessary bag ban policy implemented by an arrogant city council (Letters, Feb. 15, "Rewards, not fees, are way to gain acceptance of reusable bags").

She recommends the elimination of the five-cent surcharge we mutts must spend to get a paper bag from the grocery store. She notes how detrimental to the political cause it is to take a rolled up newspaper to the populace and instead insists that we critters be rewarded for performing a desired act and proper response from their government masters.

I have an alternate dog-inspired analogy I think is more relevant to the situation regarding our "masters":

We are going to get tired of chasing the environmental schtick. If you continue to make throwing motions that result in zero substantive benefit or encourage us to take some action to ward off phantom menaces, we are going to stop responding to them, least not in ways the master is likely to enjoy.

Yes, some breeds of dogs will continue to chase the schtick; we call that breed liberals, but the rest of us will no longer chase punitive restrictions placed upon our rights and income to fight off political agendas wrapped in environmental causes.

Some of our masters right now are considering smacking us on the nose with cap and trade restrictions and expenses to fight the phantom global warming menace. Talk about barking up the wrong tree! If the "widely popular" bag ban is any indication, that dog won't hunt.

Harry Mallory

Corvallis

Letter: Reflecting on what you can buy for a nickel or dime

FEBRUARY 25, 2013 9:00 AM

All of this fussing and moaning over paying a nickel for a paper bag got me thinking about the times when my mother would take me shopping in the large department stores in downtown St. Louis, Mo.

In those days the stores were equipped with pay toilets, and you had to insert a dime in a slot to gain entrance to a stall in the restroom.

At least now, we have a good quality paper sack to show for our nickel.

In the old days, all we got for 10 cents was clean underwear, and we already had that when we entered the store.

Of course, they say it costs a dime to make a nickel these days, so maybe we are paying more for those paper bags than we think we are.

Dave McIntire

Corvallis

Letter: Council, give us back our plastic bags and quit trying to save world

MARCH 06, 2013 9:00 AM

Each time I shop at a grocery and retail stores in Corvallis, I get hit with the mandate of the Corvallis City Council bag ban law.

A WinCo store manager thinks it is a good laugh to watch customers attempt to get food for their family to their car. (Baskets bandits story, Feb. 18). Maybe the City Council thinks it is a good chuckle, too. Not me. I find a ban on plastic bags a serious mistake.

The best thing the council could do is give full attention to government issues and stop the experiment with laws to make it difficult for anyone to shop locally. All I want to do is be able to carry out my purchases, keep them dry on rainy days and free of contamination. Not save the world.

Paul and Patty Lorenz, Corvallis

Letter: Bag ban is a forward-thinking change that's worth the effort

MARCH 07, 2013 9:00 AM

I am really surprised at the hubbub about plastic and paper bags. At the First Alternative Co-op, we had a vote of the owners several years ago, and they voted to charge for paper bags at the register by an overwhelming majority. We charge a nickel for a paper bag, but many voters thought we should charge more.

We don't sell many bags anymore, and people don't often complain about paying if they need a paper bag. We tried plastic carry-out bags once long ago and got lots of complaints from customers about them so stopped offering them with no negative impact or complaints.

I think it is a good thing, and support it 100 percent.

Thanks to the City Council for being forward-thinking and protecting our city from unnecessary plastic bag waste.

It certainly makes people think about their actions by charging this minimal amount.

Other countries have been charging for years, so it is about time we stepped up, too.

Michele Adams

Corvallis



Letter: A few more thoughts on parking and plastic bags

MARCH 14, 2013 9:00 AM

We are going about university parking backward. Students park in residential areas only because it is cheaper or more convenient. Require the university to provide free, on-campus, convenient parking for all students, faculty and staff. The university continues to build buildings where parking lots used to exist. That should not make university parking a community problem. Let the university, not the community, solve the university's problem.

No plastic bags at the register — OK, maybe (but I still don't know what to do with those sticky items found in the meat and produce departments). Charging an additional 5 cents for a paper bag when the merchant already built the cost into the pricing of the goods — not OK. Giving people a discount for each reusable bag they bring in and use — great; reward the behavior you want to see repeated. This law needs to be repealed and a better law written.

I don't know anyone who likes those smelly, dirty, noisy beverage container recycling machines the grocers have to provide. Even worse, they jam or reject containers on a regular basis and it takes a long time to recycle just a few containers. Since containers cannot be crushed before recycling just a few containers takes a lot of space. Some states which charge a deposit allow containers to be crushed at home and weighed at the recycling center so the containers do not have to be handled again at the recycling center. This is faster, cleaner and easier and would work for us, too.

Michael Brantley

Corvallis

Letter: Some thoughts on a few topics that are generating letters

March 21, 2018 9:00 am

(0) Comments

Regarding recent letters:

- Traffic circles: A properly designed and implemented traffic circle is a no-brainer and easy to use. But that thing at on 10th Street (and Grant Avenue) is none of the above, and calling it a traffic circle is an insult to real traffic circles. Therefore, it should be called what it actually is — a large, round, horizontal speed bump.
- Traffic tickets: Not all traffic tickets are issued for safety reasons. Many times in Corvallis (and Philomath, too) I have seen sneaky little speed traps using radar where the road is straight, not busy, good weather, the speed limit well below a safe speed plus the speed limit would definitely fail a speed survey test (that's where the speed limit is within 90 percent of what 90 percent of drivers naturally drive). Unfortunately these tickets have the odor of revenue.
- Plastic bags: I can mostly understand the need to ban plastic bags because, sadly, a depressingly large percentage of our population is either too lazy or too stupid (among other possibilities) to deal with their own garbage. However, also requiring a nickel be charged for a paper bag just reeks of behavior modification, which will always be annoying.
- PERS: There's an agreement regarding spending my tax dollars between two tax-supported groups that contains unachievable goals. Also, this system has inherently obvious and egregious major conflict of interest issues (neither group truly has any "skin in the game"). Gee, what could possible go wrong here?

Grant Roberts

Corvallis



Letter: Let all of Benton County vote on Corvallis' bag ban

MARCH 25, 2013 9:00 AM

In the last couple months there have been some letters to the editor supporting the Corvallis Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance and many more against the ordinance. A group called Voters for Effective Environmental Policy has a petition so residents of Corvallis could vote on this ordinance.

I would like to see all residents of Benton County be able to vote on the ordinance. I hate to see people going out of town to buy groceries just because they are against the ordinance. This is hurting all businesses in Corvallis.

Carolyn Webb

Corvallis

Attachment G

Ordinance 2012-13 with changes

The following version of the ordinance shows the changes recommended in the staff report.

Chapter 8.14

Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags

Sections:

- 8.14.010 Purpose.
- 8.14.020 Definitions.
- 8.14.030 Supervision by City Manager.
- 8.14.040 Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag Regulation.
- 8.14.040.010 Prohibition on Plastic Bags.
- 8.14.040.020 Requirement for Paper Bags.
- 8.14.040.030 Exception to Pass-Through Cost.
- 8.14.050 Enforcement and Penalties.
- 8.14.050.010 Responsible Party.
- 8.14.050.020 Separate Offense.
- 8.14.050.030 Penalty.
- 8.14.050.040 Enforcement Implementation.
- 8.14.060 Severability.

Section 8.14.010 Purpose.

1) The purpose of this Chapter is to prohibit retail establishments from distributing single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers and to encourage the distribution and use of reusable options in order to avoid the negative environmental consequences found with the use of single-use plastic carryout bags.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.020 Definitions.

- 1) ASTM Standard - means the current American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)'s International D-6400.
- 2) **Barrel Size – a paper carryout bag with approximate dimensions of 12 inches wide x 7 inches deep x 13-18 inches tall or a capacity of 1,100 to 1,600 cubic inches.**
 - 32) City - City of Corvallis, Oregon.
 - 43) City Manager - The City Manager for the City of Corvallis or the City Manager's designee acting under his or her direction.
- 54) Recyclable Paper Bag - means a paper bag that meets all of the following requirements:
 - a) Is 100% recyclable ~~and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content;~~
 - b) Is capable of composting consistent with the timeline and specifications of the ASTM Standard.
- 65) Retail Establishment - means any store, shop, sales outlet, or vendor located within the City of Corvallis that sells goods at retail. Retail Establishment does not include any establishment where the primary business is the preparation of food or drink:
 - a) For consumption by the public;
 - b) In a form or quantity that is consumable then and there, whether or not it is consumed within the confines of the place where prepared; or
 - c) In consumable form for consumption outside the place where prepared.
- 76) Reusable Bag - means a bag with handles that is either:
 - a) Made of cloth or other machine washable material, or
 - b) Made of durable plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick.

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87) Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag - means a plastic bag made from synthetic or natural organic materials that is provided by a Retail Establishment to a customer at the point of sale for use to transport or carry away purchases from the Retail Establishment. A Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag does not include:

- a) A reusable bag.
 - b) A plastic bag provided by a Retail Establishment to a customer at a time other than the time of checkout; or
 - c) Pharmacy prescription bags.
- (Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.030 Supervision by City Manager.

The regulation of Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags in the City under the provisions herein shall be under the supervision of the City Manager.
(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.040 Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag Regulation.

Section 8.14.040.010 Prohibition on Plastic Bags.

Retail Establishments shall not provide or make available Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags or **non-Recyclable Paper Bags, and/or provide a Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bag without charging a minimum of 5 cents each** to customers .
(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.040.020 Requirement for Paper Bags.

When a Retail Establishment makes a **paper bag** ~~Recyclable Paper Bag~~ available to a customer at the point of sale, **the bag must meet the definition of a Recyclable Paper Bag. The For Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bags**, Retail Establishments shall charge the customer a reasonable pass-through cost of not less than 5 cents **each per Recyclable Paper Bag provided to the customer.**
(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.040.030 Exception to Pass-Through Cost.

A Retail Establishment shall provide customers who use a voucher issued under the Women, Infants and Children Program established in the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 409.600 with a Reusable Bag or a Recyclable Paper Bag at no cost upon request of the customer at the point of sale.
(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050 Enforcement and Penalties.

Section 8.14.050.010 Responsible Party.

~~A person is guilty of a violation of this Section, if that person is the one who provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, and/or is a~~ **A person who is in charge or in control**

Corvallis Municipal Code

~~of a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, and/or is a person or business entity (e.g., corporation, firm, partnership, association, limited liability entity, cooperative) who owns a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, or is an agent, officer, or manager, director, or employee or who exercises authority over the a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers is not in compliance with Chapter 8.14.~~

~~(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)~~

Section 8.14.050.020 Separate Offense.

Each Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag or **non-Recyclable Paper Bag** provided or made available to customers, **and/or each Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bag provided or made available to customers without charging a minimum of 5 cents each** in violation of this Section is a separate offense.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050.030 Penalty.

A violation of this Section is a Class A infraction, with a minimum fine for each separate offense of not less than \$200.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050.040 Enforcement Implementation.

Enforcement of this Section shall begin January 1, 2013 for retailers with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees and July 1, 2013 for retailers with 50 or less full-time equivalent employees.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.060 Severability.

If any provision, paragraph, word, section, or article of this Chapter is invalidated by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions, paragraphs, words, sections and chapters shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

RE: CORVALLIS BAG BAN ORDINANCE

Attachment 1

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

There are several issues around this ordinance which need to be considered.

1. The term 'Single Use' for the plastic bags dispensed by local stores is misleading. In my house, and in the homes of everyone I know, these bags are reused until they're too full of holes to hold anything. Then they are recycled. The only 'Single use' bags are those which are purchased for the sole purpose of being thrown into the garbage, full of garbage. Those bags are heavy duty and will take a very long time to disintegrate while the light-weight bags now banned disintegrate very quickly -- as anyone who uses them can testify. So, if we're going to ban 'Single Use' bags, we need to ban all bags being sold for the purpose of being thrown away full of garbage.
2. Banning plastic bags is one issue; charging for paper bags is another. If stores are being granted a reduction in costs, then this savings should be passed on to the shoppers as a reduction in costs at the register.
3. Taxpayers are paying the salaries of employees of a city department dedicated to bringing businesses to Corvallis and helping them be successful. The City Council is introducing barriers to the success of businesses by instituting nitpicking rules on the makeup of the bags they hand out to draw attention to these businesses.
4. Councilor Mike Beilstein doesn't lend credence to a few outspoken people (he claims) who dispute the need for the traffic circle at 10th and Grant. Yet he, and the rest of the City Council, caved to an outspoken few with an obnoxiously costumed member which they got tired of seeing at their meetings. To quote Councilor Richard Hervey (GT, January 29, 2013, Packed Houses, front page and continued on A6), "It is possible, even likely that I have cast votes without fully understanding all the potential consequences." While not referring to this particular situation, that's an honest and brave admission and describes this situation perfectly.
5. Numerous articles in national magazines and newspapers have described the health hazards of the bags which shoppers bring into stores. I've seen these bags pulled out of the backs of vehicles from under dirty sports equipment, filthy bicycle tires, and dogs. If I'm told it's required that I bring my own bag into the store, why can't I reuse my plate at Izzy's? Dirty bags are a health hazard and should be investigated by the Benton County Health Department.
6. Anyone using food stamps should be exempt from the charge for the paper bags, starting immediately. A friend of mine, after spending all her monthly allotment of stamps, except for \$1.00, which she was saving to purchase toilet paper at another store, was ambushed at the register by the City Council, when she had to pay \$.55 for bags to haul her groceries home. She can't afford the newspaper and lives in Alsea, so had no idea she would have to spend money on bags instead of toilet paper. That left her with \$.45 -- not enough to purchase the toilet paper. When I related this incident to my city councilor, he didn't have the courtesy to speak to the

issue, much less apologize. That's the difference in attitude between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' of which this is clearly an example.

This issue needs to be decided by a vote of Corvallis residents and the ban needs to be rewritten with the input of local businesses which provide attractive, reusable shopping bags at sometimes considerable expense.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki Ciciriello". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vicki Ciciriello

Corvallis,

TO: All Corvallis City Council Members, Corvallis Mayor, Corvallis City Manager

FROM: Vicki Ciciriello, a Corvallis resident

RE: **PLASTIC BAG BAN**

Attachment 1, cont'd

I am attaching copies of ~~the first page of~~ a very interesting article I found in the University of Oregon publication, CASCADE, UO COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, Fall 2012, page 2.

Many of us believe the ordinance was passed as a reaction to the annoying presence of the bag costume person and without adequate scientific investigation.

In the time since it passed, as I've worked around my home, I've come up with the following observations, out of which questions have arisen.....

- I, and everyone I know, reuse the plastic bags which come into the house for a variety of purposes –
 - o transporting wet swimsuits in the summer, wet shoes in the winter, wet baby clothes at all times of the year
 - o protection from the rain for books, groceries, clothing, mail
 - o packing away Christmas items
 - o separating gift items for family members prior to birthdays and Christmas
 - o to corral multiple small items in the refrigerator and freezer
 - o transporting plant starts to/from friends' gardens
 - o as a secondary wrapping to keep bread products from drying out or produce from wilting
 - o storage of summer toys and plastic dishes in the off season
 - o separation and storage of craft items
 - o as an under-wrapping for protection of items shipped/mailed
 - o as dust covers for numerous items in storage
 - o as liners in every wastebasket
 - o for household garbage collection
 - o for dog poop collection

- Not one of us uses these bags only once.

I will now be forced to purchase commercially produced bags for all these uses.

- Is there a provision in the ordinance for reimbursing me for that expense?
- Has anyone considered the added expense to Corvallis citizens? Especially to those who are barely surviving solely on disability incomes?
- Has anyone considered that the number of plastic bags isn't being reduced, since we'll all be out purchasing plastic bags to replace the free ones we were getting at grocery stores?

And the paper bags we'll now have to pay for, if the stores choose to carry them.....

- I'll have to purchase wrapping paper for packages I ship/mail
- I'll have to purchase twine to tie up newspapers which I currently collect in paper bags
- I'll have to purchase bags (probably plastic) for all the storage uses out in the garage (kids' toys, craft project collections, gardening items)

Here's a question I asked a clerk at Winco, shortly after this ordinance was passed, to which he had no answer:

If I am willing to pay for paper sacks for my groceries, are we going to estimate how many bags it'll take so that he can ring it up on my tab? What if I over/under estimate the number of bags I'll use? Will the clerk interrupt ringing up his next customer to reimburse me or to charge me for another bag? Store management will love this predicament. Was this considered when passing this ordinance?

Currently, I corral my 'office paper' recycling in large, paper grocery sacks. When I've filled one, it goes into the Allied Waste recycle bin. In the future, I'll empty my waste basket directly into the recycle bin. When that bin gets dumped into the truck, there's a high probability some of that paper will end up blowing around the street. Has the Council allowed for the added expense of cleaning this up? I'm certainly not going to do it. If my efforts are to be undone by the short-sightedness of those who fell for a quickie, politically correct proposal, then those same people can clean up after their decision. And please, don't be adding another fee onto my water bill or garbage bill to cover this. You created the problem, find a way to cure it without making me pay for your mistake.

Has it occurred to anyone that perhaps this ordinance was pushed by the companies which manufacture the plastic bags we'll all now be forced to purchase? We certainly aren't reducing the amount of plastic any. We're just moving to heavier, longer lasting, more expensive plastic. And, as I have commented before, no one I know drives to the coast to throw their plastic bags into the ocean. If it was such a problem, the coastal cities would be banning the bags.

To prevent our having to spend any of our limited income (I was laid off by HP) on plastic bags, our daughter who lives in another Oregon city will be saving plastic and paper bags for us.

Ask the Expert

Paper or Plastic? The Answer Might Surprise You

*Cascade
WO College of Arts
and Sciences*

Attachment 1, Cont'd Fall 2012



Chemistry professor David Tyler (above) has taken an interest in the environmentally sensitive decisions that confront consumers every day: Plastic grocery bags . . . or paper? Take the car to work . . . or public transit? Disposable cups . . . or a ceramic mug that can be used over and over again?

Tyler has surveyed some of the research on these alternatives and has concluded that the environmental impact of some of our "green" choices can be surprising when you consider their effects from cradle to grave—that is, the total impact from the point a product is created from raw materials, through its manufacturing, distribution and consumer use, ending with its disposal or recycling.

These "life-cycle assessments" broaden the conventional definition of environmental impact by taking into account all energy and material inputs and then the related consequences, which could include downsides such as climate change, smog, water pollution, land use, depletion of fossil fuels and more.

There are life-cycle assessments for everything from owning a dog to buying locally grown tomatoes. Tyler's conclusion? Consider all the options and make an informed decision—some of the things thought to be hard on the environment might not be so bad after all, depending on what's most important to you.

Interview by Matt Cooper

Q: In looking at the research that's out there, what have you found regarding plastic shopping bags versus paper or cotton bags?

A: There are really good things about plastic bags—they produce less greenhouse gas, they use less water and they use far fewer chemicals compared to paper or cotton. The carbon footprint—that is, the amount of greenhouse gas that is produced during the life cycle of a plastic bag—is less than that of a paper bag or a cotton tote bag. If the most important environmental impact you wanted to alleviate was global warming, then you would go with plastic.

Q: Why is the carbon footprint for a plastic bag less than that of a paper bag or cotton?

A: Cotton is typically grown on semiarid land so it consumes a huge amount of water and you also need a lot of pesticides. About 25 percent of the pesticides used in this country are used on cotton. Paper is just typically considered a fairly polluting industry. Whereas the petroleum industry, where we get our plastics, doesn't waste anything. Chemists have had sixty to seventy years to make the production of plastics fairly efficient and so typically there is not a lot of waste in the petroleum industry.

Q: When you point this out at your public talks, what kind of reaction do you get?

A: A lot of people say they don't believe it. It just feels good to think that cotton is better for the environment than plastic.



Q: How about disposable cups versus ceramic mugs? The thinking is a ceramic mug is better for the environment because it's reusable.

A: But when you manufacture the mug it has to be fired in a kiln at a very high temperature. That takes a lot of energy. If the manufacturing takes a lot of energy to make something, you have to recover that energy through repeated reuse, but typically with a mug, studies show that you don't use them enough to break even on the original energy input. You might as well take that petroleum or natural gas that you are using to warm the kiln and make one-use disposable cups.



Q: There is a fun one that you came across regarding owning a dog versus owning an SUV.

A: One life-cycle assessment showed that the average environmental impact of a dog was greater than the environmental impact of a typical SUV—although it should be noted that this was a pretty controversial study. It suggested that the resources needed to produce food over a dog's life span—especially meat—outweigh those used to make and drive an SUV. What we have discovered is things that involve agriculture often have a high negative

Please don't be in such a rush to do what seems politically correct. Read the attached and do some research. The CASCADE article ends with, "Tyler's Top Ten Environmental Surprises – Life-cycle assessments of our popular "green" consumer choices suggest we may be wise to consider alternatives as well. In some of these assessments, researchers have concluded: Plastic bags produce FEWER greenhouse gases than paper or cotton bags."

Vicki Ciciriello

Corvallis, OR 97331



Attachment 1, Cont'd

environmental impact—and you have to grow food for a dog. The finding wasn't exclusive to dogs; it applies to other pets, too.

But here's another way to look at it—pets, to a lot of people, are essential. They provide companionship. Life-cycle assessments cannot take that into account—the goodwill that comes from owning a pet.

Q: Clearly, though, an SUV could also be your companion.

A: Absolutely (laughing).

Q: You've raised a point that is important for all of these decisions—it depends on what's most important to you. What are some different values that people might be weighing?

A: There are thirteen or fourteen standard environmental impacts that life-cycle assessments consider. Those impacts include global warming, carbon footprint, human toxicity, algae growth in lakes and other bodies of water, resource consumption, ozone depletion and smog production.

But how those impacts are weighed depends on context. So, for example, if we lived in Los Angeles, anything that created smog would be really high on our list. But in Eugene that's not so much of an issue. In Eugene, it's a little easier to say, let's worry about global warming rather than smog. If you live in a community that doesn't have much landfill space or you were worried about plastic bags washing into the ocean, then you would want to find alternatives to plastic because it has a longer life span than other materials.

Q: You have an interesting observation about Styrofoam.

A: Styrofoam is a plastic. And the life-cycle assessments show that plastic cups are no worse on the environment than a paper cup.



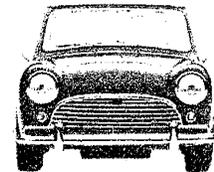
Q: But people say, "Oh, Styrofoam, it's going to be in the earth for the rest of our days."

A: Once again, the carbon footprint is smaller for Styrofoam than for paper cups. There is less energy needed to produce it. People have been told their whole lives about the evils of Styrofoam—and then somebody comes along and says, well, the environmental impacts in a lot of categories for Styrofoam are much better than the alternatives. On the other hand, it takes Styrofoam longer to degrade so this reinforces the point that our consumer choices hinge largely on what's most important to us. If your main concern is pollution or garbage reduction, you might not choose the Styrofoam cup even though its carbon footprint is lower.

Q: Let's talk about plastic forks and bioplastic forks. I would guess that a bioplastic fork, which breaks down, is the way to go for environmental stewardship.

A: Bioplastic is considered really good because it degrades—it's compostable. What they don't tell you is, it's compostable in an industrial composter, which means it's got to be 130 degrees, and it's got to be turned daily. But very few communities have industrial composting capabilities. You can't take that bioplastic fork and put it in your backyard grass pile and have it compost. It won't do that.

Also, because you have to grow the starch that bioplastics are made out of, the carbon footprint is worse than for a polystyrene fork. The other problem is that currently bioplastics are made from starch that comes from corn or potatoes and sometimes even rice, and a lot of people have a real problem with using food for plastics. A huge amount of the U.S. corn crop is diverted to fuel and is now starting to be diverted to bioplastics.



Q: What have you learned about the Bay Area Rapid Transit System versus cars?

A: I always point out that there are many reasons for urging people to take public transportation—relieving congestion is a big one. But if you try to justify that choice based on sustainability, that's not necessarily a valid conclusion. Researchers did a life-cycle assessment of the BART system in San Francisco versus packing people into cars and having them commute. It takes a lot of energy to make a light rail system and a lot of energy goes into the use of the BART system, and these researchers found that it was basically pretty even in terms of energy use. So there are all kinds of compelling reasons to use public transportation, but from a sustainability point it's probably a wash.

Q: Help me understand the difference between buying a tomato at the Saturday Market and buying one that came on a truck from California.

A: Here again, there are all kinds of compelling reasons to eat local food. But the conclusion from life-cycle assessment studies is that sustainability is not necessarily one of those reasons.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



They'll ship five tons of tomatoes in a truck from California and the cost per mile per tomato is small in terms of fuel used compared to some guy who gets into his old beater truck and drives into the farmers' market with five pounds of tomatoes he wants to sell that day.

Q: When I go out to Office Max should I buy a pack of brand-new paper or recycled paper?

A: You would assume that recycled paper is the way to go for the environment. And in the United States that seems to be true. But a life-cycle assessment study in England suggested historically it was probably better to incinerate paper and use that energy than it was to recycle the paper. It's the inefficiency of the recycling plant and the associated recycling process that wasted more energy—in England, apparently it was very energy inefficient. In this country it's probably okay.

That was a classic study that shows we are making some assumptions about recycling that maybe we shouldn't be making.

Q: LED lights are touted as the future of lighting. Is that unquestionably a slam dunk that it is good for the environment and good for us?

A: Well, no. The issue with LEDs is that when they do burn out we have to recycle them appropriately. Several studies suggest they contain toxic metals, so we will have to gear up to recycle those systems properly. You save energy as you transition from incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs to LEDs. But at the same time you may be increasing the human toxicity impact—mercury in the case of CFLs and heavy metals in the case of the LEDs.

Q: One more. Let's say a mother-to-be is choosing between cloth and plastic diapers.



A: They used to refer to this as “the diaper wars.” It depends on the efficiency of the manufacturing plant. If you have a nice modern diaper manufacturing plant that's making plastic diapers, then go for it. If it is an old inefficient plant, then probably cloth diapers are better. But the cloth is made out of cotton, and then it comes back to all the problems with cotton—where is it grown, how much pesticide is used; the water use is tremendous. And remember, with the cloth diaper you have to wash it—so you're using water, you're using energy to heat the water to wash the cloth diaper and so on. It just occurred to me—it's a “wash.”

And actually the environmental impact of your new baby is so huge compared to the environmental impact of using a cloth or a cotton diaper you're worrying about the wrong thing. You probably should have considered having one less kid (laughing). That's a joke, of course.

Q: What recommendations would you make to someone if they really want to make consumer decisions that work for them?

A: Be informed. Life-cycle assessment data can be retrieved on the web. It's just like when you buy a car; you go online or to the library and you read about it. You also have to decide who you think is a credible source. Depending on the source, you'll say, “I don't really believe this person” or “I do believe him or her, the research seems solid.” Doing the research is really the best way to make an informed choice. ■

Tyler's Top Ten Environmental Surprises

Life cycle assessments of our popular “green” consumer choices suggest we may be wise to consider alternatives as well. In some of these assessments, researchers have concluded:

- Plastic bags produce **FEWER** greenhouse gases than paper or cotton bags.
- Ceramic mugs consume **MORE ENERGY** than disposable cups.
- The environmental impact of owning a dog **CAN BE GREATER** than owning an SUV.
- Styrofoam cups produce **FEWER** greenhouse gases than paper cups.
- Bioplastic forks **CAN BE HARDER** on the environment than plastic ones.
- The BART system in the San Francisco area **USES ABOUT AS MUCH ENERGY** as commuters in cars.
- Delivering a large truckload of tomatoes from California to Eugene can be **EASIER ON THE ENVIRONMENT** than delivering an equivalent amount in small truckloads from local farms.
- Recycled paper **CAN CONSUME MORE ENERGY** than new paper (at least in England).
- LED lights save energy but increase **TOXICITY** concerns.
- Plastic diapers can be a **GREENER CHOICE** than cloth diapers.

Sympathy for a psychopath

Dennis Prager
NationalReview.com

A Facebook page was created to defend him. Thousands of commenters on websites and on black radio stations praised his loony “manifesto,” and blamed the Los Angeles Police Department’s racism for setting him off. It’s hard to believe, said Dennis Prager, but that’s how some people reacted to the killing spree by former Los Angeles cop Christopher Dorner. The rogue ex-cop, who apparently killed himself this week during a firefight with police, claimed he was taking revenge for his firing by the L.A. Police Department, which he largely blamed on racism. That led a disturbing number of people to view the killer sympathetically, as a black man “with legitimate grievances that caused him to snap.” Dorner merits no sympathy: He’s a psychopath who murdered a cop’s daughter, her fiancé, and two cops. Imagine the reaction if conservatives defended a white man who killed blacks out of racial resentment. “A tsunami of vilification of conservatives and of conservative media would have ensued.” Whatever led to his firing, Dorner’s feelings of victimization were wildly exaggerated, and can’t be excused. “The real victims are decomposing in their graves.”

When going ‘green’ makes people sick

Ramesh Ponnuru
Bloomberg.com

When communities like San Francisco and Seattle began banning plastic bags, said Ramesh Ponnuru, it seemed like a public-spirited thing to do. But benign-seeming laws often have unintended consequences—and the plastic-bag ban is now producing a sickening result. The reusable shopping bags that people now use to bring groceries home turn out to be breeding grounds for bacteria carried by raw meat and unwashed vegetables. Studies have found that half of reusable bags contain coliform bacteria from feces; if these bags are left in a warm car trunk for two hours, the number of bacteria grows tenfold. “Kind of gross,” no? After San Francisco banned plastic bags, another study by two law professors found, emergency-room admissions caused by *E. coli* infections began climbing; researchers estimate that the plastic ban leads to five additional deaths a year from food-borne illness. Regular washing and drying can clean out a reusable bag’s bacterial colonies, but it’s a habit many consumers simply don’t have. It’s a stomach-turning reminder that governments should “just let people make their own decisions.”

The peril of stigmatizing mental illness

Abby Rapoport
The American Prospect

In the national debate on gun violence, the mentally ill make for “easy scapegoats,” said Abby Rapoport. The NRA’s Wayne LaPierre has called for a national database of the mentally ill, saying it’s the best way to stop “genuine monsters” from killing. But stigmatizing those who seek treatment is likely to backfire—and make all of us less safe. Take the new law in New York that requires therapists and nurses to alert officials if they deem a patient a danger to themselves or others, so that whatever weapons they own can be confiscated. This is based on the fallacy that murderous behavior can be predicted ahead of time. It usually can’t. And will people suffering from PTSD, bipolar disorder, or other forms of mental illness be more or less likely to seek treatment, if doing so lands them on a government list and guarantees that cops will confiscate their guns? In most cases, “it’s the lack of treatment” that’s the best predictor of future violence. To make the country safer, we should make mental health treatment more accessible, rather than punish those who seek it.

Viewpoint

“Older is not necessarily wiser. You’re never more open to new experience than when you’re 20. After that, the need to make money, the fear of having no work, the demands of children, the sense that the world is moving in strange new directions, the appearance of unfamiliar forms of expression that inevitably seem less wonderful than the ones that changed your life when you were 20 cause the aperture to slowly narrow. By 50, the obvious fact of your own decline is easily mistaken for an intimation of the world’s. And since there’s never a shortage of evidence that things are, indeed, worse than they used to be, it’s incredibly satisfying to indulge the idea, and easy to confuse it with a veteran’s seasoned judgment.”

George Packer in The New Yorker



Attachment 2,
The Marys Peak Group

To: Administrative Services Committee

From: Marys Peak Group – Sierra Club

Date: April 17, 2013

RE: City Staff's Recommendation of Revised Draft Ordinance

I represent the Marys Peak Group—Sierra Club, which has 2200 members most of which reside in Benton County. On behalf of our group I would like to thank the Administrative Services Committee for the important work they've done on this issue. There are many contributors to an unhealthy environment, such as diminishing valuable resources and accumulating waste. Single-use plastic bags (used for a short period of time, thrown away at an average rate of 444 per Oregonian; 1.7 Billion per year state-wide) diminishes our resources and adds to the accumulation of waste. Therefore it is a great accomplishment for Corvallis residents to choose to proactively "bring their own bags." We as a community can be very proud of that. We are known as an environmentally conscious city, and this ordinance supports that good reputation.

We are now in the process of accommodating the unique challenges of small businesses. The City's recommended changes to the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Ordinance are acceptable with a few minor changes. These minor tweaks are needed because the City's recommended changes may introduce a loop hole that will not stay true to the intent of the original ordinance. The City Council has requested that the *intent* of the ordinance not be changed. The intent is to facilitate Corvallis' switch to reusable bags and prohibit single-use plastic bags.

The City's recommended changes¹ may mean that businesses can be exempt from the 5-cent pass-through cost if they order any size bags other than the size specified.² If this loophole removes the 5-cent fee, people will overwhelmingly switch to single-use paper bags instead of reusable bags. The 5-cent pass-through cost is a proven incentive reminding people to bring their reusable bags. I am submitting a letter from the Northwest Grocery Association because they have a similar concern. They represent the large grocers in Corvallis, who use the largest number of single-use bags and are most affected by this ordinance.

¹ The City proposes that: 1) only "Barrel Size – 12 inches wide x 7 inches deep x 15-18 inches tall" paper bags receive a 5-cent pass-through cost, and; 2) no paper bags be required to have 40% post-consumer recycled paper content.

² 12 inches wide x 7 inches deep x 15-18 inches tall.

To address the challenges of small businesses, and this issue, the small tweak that is needed is to change the definition of “Recyclable paper bag” to match the Seattle ordinance³ as follows:

“Recyclable paper bag” means a paper carryout bag that has a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger and meets the following requirements: (a) contains a minimum average of 40 percent post-consumer recycled materials, and (b) displays the minimum percent of post-consumer content on the outside of the bag.

This will mean that “recyclable paper bags” that are one-eighth barrel *and larger* will receive a 5-cent pass-through charge. **The smaller bags will not be required to receive a fee, nor will they be required to have 40% post-consumer content.**

We reject the exemption of larger sized paper bags from the 40% post-consumer content requirement. The benefits of recycling paper are many⁴ and supporting this by being explicit about its importance by leaving in the language supports paper recycling—leaving the language out, with the inference that the industry already does it, is not acceptable.

Seattle, Washington, passed an ordinance in 2010. Their experience is instructive given that they are farther along in the process. I spoke to Dick Lilly the contact person for their ordinance.⁵ He is also concerned “that by deviating from the exact dimensions of a paper bag, a store can get around the new law. He explained they have not had any problems or complaints about their inclusion of the required 40% post-consumer fiber.

In summary, we support the City’s changes to the ordinance, with the minor added tweaks, which encourages the use of recycled fiber and promotes reusable carryout bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic bags.

Respectfully,



Debra Higbee-Sudyka
Executive Committee Vice Chair
Marvs Peak Group – Sierra Club

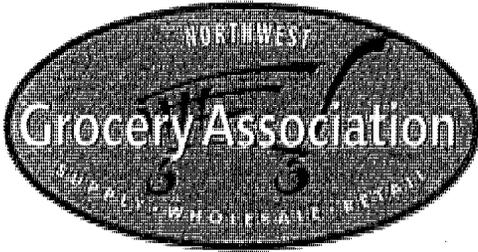
Corvallis. Of

http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/marvs_peak/

³ See attached ordinance and the Northwest Grocery Association amended ordinance.

⁴ Recycling paper conserves natural resources, saves energy, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves landfill space, and creates jobs

⁵ He is Seattle Public Utilities Solid Waste Division’s Business Area Manager for Waste Prevention and Product Stewardship, 206.615.0706, dick.lilly@seattle.gov, www.seattle.gov/util.



8565 SW Salish Lane, Suite 100 • Wilsonville, OR 97070
503-685-6293 • 800-824-1602 • Fax 503-685-6295
E-mail info@nwgrocery.org or Visit Web site www.nwgrocery.org

Attachment 2, Cont'd.

To: Julie Manning, Mayor
Richard Hervey, Council President, Ward 3
Bill Traber, Council Vice President, Ward 8
Penny York, Ward 1
Roen Hogg, Ward 2

Dan Brown, Ward 4
Mike Beilstein, Ward 5
Joel Hirsch, Ward 6
Bruce Sorte, Ward 7
Hal Brauner, Ward 10

From: Joe Gilliam, President

Date: April 11, 2013

RE: Corvallis Public Works Department Amendments to Bag Ordinance

The Northwest Grocery Association respectfully requests your support and passage of the attached amendments in lieu of the amendments offered by the City's Public Works Department. Explanation below:

Stated Problem #1: Small business compliance, resistance, and/or opposition to the plastic bag ban and pass-through cost on paper. Ordinance effective July 1, 2013.

Amendments: The amendments as proposed will virtually repeal the heart of the ordinance by creating a loop hole to allow merchants to offer any paper bag without a pass-through cost, except one specific size (12"x 7"x 15 -18"). This would gut the stated Purpose of the act:

"Section 8 14 010 Purpose:

*1 The purpose of this Chapter is to prohibit retail establishments from distributing single use plastic carryout bags to their customers **and to encourage the distribution and use of reusable options** in order to avoid the negative environmental consequences found with the use of single use plastic carryout bags. (emphasis added).*

The Loophole: By setting a specific size (which just happens to be the size of standard grocery bag) This bag becomes the only bag required to have a pass-through cost. All a retailer would have to do is to offer a bag with a different dimension (e.g. 12"x 8" x 15") and then advertise "No Bag Pass-Through Cost Here".

Effect: Paper use will multiply by at least 400% and the ordinance will be gutted of any incentive to use reusable or recyclable bags. The pass-through loophole will drive all retailers to change bag sizes to avoid being at a competitive disadvantage and cause the average grocery store to incur at least \$40,000 in higher annual bag cost.

Impact: Extreme

Practical Solution: To recognize small businesses use of smaller paper bags, exempt bags that are 50% or less **by volume** than the proposed barrel size, versus every bag that isn't 12"x7"x 15 -18". This sets a volume standard and automatically limits the exemption to small bags regardless of dimension.

Stated Problem #2: The "minimum 40% Post consumer recycled content" language in the existing ordinance is unenforceable.

Amendments: The amendments strike the language making any recyclable paper bag allowed.

Effect: The requirement to use bags containing previously recycled material is repealed.

Impact: Minor

Practical Solution: NWGA has stated from the start that the current language is unenforceable. The language needs to read, "Is 100% recyclable and contains an **average** of 40% post consumer recycled content." The paper milling process can only guarantee an average, not a 40% mix in every single bag. Some bags will have 38% and some will have 42%.

Chapter 8.14

Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags

Attachment 2, Cont'd.

Sections:

- 8.14.010 Purpose.
- 8.14.020 Definitions.
- 8.14.030 Supervision by City Manager.
- 8.14.040 Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag Regulation.
- 8.14.040.010 Prohibition on Plastic Bags.
- 8.14.040.020 Requirement for Paper Bags.
- 8.14.040.030 Exception to Pass-Through Cost.
- 8.14.050 Enforcement and Penalties.
- 8.14.050.010 Responsible Party.
- 8.14.050.020 Separate Offense.
- 8.14.050.030 Penalty.
- 8.14.050.040 Enforcement Implementation.
- 8.14.060 Severability.

Section 8.14.010 Purpose.

1) The purpose of this Chapter is to prohibit retail establishments from distributing single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers and to encourage the distribution and use of reusable options in order to avoid the negative environmental consequences found with the use of single-use plastic carryout bags.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.020 Definitions.

- 1) ASTM Standard - means the current American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)'s International D-6400.
- 2) Barrel Size – 12 inches wide x 7 inches deep x ~~15~~-18 inches tall. (1512 cubic inches / .88 cubic ft.)
- 3) City - City of Corvallis, Oregon.
- 4) City Manager - The City Manager for the City of Corvallis or the City Manager's designee acting under his or her direction.
- 5) Recyclable Paper Bag - means a paper bag that meets all of the following requirements:
 - a) Is 100% recyclable ~~and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content;~~ and contains an average of of 40% post-consumer recycled content;
 - b) Is capable of composting consistent with the timeline and specifications of the ASTM Standard.
- 6) Retail Establishment - means any store, shop, sales outlet, or vendor located within the City of Corvallis that sells goods at retail. Retail Establishment does not include any establishment where the primary business is the preparation of food or drink:
 - a) For consumption by the public;
 - b) In a form or quantity that is consumable then and there, whether or not it is consumed within the confines of the place where prepared; or
 - c) In consumable form for consumption outside the place where prepared.
- 7) Reusable Bag - means a bag with handles that is either:
 - a) Made of cloth or other machine washable material, or

Corvallis Municipal Code

b) Made of durable plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick.

87) Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag - means a plastic bag made from synthetic or natural organic materials that is provided by a Retail Establishment to a customer at the point of sale for use to transport or carry away purchases from the Retail Establishment. A Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag does not include:

a) A reusable bag.

b) A plastic bag provided by a Retail Establishment to a customer at a time other than the time of checkout; or

c) Pharmacy prescription bags.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.030 Supervision by City Manager.

The regulation of Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags in the City under the provisions herein shall be under the supervision of the City Manager.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.040 Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag Regulation.

Section 8.14.040.010 Prohibition on Plastic Bags.

Retail Establishments shall not provide or make available Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags to customers.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.040.020 Requirement for Paper Bags.

When a Retail Establishment makes a paper bag ~~Recyclable Paper Bag~~ available to a customer at the point of sale, the bag must meet the definition of a Recyclable Paper Bag. ~~The~~ For all Recyclable Paper Bags that are 50% or greater by volume (756 cubic inches / .44 cubic ft.) of the Barrel Size Recyclable Paper Bags, Retail Establishments shall charge the customer a reasonable pass-through cost of not less than 5 cents ~~per Recyclable Paper Bag provided to the customer.~~

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.040.030 Exception to Pass-Through Cost.

A Retail Establishment shall provide customers who use a voucher issued under the Women, Infants and Children Program established in the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 409.600 with a Reusable Bag or a Recyclable Paper Bag at no cost upon request of the customer at the point of sale.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050 Enforcement and Penalties.

Section 8.14.050.010 Responsible Party.

A person is guilty of a violation of this Section, if that person is the one who provides or makes

Corvallis Municipal Code

available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, and/or is a person who is in charge or in control of a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, and/or is a person or business entity (e.g., corporation, firm, partnership, association, limited liability entity, cooperative) who owns a retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers, or is an agent, officer, or manager, director, or employee who exercises authority over the retail establishment that provides or makes available a Single-use Plastic Carryout bag to customers.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050.020 Separate Offense.

Each Single-use Plastic Carryout bag provided or made available to customers in violation of this Section is a separate offense.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050.030 Penalty.

A violation of this Section is a Class A infraction, with a minimum fine for each separate offense of not less than \$200.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.050.040 Enforcement Implementation.

Enforcement of this Section shall begin January 1, 2013 for retailers with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees and July 1, 2013 for retailers with 50 or less full-time equivalent employees.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

Section 8.14.060 Severability.

If any provision, paragraph, word, section, or article of this Chapter is invalidated by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions, paragraphs, words, sections and chapters shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

(Ord. 2012-13 §1, 07/02/2012)

City of Seattle Legislative Information Service

Information retrieved on February 27, 2013 9:20 AM

Attachment 2, cont'd.

Council Bill Number: 117345
Ordinance Number: 123775

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system, regulating the distribution of single-use plastic and biodegradable carryout bags and requiring retail establishments to collect a pass-through charge from customers requesting recyclable paper carryout bags, and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.36.

Status: Passed
Date passed by Full Council: December 19, 2011
Vote: 9-0
Date filed with the City Clerk: December 20, 2011
Date of Mayor's signature: December 19, 2011
(about the signature date)

Date introduced/referred to committee: November 21, 2011
Committee: Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods
Sponsor: O'BRIEN; CO-SPONSORS: BAGSHAW, BURGESS, CLARK, CONLIN, GODDEN, LICATA
Committee Recommendation: Pass as Amended
Date of Committee Recommendation: December 13, 2011
Committee Vote: 2 (O'Brien, Harrell) - 0

(No indexing available for this document)

Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note to Council Bill No. 117345

Electronic Copy: PDF scan of Ordinance No. 123775

Text

ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system, regulating the distribution of single-use plastic and biodegradable carryout bags and requiring retail establishments to collect a pass-through charge from customers requesting recyclable paper carryout bags, and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.36.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(8)(a) established waste reduction as the first priority for the collection, handling, and management of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(4) found that it is "necessary to change manufacturing and purchasing practices and waste generation behaviors to reduce the amount of waste that becomes a governmental responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(6)(c) found that it is the responsibility of city and county governments "to assume primary responsibility for solid waste management and to develop and implement aggressive and effective waste reduction and source separation strategies"; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the City Council adopted, the Mayor concurring, Resolution 30990, which reaffirmed the City's 60% recycling goal and set a longer-term goal of 70% recycling along with targets for waste reduction; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 30990 called for studies on how to reduce Seattleites' use of hard-to-recycle materials, many of them plastics, and specifically required Seattle Public Utilities ("SPU") to propose strategies, including bans, to discourage the use of disposable plastic carryout bags; and

WHEREAS, SPU has completed some of those studies, finding that the production, use and disposal of plastic carryout bags have significant adverse impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is the City's desire to conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste, litter and marine litter and pollution and to protect the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to conserve energy and natural resources and control litter, and less reliance on single-use carryout bags provided by retail establishments works toward those goals; and

WHEREAS, plastic carryout bags are made of nonrenewable resources and plastic never biodegrades and only breaks down into smaller and smaller particles which seep into soils or are carried into rivers and lakes, Puget Sound and the world's oceans posing a threat to animal life and the natural food chain; and

WHEREAS, even though single-use paper carryout bags are made from renewable resources and are less of a litter and particularly marine litter problem than single-use plastic carryout bags, they nevertheless require significant resources to manufacture, transport and recycle or dispose of; and

WHEREAS, costs associated with the use, recycling and disposal of single-use paper and plastic carryout bags in Seattle creates burdens on the City's solid waste disposal system, including in the case of plastic carryout bags machine down time and contamination of recycled paper at the City's materials recovery facility; and

WHEREAS, to prevent waste generation it is in the City's interest to discourage the use of single-use, throw-away items of all types which can be accomplished through price signals; and

laundry-dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags.

2. "Pass-through charge" means a charge to be collected by retailers from their customers when providing recyclable paper bags, and retained by retailers to offset the cost of bags and other costs related to the pass-through charge.

3. "Recyclable paper bag" means a paper carryout bag that has a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger and meets the following requirements: (a) contains a minimum average of 40 percent post-consumer recycled materials, and (b) displays the minimum percent of post-consumer content on the outside of the bag.

4. "Retail establishment" means any person, corporation, partnership, business venture, public sports or entertainment facilities, government agency, street vendor or vendor at public events or festivals or organizations that sell or provide merchandise, goods or materials including, without limitation, clothing, food, beverages, household goods, or personal items of any kind directly to a customer. Examples include but are not limited to department stores, clothing stores, jewelry stores, grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, food vending trucks, farmers markets and temporary vendors of food and merchandise at street fairs and festivals. Food banks and other food assistance programs are not considered to be retail establishments for the purposes of this section.

5. "Single-use plastic carryout bag" means any carryout bag made from plastic or any material marketed or labeled as "biodegradable" or "compostable" that is neither intended nor suitable for continuous reuse as a carryout bag or that is less than 2.25 mils thick.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2012, Section 21.36.922 of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

SMC 21.36.922 Civil infractions

A. The violation of or failure to comply with any section of this chapter identified in this section is designated as a civil infraction and shall be processed as contemplated by RCW Chapter 7.80.

B. The violation of or failure to comply with any of the following sections is a Class 1 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120:

Section 21.36.415 (Discarding potentially dangerous litter), except that the maximum monetary penalty and default amount is \$500, not including statutory assessments

Section 21.36.30 (Unlawful hauling of City's Waste -- Exceptions)

Section 21.36.084 (Prohibition on use of expanded polystyrene food service products)

Section 21.36.086 (Compostable or recyclable food service ware required)

WHEREAS, to reduce the use of plastic and paper carryout bags in the City, it is necessary to regulate such use; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the people of the City that regulation require a pass-through charge on the use of recyclable paper carryout bags in order to encourage greater use of reusable bags, to reduce the cost of solid waste disposal by the City, and to protect the environment; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Effective July 1, 2012, Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.36 is amended by adding new Section 21.36.100 to read as follows:

SMC 21.36.100 Single-use plastic and recyclable paper carryout bags

A. No retail establishment in the City shall provide a single-use plastic carryout bag to any customer.

B. Through December 31, 2016, no retail establishment in the City shall provide a paper carryout bag with a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger that is not a recyclable paper bag, and retail establishments shall collect a pass-through charge of not less than five-cents for each recyclable paper carryout bag provided to customers. It shall be a violation of this section for any retail establishment to pay or otherwise reimburse a customer for any portion of the pass-through charge; provided that retail establishments may not collect a pass-through charge from anyone with a voucher or electronic benefits card issued under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) support programs, or the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as Basic Food), or the Washington State Food Assistance Program (FAP).

C. All retail establishments shall indicate on the customer transaction receipt the number of recyclable paper carryout bags provided and the total amount of the pass-through charge.

D. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply.

1. "Carryout bag" means a bag that is provided by a retail establishment at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. Carryout bags do not include:

(a) bags used by customers inside stores to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, greeting cards, or small hardware items, such as nails and bolts, or to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, whether prepackaged or not, or to contain or wrap flowers or potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem, or to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods, or to contain prescription drugs, or to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment; or (b) newspaper bags, door-hanger bags,

Section 21.36.089 (Concrete, bricks, and asphalt paving - - recycling required)

Section 21.36.100 (Single-use plastic and recyclable paper checkout bags)

* * * * *

Section 3. It shall be a violation of this ordinance for any retail establishment to penalize, discipline, or discriminate against any employee for performing any duty necessary to comply with the ordinance.

Section 4. To further promote the use of reusable shopping bags and reduce the quantity of single-use carryout bags entering the City's waste stream, the Director of Seattle Public Utilities is authorized to make reusable carryout bags available to the public at low cost or free-of-charge, targeting such programs to reach low-income households to the greatest degree possible.

Section 5. The Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall evaluate: (a) the financial impact to retail establishments of implementing this ordinance, (b) the effectiveness of this ordinance in reducing the number of single-use carryout bags used in the City, (c) the effectiveness of this ordinance compared to other jurisdictions' efforts to reduce use of single-use carryout bags, and (d) the waste- and litter- reduction benefits of the City's program. The evaluation shall be presented in reports to the City Council that recommend any changes in the ban, pass-through charges, or other provisions that are needed to improve effectiveness. At minimum, reports to the City Council shall be submitted by January 1, 2013 and July 1, 2016. Based on SPU's reports, the Council may take further action to extend the five-cent pass-through charge or implement other actions to achieve City waste-reduction goals.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this

____ day of _____, 2011.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

City Clerk

(Seal)

Meg Moorehead LEG Bag ORD December 12, 2011 Version #10

Attachment 3

Walk-in materials for Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance
Administrative Services Committee meeting
April 17, 2013

These materials related to the Ordinance were collected by City staff since the staff report was submitted on April 1, 2012. Included are three emails sent to City Councilors, three emails to City staff and three letters to the Gazette Times.

Dybvad, Scott

From: Debra Higbee-Sudyka [dwhigbe@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:31 PM
To: De Jong, Kris; halb382@[REDACTED] KDwyer@[REDACTED]
mail@[REDACTED]
Cc: De Jong, Kris; Bruce Encke; Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Re: Draft revised ordinance
Attachments: City of Seattle Plastic Bag Ordinance.doc; Seattle's Plastic Bag Ban by Environment
Washington.pptx; Seattle's Plastic Bag Ordinance Info..docx

All,

I have looked over the changes to the draft version of the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Ordinance, and would like to propose that the definition of "Recyclable paper bag" be changed in the ordinance to read as follows:

- "Recyclable paper bag" means a paper carryout bag that has a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger and meets the following requirements: (a) contains a minimum average of 40 percent post-consumer recycled materials, and (b) displays the minimum percent of post-consumer content on the outside of the bag.

This will mean that "recyclable paper bags" that are one-eighth barrel or larger will receive a 5-cent pass-through charge. The smaller bags will not be required to receive a fee, nor will they be required to be 40% post-consumer content. The 1/8th barrel size is the "standard" paper bag, which is the shorter sized grocery bags, which are flat-bottomed 60 inch square.

If the above definition of a "recyclable paper bag" is used, then "**Section 8.14.040.020 Requirement for Paper Bags**" can remain the same. This is because a "recyclable paper bag" one-eighth barrel or larger is the only size that receives a 5-cent cost requirement.

The proposed definition of a recycled paper bag is used in Seattle City's plastic bag ordinance (see attached). I called and spoke to Dick Lilly (206-615-0706), who is the contact person regarding Seattle's ordinance. He explained that he consulted with the industry to come up with this definition. He also said that with smaller-sized bags 40% post-consumer waste content is problematic because they are typically thinner than the barrel-sized grocery bags and more prone to tearing. Dick Lilly also sent me the attached survey, which was taken recently showing how Seattle is adjusting to the ordinance.

I support this change in the ordinance of the paper bag definition, however it does not preclude the City from "encouraging the use of recycled fiber and labeling for all sizes of paper bags," and "promoting reusable carryout bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic bags" as the Seattle website does.

Let me know if you have questions,

Debra Higbee-Sudyka
Marys Peak Group – Sierra Club

[REDACTED]
Corvallis, OR 97339
541-554-6979

[dwhigbe@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:dwhigbe@[REDACTED])
http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/marys_peak/

From: De Jong, Kris
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 1:45 PM
To: <mailto:halb382@>; <mailto:KDwyer@>; <mailto:dwhigbe@>;
<mailto:mail@>
Cc: De Jong, Kris
Subject: Draft revised ordinance

Hi,

I have attached a draft version of the revisions we discussed for the Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag ordinance. Please take a look and let me know if you agree that this adequately covers the intent of our discussion.

Thanks,

Kris De Jong

City of Corvallis, Public Works

Administrative Division

541-754-1755

Woman is 60 But Looks 25

Mom publishes simple facelift trick that angered doctors...
ConsumerLifestyles.net

Seattle's Plastic Bag Ban

Seattle plastic bag ban effective July 1, 2012

- [Printable bag ban flyer](#) – English and translated versions
- [Point of purchase card](#) (pdf) – For retailers who carry paper bags
- [Point of purchase card](#) (pdf) – For retailers who only have acceptable plastic bags
- [Read ordinance 123775](#)

Retail business survey results and progress report – January 15, 2013

- [Retail survey results summary](#) (pdf) – Survey questions and response data
- [Retail store survey and six-month progress report](#) (pdf) – Survey report to City Council

Here's what the law does:

- Prohibits all Seattle retail stores from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags, including those advertised as compostable, biodegradable, photodegradable or similar.
- Allows retail stores to provide customers with any size recyclable paper or reusable carryout bags
- Requires retail stores to charge a minimum of 5 cents for paper carryout bags of 1/8 barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger. These are typical grocery bags with a flat bottom greater than 60 square inches.
- Requires retail stores to show all bag-charges on customer receipts; stores keep all revenue. The charge is a taxable retail sale.
- Allows retail stores, at their discretion, to charge for smaller bags or provide them free.
- Allows retail stores to provide carryout bags made of plastic 2.25 mil or thicker, with or without charge at their discretion.
- Requires that bags to which the 5-cent charge applies contain at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled fiber and display the minimum recycled content on the

outside of the bag. Use of recycled fiber and labeling is encouraged for all sizes of paper bags.

- Imposes a \$250 fine for violations.
- Promotes reusable carryout bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic bags.

Exemptions from the law

- Customers using vouchers or electronic benefit cards from state or federal food assistance programs for grocery purchases are exempt from the 5-cent paper bag charge.
- Plastic bags used in stores for bulk items or to protect vegetables, meat, fish and poultry, frozen foods, flowers, deli foods and similar where moisture would be a problem are exempt.
- Plastic bags for take-out orders from restaurants are allowed, though use of recyclable paper bags is encouraged.
- Dry-cleaner, newspaper, and door-hanger bags and plastic bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage bags or to contain pet waste, or approved compostable food and yard waste bags are exempt.
- Note: Merchants with existing supplies of plastic carryout bags (purchased before Ordinance 123775 became law January 19, 2012) may use them until their supplies run out.

Alternatives to plastic bags

- The law calls on Seattle Public Utilities to promote reusable bags as the best alternative to single-use plastic carryout bags. SPU plans to work with retail stores to get this message out to shoppers.
- There are a variety of cloth carryout bags on the market and many retail stores sell inexpensive bags made of polypropylene that can be used over and over.
- There is no entirely objective measure for when a carryout bag may be deemed reusable; however, it would be hard to say that a bag that fails within 10 uses is

truly reusable within the intent of Seattle's ordinance, and 20 repeat uses would seem a reasonable minimum.

Tips for shoppers

- Let the nickel you pay for a paper shopping bag be a reminder to shop with reusable bags.
- Keep several reusable bags in the car for trips to the grocery store.
- A small bag, the kind that goes into a little stuff bag, can be carried in your backpack, shoulder bag or purse.
- Reuse or recycle paper bags when you get them or donate clean ones to your neighborhood food bank. Using paper bags to store and carry food scraps to your food and yard waste cart is an easy way to manage your food waste.
- When you get plastic bags from a store (Thicker ones are still **ok**; clothing stores and others may decide to use them), save them and put newspaper and dry cleaning bags and plastic film packaging in them for recycling. Bundled into one bag that's tied closed, other kinds of plastic bags can still go in Seattle residential recycling bins.

By the way, after July 1, a call to SPU's customer service line, (206) 684-3000, will forward store names to outreach staff who will visit the location. Note that small stores – those without branches outside Seattle where they can send their existing stock of bags – are allowed some time to use up inventory. Also, strong plastic bags (2.25 mils thick or greater) are considered reusable and some stores such as department stores and book stores will be using them. You may also call this number if you see a store not charging for large, recyclable paper bags. (No charge is required for small paper bags.)

City of Seattle Legislative Information Service

Information retrieved on February 27, 2013 9:20 AM

Council Bill Number: 117345
Ordinance Number: 123775

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system, regulating the distribution of single-use plastic and biodegradable carryout bags and requiring retail establishments to collect a pass-through charge from customers requesting recyclable paper carryout bags, and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.36.

Status: Passed

Date passed by Full Council: December 19, 2011

Vote: 9-0

Date filed with the City Clerk: December 20, 2011

Date of Mayor's signature: December 19, 2011

(about the signature date)

Date introduced/referred to committee: November 21, 2011

Committee: Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods

Sponsor: O'BRIEN; CO-SPONSORS: BAGSHAW, BURGESS, CLARK, CONLIN, GODDEN, LICATA

Committee Recommendation: Pass as Amended

Date of Committee Recommendation: December 13, 2011

Committee Vote: 2 (O'Brien, Harrell) - 0

(No indexing available for this document)

Fiscal Note: Fiscal Note to Council Bill No. 117345

Electronic Copy: PDF scan of Ordinance No. 123775

Text

ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system, regulating the distribution of single-use plastic and biodegradable carryout bags and requiring retail establishments to collect a pass-through charge from customers requesting recyclable paper carryout bags, and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.36.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(8)(a) established waste reduction as the first priority for the collection, handling, and management of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(4) found that it is "necessary to change manufacturing and purchasing practices and waste generation behaviors to reduce the amount of waste that becomes a governmental responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(6)(c) found that it is the responsibility of city and county governments "to assume primary responsibility for solid waste management and to develop and implement aggressive and effective waste reduction and source separation strategies"; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the City Council adopted, the Mayor concurring, Resolution 30990, which reaffirmed the City's 60% recycling goal and set a longer-term goal of 70% recycling along with targets for waste reduction; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 30990 called for studies on how to reduce Seattleites' use of hard-to-recycle materials, many of them plastics, and specifically required Seattle Public Utilities ("SPU") to propose strategies, including bans, to discourage the use of disposable plastic carryout bags; and

WHEREAS, SPU has completed some of those studies, finding that the production, use and disposal of plastic carryout bags have significant adverse impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is the City's desire to conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste, litter and marine litter and pollution and to protect the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to conserve energy and natural resources and control litter, and less reliance on single-use carryout bags provided by retail establishments works toward those goals; and

WHEREAS, plastic carryout bags are made of nonrenewable resources and plastic never biodegrades and only breaks down into smaller and smaller particles which seep into soils or are carried into rivers and lakes, Puget Sound and the world's oceans posing a threat to animal life and the natural food chain; and

WHEREAS, even though single-use paper carryout bags are made from renewable resources and are less of a litter and particularly marine litter problem than single-use plastic carryout bags, they nevertheless require significant resources to manufacture, transport and recycle or dispose of; and

WHEREAS, costs associated with the use, recycling and disposal of single-use paper and plastic carryout bags in Seattle creates burdens on the City's solid waste disposal system, including in the case of plastic carryout bags machine down time and contamination of recycled paper at the City's materials recovery facility; and

WHEREAS, to prevent waste generation it is in the City's interest to discourage the use of single-use, throw-away items of all types which can be accomplished through price signals; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the use of plastic and paper carryout bags in the City, it is necessary to regulate such use; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the people of the City that regulation require a pass-through charge on the use of recyclable paper carryout bags in order to encourage greater use of reusable bags, to reduce the cost of solid waste disposal by the City, and to protect the environment; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Effective July 1, 2012, Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.36 is amended by adding new Section 21.36.100 to read as follows:

SMC 21.36.100 Single-use plastic and recyclable paper carryout bags

A. No retail establishment in the City shall provide a single-use plastic carryout bag to any customer.

B. Through December 31, 2016, no retail establishment in the City shall provide a paper carryout bag with a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger that is not a recyclable paper bag, and retail establishments shall collect a pass-through charge of not less than five-cents for each recyclable paper carryout bag provided to customers. It shall be a violation of this section for any retail establishment to pay or otherwise reimburse a customer for any portion of the pass-through charge; provided that retail establishments may not collect a pass-through charge from anyone with a voucher or electronic benefits card issued under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) support programs, or the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as Basic Food), or the Washington State Food Assistance Program (FAP).

C. All retail establishments shall indicate on the customer transaction receipt the number of recyclable paper carryout bags provided and the total amount of the pass-through charge.

D. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply.

1. "Carryout bag" means a bag that is provided by a retail establishment at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. Carryout bags do not include:

(a) bags used by customers inside stores to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, greeting cards, or small hardware items, such as nails and bolts, or to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, whether prepackaged or not, or to contain or wrap flowers or potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem, or to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods, or to contain prescription drugs, or to safeguard public health and safety during the transportation of prepared take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment; or (b) newspaper bags, door-hanger bags,

laundry-dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags.

2. "Pass-through charge" means a charge to be collected by retailers from their customers when providing recyclable paper bags, and retained by retailers to offset the cost of bags and other costs related to the pass-through charge.

3. "Recyclable paper bag" means a paper carryout bag that has a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-eighth barrel (882 cubic inches) or larger and meets the following requirements: (a) contains a minimum average of 40 percent post-consumer recycled materials, and (b) displays the minimum percent of post-consumer content on the outside of the bag.

4. "Retail establishment" means any person, corporation, partnership, business venture, public sports or entertainment facilities, government agency, street vendor or vendor at public events or festivals or organizations that sell or provide merchandise, goods or materials including, without limitation, clothing, food, beverages, household goods, or personal items of any kind directly to a customer. Examples include but are not limited to department stores, clothing stores, jewelry stores, grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, food vending trucks, farmers markets and temporary vendors of food and merchandise at street fairs and festivals. Food banks and other food assistance programs are not considered to be retail establishments for the purposes of this section.

5. "Single-use plastic carryout bag" means any carryout bag made from plastic or any material marketed or labeled as "biodegradable" or "compostable" that is neither intended nor suitable for continuous reuse as a carryout bag or that is less than 2.25 mils thick.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2012, Section 21.36.922 of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

SMC 21.36.922 Civil infractions

A. The violation of or failure to comply with any section of this chapter identified in this section is designated as a civil infraction and shall be processed as contemplated by RCW Chapter 7.80.

B. The violation of or failure to comply with any of the following sections is a Class 1 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120:

Section 21.36.415 (Discarding potentially dangerous litter), except that the maximum monetary penalty and default amount is \$500, not including statutory assessments

Section 21.36.30 (Unlawful hauling of City's Waste -- Exceptions)

Section 21.36.084 (Prohibition on use of expanded polystyrene food service products)

Section 21.36.086 (Compostable or recyclable food service ware required)

Section 21.36.089 (Concrete, bricks, and asphalt paving - - recycling required)

Section 21.36.100 (Single-use plastic and recyclable paper checkout bags)

* * * * *

Section 3. It shall be a violation of this ordinance for any retail establishment to penalize, discipline, or discriminate against any employee for performing any duty necessary to comply with the ordinance.

Section 4. To further promote the use of reusable shopping bags and reduce the quantity of single-use carryout bags entering the City's waste stream, the Director of Seattle Public Utilities is authorized to make reusable carryout bags available to the public at low cost or free-of-charge, targeting such programs to reach low-income households to the greatest degree possible.

Section 5. The Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall evaluate: (a) the financial impact to retail establishments of implementing this ordinance, (b) the effectiveness of this ordinance in reducing the number of single-use carryout bags used in the City, (c) the effectiveness of this ordinance compared to other jurisdictions' efforts to reduce use of single-use carryout bags, and (d) the waste- and litter- reduction benefits of the City's program. The evaluation shall be presented in reports to the City Council that recommend any changes in the ban, pass-through charges, or other provisions that are needed to improve effectiveness. At minimum, reports to the City Council shall be submitted by January 1, 2013 and July 1, 2016. Based on SPU's reports, the Council may take further action to extend the five-cent pass-through charge or implement other actions to achieve City waste-reduction goals.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this

____ day of _____, 2011.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

City Clerk

(Seal)

Meg Moorehead LEG Bag ORD December 12, 2011 Version #10

CONSUMER RESEARCH: Plastic Bag Ban

Survey Finds Ban Popular and Successful

Emma Jarolin, Environment Washington
January 15, 2013



Representative of Seattle residents

Sample			Seattle	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Female	451	51%	50%	50%
Male	440	49%	50%	50%
Grand Total	891	100%	100%	100%

Sample			Seattle	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
People of color	332	37%	32%	38%
White	559	63%	68%	62%
Grand Total	891	100%	100%	100%

Sample			Seattle	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0-20	45	5%	20%	20%
21-40	345	39%	37%	37%
41-60	310	35%	30%	30%
61+	191	21%	13%	13%
Grand Total	891	100%	100%	100%

Survey Design

- In October, we surveyed 891 consumers outside of nine different Seattle supermarkets

Districts with more racial diversity

District	Store Visited	Time Visited
Greater Duwamish	Grocery Outlet	Saturday 12pm-3pm and Sunday 10am-12pm
Downtown	Kress IGA	Monday 9am-2pm
Central	Uwagimaya	Friday 11am-3pm
Southeast	AFC Supermarket	Friday 10am-1pm, 6pm-7pm

Districts with less racial diversity

District	Store Visited	Time Visited
Ballard	Ballard Market	
Southwest	QFC West Seattle 42 nd Street	Saturday 11am-5pm
Magnolia/Queen Anne	Metropolitan Market	
East	QFC on 1 st	Wednesday 10am-2pm
Northeast	Safeway on 45 th	

Plastic Bag Ban is Popular

- 94% of consumers aware of the ban.
- 64% of consumers agree with the ban.
- Ban more popular among:
 - Women than men
 - White people than people of color
 - People ages 21-40 than ages 41-60



Seattle Consumers' Opinion of Bag Ban		
Opinion	Count	Percent
Agree	552	64%
Disagree	165	19%
Neutral/unsure	141	16%
Grand Total	858	100%

For surveyors:
Bag Type: Reusable/Paper/None
Rn/ETH: W/NW

FOR CONSUMERS

Seattle recently passed a plastic bag ban, which prohibits all businesses or retail stores from distributing single-use plastic shopping bags to customers. Stores are still allowed to provide paper bags, but they are required to charge the customer 5 cents for every paper bag.

- Were you aware of the plastic bag ban?
 - Yes
 - No
- What is your opinion of the plastic bag ban?
 - Agree
 - Neutral
 - Disagree
 - Not sure
- How often do you bring your own bag to the store?
 - All the time
 - Most of the time, but I still forget here and there
 - I usually forget it, but I occasionally remember
 - Never
- Did the bag ban prompt you to bring your bag more often?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you have any additional comments about the bag ban?

What is your age?
a) 0-20
b) 21-40
c) 41-60
d) 61+

The Bag Ban Affects Change

- The majority (54%) of consumers report the ban has prompted them to bring their own bag more often.
- Who's most affected?
 - 60% of people of color report bag ban has prompted reusable bag usage
 - 51% of white people



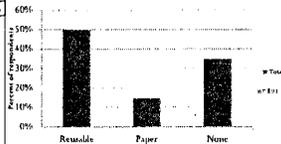
Bringing Own Bag Becoming the Norm

66% of consumers report that they bring their own bag at least most of the time.

Row Labels	Frequency of bringing reusable bag	
	Count	Percent
All the time	296	34%
Most of the time	274	32%
Usually forget	169	20%
Never	119	14%
Grand Total	858	100%

"When I see everyone else doing it, it's easier for me to remember."
-Customer at QFC on 15th

Observed Type of Bag Being Used



We observed 50% of consumers using a reusable bag and 35% using no bag at all.

"People seem to understand why the ban was passed."

-Kress IGA cashier

"Paper bags are harder to pack and less durable than plastic."

--Anonymous Video Store Owner

"The Seattle plastic bag ban ordinance is and has been a great success for Ballard Market. We have seen a stable 60% increase in the use of reusable bags."

--Town and Country's Sustainability coordinator Tony D'Onofrio

Business Survey

- We surveyed 18 employees at six of the supermarkets where we surveyed consumers
- We also surveyed 31 small businesses over the phone

Questions:

How many people bring their own bag to your store?

- a) 0-25%
- b) 26-50%
- c) 51-75%
- d) 76-100%

How has this number changed since the ban was implemented?

- a) Increased significantly
- b) Increased slightly
- c) Stayed the same
- d) Decreased slightly
- e) Decreased significantly



Changes Seen By Businesses

The number of people bringing their own bag to the store:

- 72% of employees report the number has increased

Greater impact at supermarkets:

- 94% of supermarkets have seen an increase in reusable bag usage
- 47% of small businesses

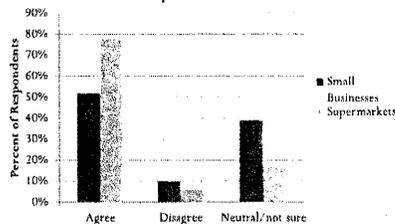
Greater impact where plastic was offered prior:

- 77% of stores where plastic was offered prior have seen an increase in reusable bag usage
- 40% of stores that didn't offer plastic prior

Ban more popular at supermarkets

- Overall, 61% of employees agree with the ban
- 78% of supermarket employees, 52% of small businesses

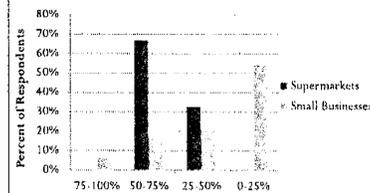
Opinion of Ban



Most People Bringing Their Own Bag

- Most supermarkets report customers bring their own bag 50-75% of the time, and most small businesses report 0-25% of the time.

Businesses Reported Frequency of Customers Bringing Own Bag



(66% of consumers report that they bring their own bag most or all of the time)

Conclusions

- The bag ban has been popular and successful
- 64% of consumers and 61% of business employees agree with the ban
- 54% of consumers report it has prompted them to bring their own bag more often
- 72% of stores report more reusable bag usage since the ban was passed



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Seattle University Environmental Studies Professor Tanya Hayes for providing feedback on survey design and presentation of results.

We would also like to thank all the Seattle consumers and businesses who took the time to respond to our survey.

Thank you to the Seattle Times and KOMO4 News for pictures used in this Powerpoint.

Survey Finds Ban Popular and Successful

Emma Jordin, Environment Washington
January 15, 2013



Dybvad, Scott

From: Steckel, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 8:06 AM
To: Dybvad, Scott; De Jong, Kris
Subject: FW: Bag Ban, Science article on SARS
Attachments: Science-2013-Normile-1269-73.pdf

Scott and Kris,

I'm passing on the attached article for your review.

In order to reply to Rick (which I will do) I need the answer to two questions:

1. Are we including a discussion of health issues in our staff report?
2. If not, why not?

Thanks,
Mary

From: rick hangartner [mailto:riha008@██████████]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 8:42 PM
To: Steckel, Mary
Subject: FYI: Bag Ban, Science article on SARS

Dear Mary,

I hope you are doing well.

Some time back you indicated that staff would be reporting to Council in April about the bag ban. I think the Council has been irresponsible in not acting before that and of course will be considering whether to make public testimony in that regard.

I'm attaching an article from the 15-Mar-2013 edition of Science about SARs. I draw the Council's attention to the side bar (actually on top of p. 4-5) entitled "The Metropole, Superspreaders, and Other Mysteries". As you'll read this article describes recent new discoveries about two SARs outbreaks in which environmental transmission of the virus appears to be the most likely explanation. I note that while norovirus is generally only fatal for individuals with compromised immune systems, SARs is considered to be a far more lethal virus.

What I would like to ask is when the staff will be reporting and whether that report will include any discussion of health issues? If not, for the record, I'm requesting that the staff address health concerns about reused bags and reuse behavior in that report.

Thanks.

Best regards,
Rick

No touching. Patient isolation and staff member protection halted SARS transmission in hospitals.

Understanding the Enemy

Research sparked by the SARS outbreak increased the understanding of emerging diseases, though much remains to be learned

In the end, what made SARS such a threat to human health turned out to be surprisingly and alarmingly simple. Thirty months after the causative agent was found to be a novel coronavirus and 2 years after the disease had been stamped out, scientists determined that what gave the agent the ability to infect and sicken humans came down to two key amino acid changes in a viral protein. More digging has since uncovered still other tricks that SARS and all other coronaviruses have hidden in their genomes to bolster their chances of thriving and causing illness.

The findings are part of a legacy of an unprecedented scientific effort. The SARS outbreak came and went in just 8 months, infecting almost 8100 people in 29 countries and killing 774 (see p. 1264). But as soon as it emerged, dozens of labs around the world jumped into the fray. Working on parallel tracks, they tried to figure out the causative agent, where it came from, what made it so deadly, and how to stop it. Their effort and the work it spawned are continuing to increase our understanding of how zoonotic diseases emerge and spread and how they might be contained, if not prevented.

Online

Podcast interview with author Dennis Normile (http://scim.ag/pod_6125).

"SARS was the first pandemic of the 21st century and one of the best studied as it was ongoing and in retrospect," says Kathryn Holmes, a coronavirus specialist at the University of Colorado, Denver. "Over 3000 papers were published on the SARS coronavirus in the last 10 years," adds Kwok-yung Yuen, a microbiologist at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Researchers have identified dozens of new coronaviruses in nature that could also threaten human health.

The understanding of the SARS virus and other coronaviruses came together piece by painstaking piece. Almost like a mystery writer planting misleading clues in a story, nature delivered a number of false leads. Even today, many aspects of the virus, the disease, and the epidemic remain a puzzle. That leaves nagging worries about how well prepared the world is if SARS or something like it stages a comeback.

An unexpected culprit

Shortly after the World Health Organization (WHO) issued its alerts about SARS in mid-March 2003, scientists at 11 labs in nine countries joined forces to try to understand the new threat. Putting aside their rivalries, they agreed to daily teleconferences to share their findings. Job one was to identify the cause of the disease, as that would lead to diagnostic tests and, possibly, treatments and vaccines.

WHO's Urbani dies of SARS in Bangkok.

29 March

Start of SARS outbreak in Amoy Gardens apartment complex in Hong Kong. More than 300 become infected.

30 March



WHO says that macaque study in Rotterdam clinches the case for a new coronavirus as the cause of SARS.

16 April

WHO team in Beijing expresses strong concern over inadequate reporting of SARS cases.

18 April

Beijing acknowledges 339 previously undisclosed cases. China's minister of health and mayor of Beijing are fired.

20 April

Several groups in Asia had started hunting for the causative agent soon after rumors surfaced of an unusual pneumonia circulating in China's southern Guangdong Province in January 2003. Scientists at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Beijing suspected chlamydia infection, as traces of that bacterium were found in lung tissue recovered from early SARS victims. Others focused on the avian influenza virus H5N1. When it had first emerged in Hong Kong in 1997, H5N1 killed six of 18 victims. The H5N1 hypothesis got a boost in mid-February, when it caused one death and one illness in a Hong Kong family that had visited Fujian Province, which neighbors Guangdong. But when clusters of atypical pneumonia cases surfaced in Hong Kong in early March, HKU researchers found no evidence of H5N1 infection. Then "we knew we were dealing with something completely out of the blue," HKU virologist Malik Peiris told *Science* in 2003 (9 May, p. 886).

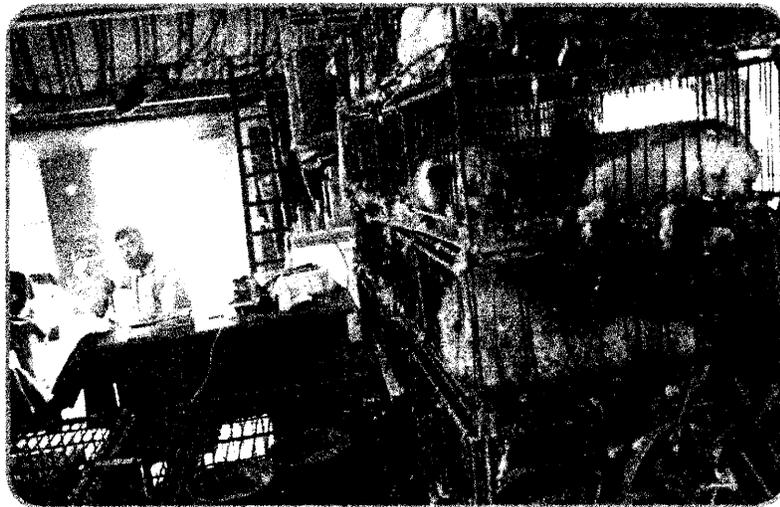
The first breakthrough came on 24 March when WHO confirmed that three labs had independently concluded that a new coronavirus was the cause of SARS. "It was a surprise. Coronaviruses were considered quite harmless to humans," says Christian Drosten, a virologist then at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany, who led one of the groups. The other groups were at HKU and at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Although they had long posed a threat to livestock health, "in humans, coronaviruses were common cold agents, nobody had them on their list" of suspects for SARS, explains Drosten, now at the University of Bonn.

Before SARS, Drosten says, few human virologists worked on coronaviruses, which are named for the crownlike spikes on their surface. But that quickly changed.

Out of the wild

Several groups, including Drosten's, set about developing diagnostic tests. Others began looking for the virus's origins. It was natural to assume there was an animal reservoir "because 70% of emerging infections come from animals," Yuen says. The Hong Kong group, which was already monitoring flu viruses circulating in poultry in southern China, was perfectly positioned for the hunt.

Early epidemiological evidence suggested that many of the first suspected SARS cases had connections to the trade in wild mammals in Guangdong Province, which is home to distinctive culinary traditions. In addition to vegetables, poultry, fish, and reptiles of all kinds, wild beavers, rabbits, badgers, and other small animals were sold at live animal markets and either butchered on the spot or at restaurants specializing in exotic dishes. In early May 2003, Yi Guan, another HKU virologist, and his field team collected samples from animals at a large market in Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong, and retrieved a virus similar to the SARS coronavirus from Himalayan palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) and a raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*). The group also found that 12 of 55 market workers carried antibodies to the SARS virus, with the highest rates in those who handled wild animals. None of them reported having had any SARS-like symptoms within the previous 6 months. Guan and his colleagues concluded that the precursor to the human SARS virus had been circulating asymptotically among the animals and market workers. "The markets provided an environment for the virus to circulate and adapt," Guan says.



Uncaged. Guangdong's live animal markets provided an ideal environment for a SARS precursor to mutate and adapt to humans.

But Guan's team was unable to find the virus in civets in the wild, which suggested that the animals were an intermediary. So the hunt for the natural reservoir continued.

In September 2005, two groups simultaneously reported finding "SARS-like" viruses in Chinese horseshoe bats in Guangdong. One group, led by Australian researchers, had made an inspired guess that bats might be involved, knowing that bats harbor both Nipah and Hendra viruses, which had both recently caused human outbreaks. Similarly, a Chinese group had set its sights on fruit bats and got lucky when a young researcher grabbed and tested samples from horseshoe bats by mistake. The coronaviruses found in the bats were related to but still different from both the human and civet SARS viruses; their sequences were between 88% and 92% identical to the human coronavirus.

This means there is either a closer SARS progenitor virus lurking in nature or the virus found in the horseshoe bats underwent extensive mutation in unidentified intermediate hosts either in the wild or in Guangdong's animal markets.

The first 11 documented human cases of SARS came from different cities in a region within Guangdong Province. The patients had

Outbreaks in Hanoi, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Toronto show signs of peaking.

25 April

Vietnam becomes first country to successfully end SARS outbreak.

28 April

Toronto declared SARS-free.

14 May

Canada reports new SARS cluster in Toronto.

22 May



Scientists announce detection of SARS-like virus in the Himalayan palm civet and raccoon dog.

23 May

CREDITS (TOP TO BOTTOM): AP PHOTO/STR. PAUL HILTON/EPA/NEWSCOM

Downloaded from www.scimag.org on March 26, 2013

not been in contact with each other; seven of them had connections to the wild game trade, according to a 12 March 2004 *Science* paper (p. 1666) by a Chinese SARS consortium led by Guo-Ping Zhao of the Chinese National Human Genome Center in Shanghai. These initial cases likely contracted a virus from live animals in the markets. After that, the evidence suggests that with one or two exceptions, virtually all later patients were infected through human-to-human transmission. Apparently, one or more final changes had given the virus the ability to spread efficiently between humans, making it a truly global threat.

In sequence

But exactly what had changed in the virus during this exquisite adaptation to the human host? A new generation of faster and cheaper DNA sequencing technology gave researchers unprecedented power to find out.

The genomes of the human and civet coronaviruses turned out to be 99.8% identical. One glaring difference was a 29-nucleotide stretch that was present in samples from civets but missing in the human samples available then, which mostly came from patients in Hong Kong, who were infected at a later stage of the outbreak than those in Guangdong. Scientists initially thought this 29-nucleotide deletion might be involved in making the virus transmissible among and infectious in humans.

But that hypothesis was soon proven wrong. In the 12 March 2004 issue of *Science*, the Chinese SARS Consortium reported that some samples retrieved from early human cases in China did contain the suspect 29 nucleotides after all. And samples isolated from patients who became ill late in the outbreak had deletions in the same genomic region, but these were far larger—89 or even 415 nucleotides. The significance of the lost nucleotides, which all turned out to be in what is known as open reading frame (ORF) 8, is still not understood.

Mutations that changed the virus's spike, or S, glycoprotein turned out to be more important. Coronaviruses use their spike protein to attach to host cells, and if a cell does not have compatible receptors then the virus cannot infect it efficiently. Several groups started focusing on how the spike differed between the civet and human viruses and how it changed as the virus circulated among humans. Zhao's group found that the sequence of the spike protein changed rapidly as the virus moved from person to person early in the outbreak, but stabilized as it went on, presumably because the spike had become well adapted to human-to-human transmission.

Zhao's team and a second group from Harvard Medical School in Boston and other institutions narrowed their focus to differences in amino acids between the animal and human viruses at two key locations on the spike protein. At one, the civet S protein encoded for a serine, while the human virus encoded a threonine. And at the other

position, the civet's asparagine became a lysine in the spike protein of the human virus.

Then, a 16 September 2005 *Science* paper, by Fang Li of Harvard Medical School *et al.*, reported crystallizing both the spike protein binding domain and the human receptor, clarifying the significance of the amino acid changes (p. 1864). In the spike of the animal virus, the residues at the two key locations inhibited binding to human receptors. But the human SARS virus had a loop structure that could nestle snugly against human angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), a protein found on lung epithelial cells that the virus used as its entry point. The two key changes in the viral spike increased the binding affinity a thousandfold.

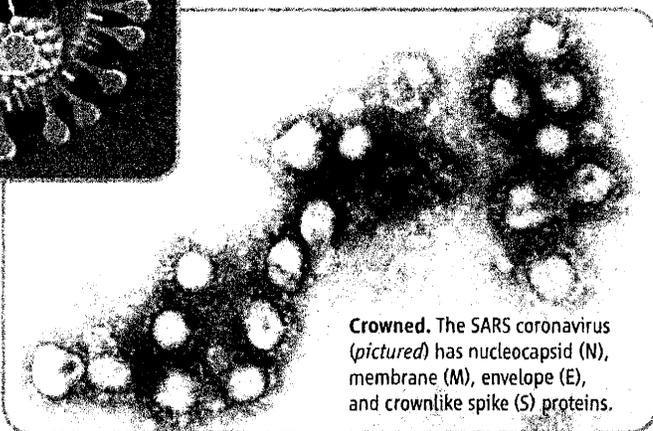
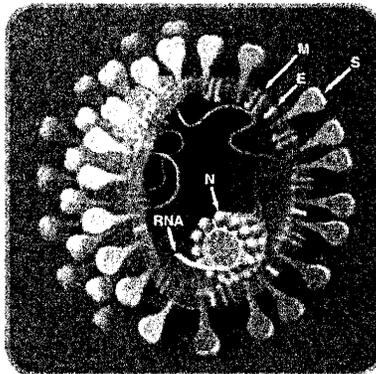
Those two adaptations were enough to give the virus the ability to infect humans and spread from person to person and cause lethal disease.

Accessories to the crime

Once the virus made the leap to humans, it caused serious disease. A better understanding of how it did so emerged only years later as researchers continued studying SARS and other coronaviruses.

All coronaviruses share four "core" genes—the spike, envelope, membrane, and nucleocapsid genes. They also have so-called accessory genes that are scattered through the genome between the core genes.

The accessory genes are not essential to viral survival and replication, but they do benefit the virus. Take the bit of extra genetic material designated ORF6 in the human SARS virus. In a series



Crowned. The SARS coronavirus (pictured) has nucleocapsid (N), membrane (M), envelope (E), and crownlike spike (S) proteins.

of experiments, Ralph Baric, a virologist at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and colleagues found that ORF6 helps the virus escape detection by the human immune system. "Infect a cell with flu, and you have [an immune response] within 6 hours. In the case of SARS virus, it takes 36," Baric says. That delay gives the virus a head start on replicating and causing more serious disease. Accessory genes

CREDITS (TOP TO BOTTOM): (INSET) K. SUTLIFF/SCIENCE; HAZEL APPLETON/HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY; CENTRE FOR INFECTIONS/SCIENCE SOURCE; MICHAEL REYNOLDS/EPA/NEWS.COM

Downloaded from www.sciencemag.org on March 26, 2013

Singapore declared SARS-free.

31 May

Hong Kong declared SARS-free.

23 June

Beijing declared SARS-free.

24 June



Toronto declared SARS-free a second time.

2 July

Taiwan declared SARS-free. After 8096 cases and 774 deaths, WHO declares the end of the SARS epidemic.

5 July

The Metropole, Superspreaders, and Other Mysteries

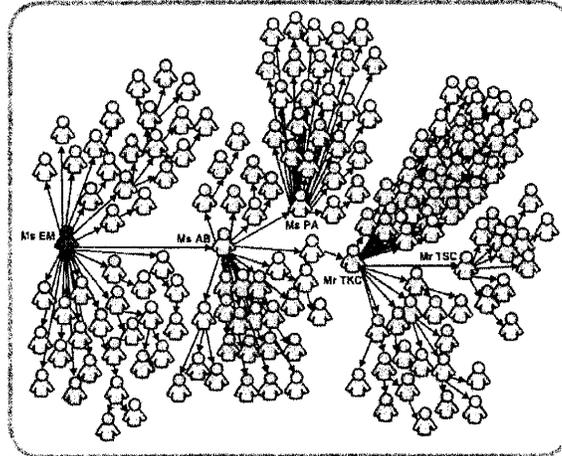
For all that has been learned about SARS in the intervening 10 years, some mysteries endure. Foremost is what happened at the Metropole Hotel in Hong Kong the night of 21 February 2003. A physician from Guangdong Province in southern China who worked at a hospital treating patients suffering from what was then called atypical pneumonia stayed in room 911 at the Metropole that night. He checked out the next morning but was admitted to a local hospital, where he died several days later.

Sixteen other guests who stayed at the hotel that night and one visitor contracted what was later identified as SARS and carried the novel coronavirus to Hanoi, Singapore, and Toronto, sparking outbreaks in those cities. Epidemiologists later traced close to half of the 8100 cases of SARS worldwide back to the Metropole Hotel. Whatever happened on the ninth floor turned what might have been a local outbreak of a new disease into an alarming global threat, underscoring just how quickly a new virus can spread with modern air travel.

But how the other guests were infected is not clear. It is unlikely they all met in the hallway or ele-

vator. And, strangely, no hotel staff members became sick.

A World Health Organization (WHO) investigative team from Canada visited the hotel, which



Links of contagion. One-hundred-forty-four of Singapore's 206 probable SARS cases were traced to a chain of five individuals that included four "superspreaders."

has since changed its name, in late April 2003 and collected samples from numerous surfaces in rooms on the ninth floor, the hallway, and even

the vacuum cleaner used in that wing and analyzed them for genetic material from the SARS virus. They tested the flow of air through the ventilation system and seals in the plumbing and ruled them out as avenues of transmission. The team made one surprising discovery: copious amounts of viral remnants on the carpet in front of room 911 but, curiously, not in the room itself. In a report dated July 2003, they speculate that the man vomited on the floor in front of his room and then, embarrassed perhaps, cleaned it up himself. Subsequently, other guests could have been exposed by walking through the contaminated area. While "there is no definite proof for the ... outlined scenario," as the July 2003 report concludes, many say it's as good a guess as any.

Another peculiar event at the Amoy Gardens, a high-rise apartment building complex in Hong Kong, in late March and early April 2003 also sent confusing signals about how easily the virus was spreading in the community. At the time, it was not clear if the causative agent was being transmitted by airborne particles, as measles and tuberculosis spread, or by infected respiratory droplets, which carry most flu viruses, for example, only a short distance. It was later determined that a man who lived in Guangdong possibly became

vary in number, location, and function among the different coronavirus groups. How coronaviruses acquired and adapted this genetic material is a mystery.

Lucky break

When the first clusters of SARS cases occurred in quick succession in cities around the world, public health experts feared this new disease would quickly circle the globe and threaten millions. Several alarming events—such as a cluster of more than 300 infections at an apartment complex and the spread of infection through guests at a hotel, both in Hong Kong—heightened those fears (see sidebar, above). But in retrospect, "SARS was nowhere near as infectious as influenza," Holmes says. Both flu and SARS spread through respiratory droplets that usually travel within about a 1-meter circumference of a person. But flu patients start producing and expelling virus through sneezing and coughing before they start feeling feverish. This means that they are likely to continue normal activities and come into contact with strangers.

However, SARS patients did not start shedding virus until the onset of symptoms, 7 to 10 days after infection. By that time, they tended to be so sick that they stayed home or checked into a hospital, which is one reason why secondary infections occurred mostly among household members and health care workers.

Early on, before the virus was identified and its transmission dynamics understood, hospital practices unwittingly aided its spread. On 4 March, a patient was admitted to Hong Kong's Prince of Wales Hospital with severe pneumonia. A week later, more than 112 health

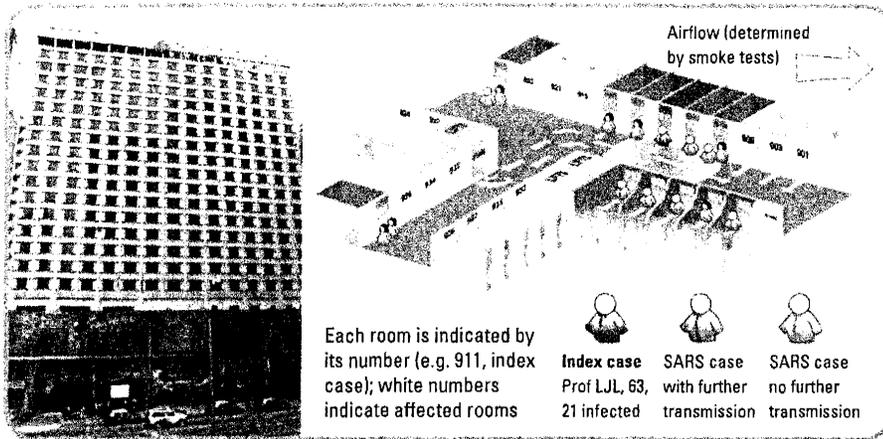
care workers and patients came down with SARS. It turns out the patient was given a nebulizer to deliver antibiotics to his lungs. But nebulizers can atomize respiratory droplets, enabling them to waft about the room. In other early cases, patients suffering from advanced pneumonia were intubated, a procedure in which a tube is passed through the mouth into the trachea to force air into the lungs. This also exposed health care workers to infectious respiratory droplets. Hospital infections—including staff members, other patients, and visitors—accounted for more than 70% of SARS cases in Toronto and Singapore.

Hospitals soon recognized the problem. "But in the beginning, it was an uphill battle, it was very difficult to prevent hospital infections," says Joseph Sung, who is now university president and who was then chief of medicine and therapeutics at Prince of Wales Hospital, which is affiliated with the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Sung explains that wards were congested and didn't have proper isolation facilities; the staff members were not familiar with protection procedures; and there was a shortage of basic equipment such as masks.

"Hospital-based infections were hugely important in the expansion of SARS, and shutting them down through good infection control was essential to stamping out the outbreak," says James Lloyd-Smith, an epidemiologist and disease ecologist at University of California, Los Angeles.

For controlling infections outside hospitals, "We were a bit lucky," Baric says. The 7- to 10-day gap between infection and the onset of viral shedding gave officials a window of opportunity to trace contacts and quarantine them, even though there was spotty compliance with some quarantine regimes.

CREDIT: WHO/WPRO



Lingering mystery. A man who spent one night at Hong Kong's Metropole Hotel (left) spread SARS to other ninth floor guests who later sparked outbreaks in Hanoi, Toronto, and Singapore.

infected at Hong Kong's Prince of Wales Hospital where he was being regularly treated for a chronic renal condition. Already ill and suffering diarrhea, he spent the nights of 14 and 19 March with his brother, who lived in Amoy Gardens. Over the next month, more than 300 Amoy Gardens residents contracted SARS.

Studies and experiments by the Hong Kong government later identified a possible scenario. The bathrooms of the Amoy Gardens apartments had drains in the floors with standard water traps of the kind seen in plumbing throughout the

world. However, investigators found that few residents relied on the drains, mopping bathroom floors instead of hosing them. This allowed the water traps to dry out. The same piping was connected to the toilets. Investigators concluded that the diarrhea from the patient flushed into the system and produced aerosols that traveled through the piping and into bathrooms, where the moist environment allowed the virus to survive. This transmission route likely spread the infections through one block of apartments and from there, through person-to-person contact.

The Amoy and Metropole index cases remain at the center of another unsolved puzzle: They were among what came to be called "super-spreaders," who accounted for a disproportionate number of further infections, in some cases passing the virus on to more than a dozen other people (see graphic). "SARS made superspreading impossible to ignore," says James Lloyd-Smith, an epidemiologist at the University of California, Los Angeles. But he adds that his own investigations and modeling, reported in a 17 November 2005 *Nature* letter, have shown that the superspreader phenomenon occurs with other infectious diseases, including measles and smallpox. He says superspreading likely results from a combination of biological factors, transmission routes, contact rates, and travel patterns of the infected people. Kwok-yung Yuen, a microbiologist at the University of Hong Kong who was heavily involved in understanding the SARS outbreak, agrees that superspreading "is still a mystery." Like Lloyd-Smith, he suspects a confluence of factors. For instance, superspreaders could have been suffering from another illness at the same time that caused coughing and sneezing that helped spread the SARS virus. Lloyd-Smith says that in epidemiology, it is important to be wary of averages: Many infected with disease don't pass it on at all, but some become superspreaders.

—D. N.

Can it return?

SARS may be the second human pathogen, after smallpox, to ever be eradicated. But is it gone for good? "Coronaviruses are important emerging pathogens," Baric says. "They are highly mobile, can jump between species by recombination or mutation, and when they do, they cause micro-outbreaks with the potential to drive additional mutations that enhance person-to-person transmission," he adds.

Recent research suggests that most, if not all, of the known human coronaviruses originated in animals, sometimes in the not too distant past. In the February 2005 *Journal of Virology*, virologist Marc Van Ranst and colleagues at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium concluded that the human coronavirus OC43, which causes the common cold, likely resulted from an adaptation of a bovine coronavirus around 1890. Drosten's group claimed in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* in September 2009 that human coronavirus 229E, another common cold culprit, likely diverged from a bat coronavirus between 1686 and 1800.

Last September, a group at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and other institutions reported, also in the *Journal of Virology*, that the human coronavirus NL63 likely diverged from a common ancestor in bats 563 to 822 years ago. Just discovered in 2004, NL63 causes a type of lung inflammation common in infants.

Researchers and public health officials are now closely watching the latest new human coronavirus to make the jump, alternately called EMC or NCoV. First discovered in Saudi Arabia last June, the virus has sickened 14 people and killed eight. This virus, too, seems to have originated in bats. So far "it is not as transmissible

as SARS," says Drosten, who was involved in identifying the virus and in developing a diagnostic test. He and colleagues reported in the 11 December 2012 issue of *mBio* that the new virus does not latch onto the ACE2 receptor that provided such efficient entry for the SARS virus. In a letter in this week's issue of *Nature*, the group identifies dipeptidyl peptidase 4 as a receptor for the new virus. "It remains to be seen how important the disease will be epidemiologically," Holmes says.

Meanwhile, few researchers rule out a repeat performance by the SARS virus or something very close to it. Indeed, it almost came back. During the winter of 2003 to 2004, four people in Guangdong contracted a SARS-like illness. They had no contact with one another, and each developed mild disease. Sequence analysis by Zhao and his collaborators revealed that all four were infected with the same coronavirus—and it had one of the two key mutations found in the lethal SARS virus that caused the global epidemic. The group also found civets carrying a nearly identical virus with the same mutation. They concluded in a 15 February 2005 paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that the precursor to the SARS virus had continued to circulate in animals in the province, and in late 2003, one of the two key proteins mutated again, allowing it to infect humans and cause illness, but not with the same transmissibility or virulence of the 2002 to 2003 strain. Scientists convinced authorities to ban wild game from the markets. Aside from a few incidents of laboratory infections, no further human cases of SARS have ever been found.

—DENNIS NORMILE



Letter: 'Cool kids' on Corvallis council pushed through the bag ban

APRIL 03, 2013 9:00 AM

Do you remember back in school when the popular, cool group of kids ruled over every one?

What they thought was cool everyone else followed because, it had to be! You had to agree or you would be rejected — an outcast, labeled stupid or a nerd.

They would use these unspoken fears to get what they wanted.

Sometimes it was cool and good, but sometimes it was just someone's ego wanting to bully.

This is what has happened with the bag ban. The City Council wants to be thought of as cool and progressive; be a leader in environmental issues by following the politically correct trend of other cities.

Some councilors are part of this social clique and want to promote their cool idea. Others are afraid to say anything in opposition for fear of being labeled.

Some city councilors are dominating and set in the rigid refusal to an open review of the facts: You had your chance to discuss it, and now it's over; the majority supports the ban!

But remember when the old establishment refused to discuss new ideas, review evidence and explore new ways of thinking, like equal rights?

How we swore that would not happen to our generation. We felt that if an issue had merits, we'd keep an open mind, promote communication and discussion. So why is the City Council refusing to look at their misleading information, at evidence challenging majority support, and the major problems with the bag ban. What have the councilors become?

Milt Weaver, Corvallis

Dybvad, Scott

From: Marvin McConoughey [jomar@██████████]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 7:12 PM
To: Dybvad, Scott
Subject: Plastic Bag Ordinance

We had a paper bag split and dump our groceries on the ground. At our age, bending over and picking up the debris was not easy. This sadistic imposition of elitist power is a continuing annoyance. I note the sarcasm implicit in the city's motto: "A community that honors diversity!" Marvin McConoughey



Letter: Here is what the city should do about its bag ban ordinance

APRIL 15, 2013 9:00 AM

Recently the Administrative Services Committee recommended to the City Council to place the safety tax on the November ballot. They believe the voters of Corvallis should have the right to decide. It affects too many people and has a big impact on their pocketbook.

On April 17, the ASC will review the bag ban ordinance.

What will be the recommendation to the City Council? Will they place it on the ballot as well?

It would simply be the addition of a few lines with little or no additional cost. Does it impact many people and their pocketbooks? Should the voters have a right to decide?

I've been told by city councilors that the majority of people want the bag ban, substantiated by the flood of emails and attendees supporters at the City Council. The opponents of the ban had their chance to say something and didn't, and they were elected as their wards' representative to make that decision.

But now is an opportunity to find out what the voters of Corvallis truly want. It will put an end to the dispute! It will answer the questions!

Recommendation, now that we know the impact of the ordinance: Suspend the ordinance until the November ballot results. If approved, implement it citywide for all stores.

Option 2: Maintain the current phase of the ordinance and postpone the implementation of the small businesses phase till voter approval.

Can you trust the voters? Please place the ordinance on the ballot!

Milt Weaver

Corvallis

the upcoming meeting on the 17th, Scott recommended that I get involved to see if an exemption can be inserted before July 2013, when the ordinance will start to have an adverse impact on my non-profit, and others trying to do the right thing for the environment.

I will be happy to assist in any way possible to ensure the ordinance takes in the big picture, thus upholding the spirit of environmental sustainability, rather than being handicapped with draconian rules that are at cross purposes with the original intention.

Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,
Susan Wechsler
Shop Manager
Heartland Humane Society Thrift Shop

- **Follow-Ups:**
 - **Fwd: Corvallis City Council Administrative Services Committee April 17 Meeting: Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance**
 - *From: ward6*
- Prev by Date: **Benton County Fair Entertainment Lineup**
- Next by Date: **Travel NW Oregon's valley and coast without driving**
- Previous by thread: **Benton County Fair Entertainment Lineup**
- Next by thread: **Fwd: Corvallis City Council Administrative Services Committee April 17 Meeting: Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

[Date Prev][Date Next][Thread Prev][Thread Next][Date Index][Thread Index]

- *To:* "mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Plastic Bag Ban
- *From:* sam braaten <samab29@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Mon, 15 Apr 2013 11:30:59 -0700

Please put the plastic bag ban on the ballot for residents to vote on. I am not in favor of the ban and go as much as I can to Albany for shopping to avoid the hassel of finding or bringing a bag at all stores. No one I have talked to likes the ban on bags even merchants. Having the option for people that want to bring a bag is fine. Also we do not need to be taxed more than we are now. Let the people VOTE.

Sam Braaten

- Prev by Date: **Resending LOC Bulletin - April 12 edition**
- Next by Date: **Safety Tax and Bag Ban**
- Previous by thread: **Plastic Bag Ban**
- Next by thread: **[no subject]**
- Index(es):
 - **Date**
 - **Thread**

MAYOR & COUNCIL EMAIL

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- *To:* <mayorandcitycouncil@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Subject:* Safety Tax and Bag Ban
- *From:* <beavers21@xxxxxxx>
- *Date:* Mon, 15 Apr 2013 18:03:59 -0400

I see no reason why the City Council should not vote to put the safety tax on the November ballot, along with the ban on plastic bags. This is a simple task and should pass the Council unanimously - let the people decide. Even though our family shops in Corvallis, we live outside the City Limits, so have no vote in the matter. This holds true for thousands more citizens in the same situation. Thank you. Don Herbert.

- Prev by Date: **Plastic Bag Ban**
- Next by Date: **Motorcycle safety**
- Previous by thread: **Resending LOC Bulletin - April 12 edition**
- Next by thread: **Motorcycle safety**
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Letter: Council unduly influenced in bag ban decision; let voters decide

1 HOUR AGO

We live in a country where we are fortunate to have the right to vote. I recognize it would be time-consuming to do this for every item, so we vote in people to represent us. It is tough to decide when an issue should be voted on by the general population or when it should be left to our elected officials. But in the case of the bag ban, there seems to be enough controversy to warrant a vote by all Corvallis citizens.

I went to a meeting at the Comfort Inn to learn about the bag ban. I was surprised by the information. The reason we have to pay for paper bags is because the National Grocers Association told our City Council that they would not support the ban unless a 5 cent charge was put in place. Why would the National Grocers Association have so much influence on our council?

I'm also unaware of the large majority our counselors speak of. The data shows that they received numerous emails from members of the Sierra Club who do not reside in Corvallis.

How can this be an accurate representation of what the Corvallis citizens would like?

Please see <http://tinyurl.com/cbobpl7> or <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?> for more information.

The responsible thing for our City Council to do is to put this matter to a vote and allow the citizens of Corvallis to decide if we'd like a bag ban.

J. Deanne Buchanan, Corvallis



We're all for business.

Plastic Bag Ordinance Follow-Up

What businesses are saying about the ordinance and potential revisions:

Thank you to our Platinum Leading Investors supporting advocacy

- The Ball Studio/Photography
- CH2M HILL
- Citizens Bank
- Horsepower Productions
- Oregon State University
- Samaritan Health Services
- Starker Forests, Inc.
- Stover Neyhart & Co., PC
- T. Gerding Construction Co.

Thank you to our Gold Leading Investors supporting advocacy

- Blackledge Furniture
- The Corvallis Clinic
- DEVCO Engineering
- Jeanne Smith & Associates, PC
- Pacific Power
- PEAK Internet
- Trimble

- There seems to be much confusion over what size bags are legal and what is or isn't the acceptable size and thickness for reusable bags;
- Many businesses have to order bags well in advance and have a surplus of bags in their inventory that do not meet the new requirements. What are they to do with their existing inventory come July 1, 2013?
- Small and mid-sized businesses affected by this ordinance cannot, as one merchant said, "turn on a dime" and order compliant bags;
- In many cases, the price of post-consumer bags that comply with the ordinance are cost prohibitive for small and mid-sized retailers;
- Merchants do not want to be forced to charge the 5 cent pass-through fee on to customers. They would prefer to absorb the fee themselves or have it eliminated altogether;
- There is concern that so-called "secret shoppers" will be deployed to enforce the ordinance and the 5 cent fee;
- Due to how the ordinance is written – or being interpreted – merchants are being forced to use compliant plastic bags when they would prefer not to;
- Many boutique stores have different size bags for different products – earrings, greeting cards, clothing and the like – and the ordinance doesn't seem to acknowledge this reality;
- There are unintended consequences around customers using reusable bags – health issues, theft and security.

Attachment 5

I, Carolyn Webb, would like the city of Corvallis stores go back to giving out plastic and paper bags for their customer's items that they buy. Handicapped and elderly people like the light weight of plastic sacks and the handles are easier to use. Those same people have a hard time remembering to bring in their own bags to use. Many of the cloth bags come from China and I don't approve of that. Also people don't keep the cloth bags clean so more germs are spread.

Many people reuse the paper bags for uses around the house and feel like having to buy them each time for 5 cents is like a punishment. We need to reward people for their habits not punish them. It is psychological and financial.

I also hate to see people buy their groceries out of Corvallis where they can get plastic and paper bags. This hurts all businesses in Corvallis.

Many times I have seen people of all ages carrying out their groceries in their arms rather than buying a sack. This is dangerous as they drop some items and then in their car items roll around.

Shelf.

Rain - products like books ruined

I, Carolyn Webb, have found the following information in my research and my own knowledge. The most obvious way to reuse grocery bags is to take them to the stores and use them as shopping bags. There are, however, many ways that grocery bags can be recycled. These include:

Using Grocery Bags Around the Home

One way of using recycled grocery bags is to use them to replace any other form of plastic bags that are used around the home. Using plastic grocery bags to replace bin liners is one key way to recycle grocery bags. They can also be used to clean out cat litter trays, to collect garden waste or for many other purposes. Plastic grocery bags can be sliced open to create a sheet of plastic that can be used to line garage or workshop drawers and shelves, placed under pet feeding bowls and more.

Recycling Plastic Bags in Crafts

Many crafty recyclers like to use plastic grocery bags in craft projects. Plastic bags can be cut down to create a plastic 'yarn' that can be crocheted and knitted. Plastic bags can also be fused together using an iron to produce a thick fabric that can be stitched. Plastic grocery bags are also ideal for storing craft supplies, keeping them free from dirt and dust.

Upcycling: Creating Recycled Fashions with Cast-Off Clothing

Upcycling is the art of creating new items out of old or cast-off pieces. It can include everything from knitting a pair of sandals out of plastic grocery bags to reworking old jewelry to make a completely new design. When it comes to clothing, upcycling has many applications.

Other Ways of Reusing Plastic Bags

There are many other ways of using recycled plastic bags. They can be used when traveling, for instance, to hold dirty laundry or to hold wet swim or beach wear. A couple of plastic grocery bags can be kept in a car to hold rubbish or to use as shopping bags. Many schools collect plastic bags as they can recycle them in arts and crafts activities as well as using them in other ways around the school.

Some stores recycle plastic bags. Bring in produce from your garden in plastic bags. Use them to carry the litter to the compost bin. Use as a litterer (garbage) sack in car. Pick up after dog on walks. Store dirty laundry while traveling. Put wet bathing suits. Take pop cans back to store to be recycled.

Testimony before the Administrative Services Committee April 17, 2013

Regarding the Proposed Bag Ban

My name is Kate Lindburg and I own Animal Crackers Pet Supply.

I support the idea of banning the single-use plastic bag in Corvallis. I believe these bags represent a waste of resources on a non-essential item and pose a significant risk to the health of endangered ocean birds and animals. Most of the opposition to the banning of the single-use bag seems to come from those citizens that deeply dislike being told what to do and resent the implication that their shopping habits endanger an unseen other.

What I would like to address today is the other half of the proposed ordinance, in which the City specifies what type of bags are allowed. As a retailer I have always considered providing a bag to my customers to be part of the cost of doing business. We provide paper bags in a variety of sizes and a re-usable, biodegradable plastic bag with handles so our customers have a reasonable chance of getting their items such as bulk cat litter or bulk dog biscuits home without them being ruined by a rainstorm. While the plastic bag I use does not contain recycled content, it is environmentally conscious like our paper bags, and all of our bags cost way more than a nickel. Under the current proposal however my biodegradable bag isn't thick enough to count as re-usable.

I would like to see the language regarding recycled content and the charging of the bag fee dropped from the proposal altogether. I think it is enough at this point to achieve the original objective of banning the single-use bag. The City is welcome to encourage all retailers to provide recycled-content, re-useable bags but I don't see the value in regulating their choices at this time. Let retailers decide what type of paper or re-useable bag to offer and don't penalize those that choose not to charge a fee.

Thank you,

Kate Lindburg
Animal Crackers Pet Supply
949 NW Kings Blvd
Corvallis OR 97330
541-753-4559