

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# “Bring Your Own Bag” Ordinance

# Why Address Carryout Bags?

1. Litter
2. Waste
3. Impacts on Recycling Facilities
4. Life-cycle Environmental Impacts



# The problem: litter

All of these pictures were taken in Minneapolis in **February** and **March, 2016**





# The problem: litter

- Once plastic enters the environment, it never leaves – just becomes smaller and smaller pieces of plastic
- In a recent river cleanup, 1 mile of the Mississippi River over 2.5 hours generated **5 tons** of trash
- In 2002, **50 to 80 million** bags ended up as litter in the environment in the US



# The problem: waste



# The problem: waste

- State Fair “Bagnado” exhibit shows how many plastic bags Minnesotans throw away **each day**
- Minnesotans throw away **87,000 tons** of plastic bags every year
- In Minneapolis, most plastic bags end up in the downtown garbage burner
- Less than **5%** of standard HDPE plastic bags are recycled in the US
- More than **49%** of paper bags are recycled

# Waste Reduction Case Study: Seattle

Sector	Tons of plastic grocery and dry cleaning bags in the garbage, sampled over the year of			
	Year	Tons	Year	Tons
Residential	2010	452	2014	248
Commercial	2008	273	2012 (ban in effect only ½ way through the year)	59

Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Director estimates that “the ban reduced plastic bags after 2012 by **at least** a total of 418 tons, or **58%**.”

“Single use grocery bags are now as rare as Packers jerseys at a Vikings game.”

# The problem: impacts on recycling



# The problem: lifecycle impacts



# The problem: lifecycle impacts

- All bags require energy, create waste, and cause air and water pollution
- Paper carryout bags create 64 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 31 pounds of water pollution per 10,000 uses
- Plastic carryout bags create 18 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 2 pounds of water pollution per 10,000 uses

Franklin Associates, Ltd, *Resource and Environmental Profile Analysis of Polyethylene and Unbleached Paper Grocery Sacks*. <http://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Analysis-of-Polyethylene-and-Unbleached-Paper-Grocery-Sacks>

Q: Paper or Plastic?  
A: Bring Your Own Bag!



# The Proposal

- **Plastic bag prohibition**

- Exemptions:

- Plastic bags over 4 mils thick which are specifically designed to be reusable
- Produce bags and other bags that come into direct contact with food
- Dry-cleaner, newspaper, and door-hanger bags and plastic bags sold in packages containing multiple bags
- Bags used to safeguard public health during the transportation of prepared take-out foods intended for consumption away from the retail establishment

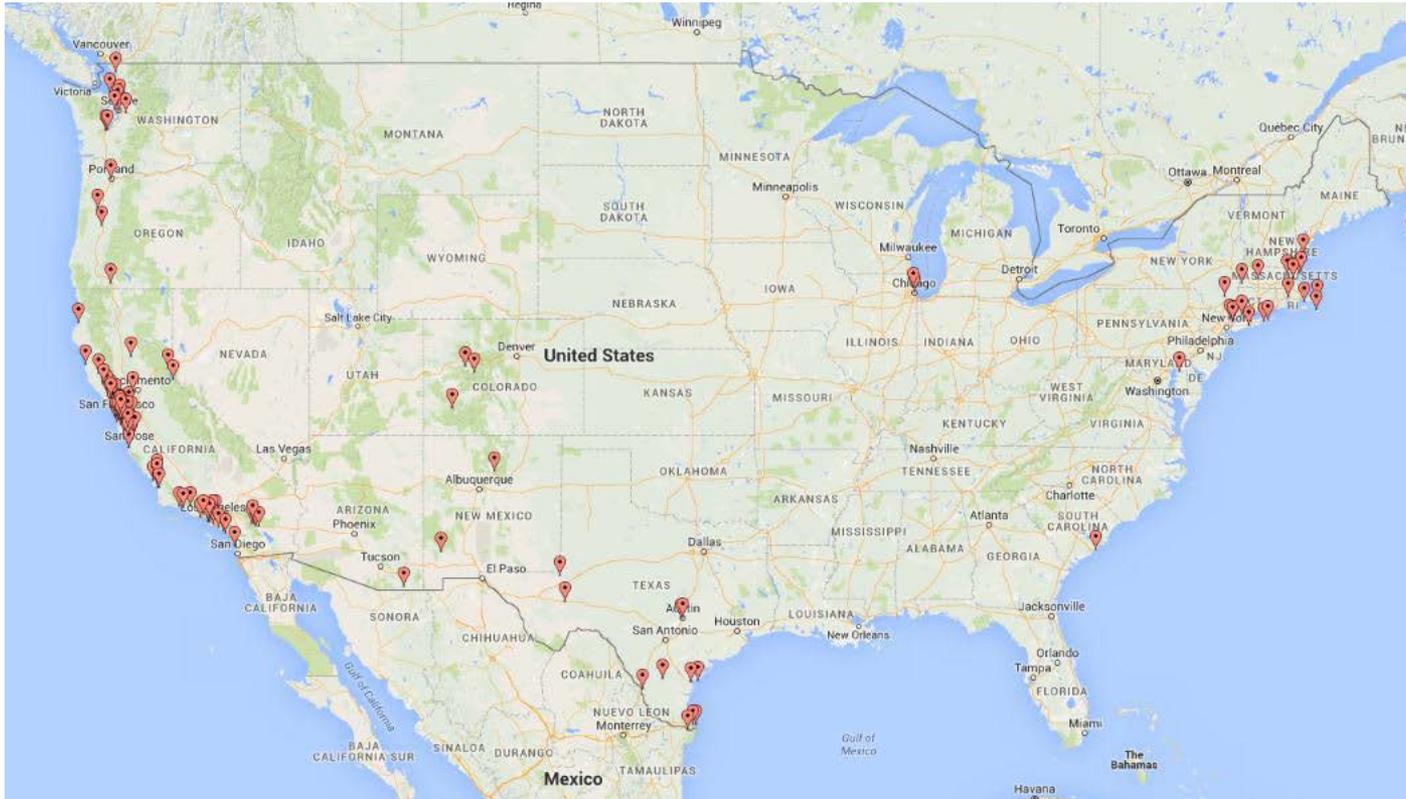
# The Proposal

- **Fee or credit for paper, compostable, and reusable bags**
  - Minimum fee amount: \$.05 per bag, to be kept by retailer
  - Retail establishments are not required to collect a fee from anyone using any recognized Minnesota food assistance program
  - Retail establishments may opt instead to give customers a \$.10 credit for each reusable bag they use

# Other Jurisdictions

- Over 160 US cities have enacted single-use bag bans and/or fees, including **Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Austin, TX, Dallas, TX; Cambridge, MA; Santa Fe, NM; Aspen, CO; Richmond, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Monterey, and Oakland, CA**
- The state of **Hawaii** has banned plastic bags
- Many countries, including **Kenya, Rwanda, Botswana, Ethiopia, Somalia, Bangladesh** and **China** have banned plastic bags, and many more countries have enacted single-use bag fees

# Other Jurisdictions



Sources: Earth Policy Institute, [www.earth-policy.org](http://www.earth-policy.org), April 2014 and Bag the Ban, <http://www.bagtheban.com>, March 2016

# Implementation and Enforcement

- Effective date: **April 22, 2017**
- Part of broader **Zero Waste Plan** initiative
- Multiple City departments will be authorized to enforce this ordinance, including:
  - Solid Waste and Recycling Division of Public Works
  - Licensing and Consumer Services
  - Health Department
  - Regulatory Services
- Staff direction to report back to the HECE committee no later than 1/31/17 with recommendations for implementation and enforcement of the ordinance

# Community Engagement

- Proposal based on recommendations from the Minneapolis **Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC)**
- Presentations to Licensing Department's **Business Advisory Group** on 8/19/15 and 2/19/16
- Meetings held with representatives of **plastic bag, paper bag, and grocery** industries
- Draft ordinance shared with all Minneapolis **business associations** on 1/8/16
- Stakeholder meeting for **Somali-** and **Spanish-**speaking small business owners held on 3/17/16
- Ordinance shared with businesses through regular Health Department communication channels

# Supporting Organizations

- Clean Water Action
- Alliance for Sustainability
- Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
- Kids for Saving Earth
- East Isles Residents Association
- Happy Earth Cleaning
- Linden Hills Power and Light
- Sierra Club North star Chapter
- Eureka Recycling
- Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission



# Questions?

