

Single-Use Plastic Bags in the City of Lancaster

What could a ban look like?

Councilor John Hursh

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Has a single-use plastic bag ban been proposed?

No.

We want to hear from the public about the issue before any legislation is considered.

Background

- Lancaster City uses approximately 17 million plastic bags each year.
 - Requires nearly 86,000 gallons of oil to produce.
 - Over 2,000 barrels of oil.
 - 293 bags per resident.
- On average, single-use plastic bags are thrown away within 12 minutes of leaving a store.
- Plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to decompose in a landfill.
- Bans on single-use plastic bags have been shown to reduce plastic litter by at least 33%.

SOURCES

Environmental America, PA Coalition for Plastic Reduction

Plastic Bag Bans in Pennsylvania



Lancaster Township

What could a plastic bag ban look like?

IS being considered:

- Banning plastic bags used at Point of Sale (plastic grocery bags, carry-out bags, etc.)
- 180-day grace period after effective date.
- Focus on education over enforcement.

IS NOT being considered:

- Banning plastic bags used for food safety.
- Banning plastic utensils, food containers, or straws.
- Per-bag fees.
- Immediate ban enforcement.

What could a transition period look like?

- Reusable bag purchasing cooperative to lower costs
- Retailer and consumer education on environmental impacts, types of compliant bags, etc.
- Distribution of reusable bags

We want to hear from you!

- Surveys:
 - Merchant survey launches today.
 - Possible community survey later this year.
- What concerns do you have about a potential plastic bag ban?
- Are there other programs or initiatives that could help ease the transition to paper/reusable bags?
 - Would these make you more likely to support a ban?
- Are there other waste reduction or environmental initiatives you have implemented or are interested in exploring further?
 - Could they be implemented throughout Lancaster?



Questions?

Councilor John Hursh

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