

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Bring Your Own Bag ordinance

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Director of Environmental Programs

Intent

1. Reduce litter

- In a recent Mississippi river cleanup, over 5 tons of trash were picked up in 2.5 hours.

2. Reduce waste – encourage residents to bring own bag when shopping

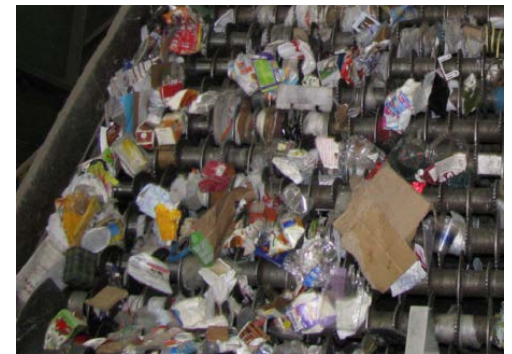
- Minnesotans throw away 87,000 tons of plastic bags each year. Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled.

3. Impacts on recycling facilities

- Recycling facilities spend 4-6 hours a day removing plastic bags from equipment.

4. Life-cycle environmental impacts

- All bags require energy, create waste and cause air and water pollution.



Ordinance history

- March 21, 2016 Public Hearing
- April 1, 2016 Approved by Council
(effective June 1, 2016)
- May 30, 2016 State Jobs Bill signed
 - preempted Cities from imposing a ban on the use of paper, plastic, or reusable bags
 - Effective May 31, 2016
- Aug. 18, 2017 Simplified ordinance (fee on both paper and plastic) brought to Council.
 - Directed staff to do more outreach with small businesses and with residents in low-income areas.

Ordinance change recommendations

- \$.05 fee charged to customers for any carry-out bag

- Paper
- Plastic
- Compostable
- Reusable

- Retailer keeps the fee

- Residents on recognized Minnesota food assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, etc.) exempt



Proposed exemptions

- Produce, bulk goods and small item bags
- Dine-in or carry-out restaurants, food vending bags
- Farmers' market bags
- Retail establishments which do not possess or utilize a point of sale system
- Second hand bags (ex. receive from customers and re-use for new purchases)
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags
- Laundry dry-cleaning bags



Proposed exemptions (continued)

- Bags given where there is no transaction taking place such as:
 - Food banks and other food assistance programs
 - Personal belonging bags at hospitals, hotels or dental offices
 - Newspaper bags and door-hanger bags
 - Car dealerships or car washes garbage bags for vehicles
 - Litter clean up bags



Enforcement

- Education and outreach
 - 1/1/20– 6/1/20 (no fines)
- Compliance verified on regular inspections:
 - 311 routed to
 - Business Licensing – licensed businesses
 - Regulatory Services – non-licensed businesses
- Receipt shall indicate the number of bags provided and the total amount of the pass through charge
- Retail establishments must share number of bags distributed and value of fees upon request

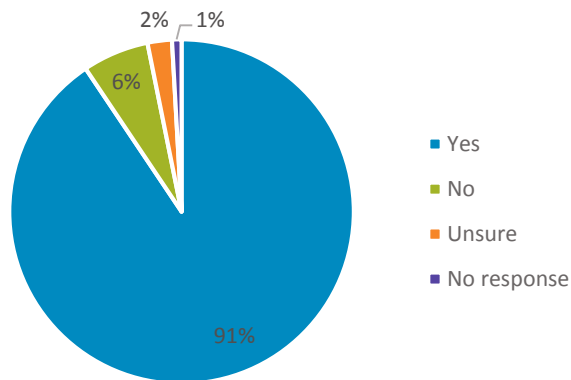
Community engagement

- Business Advisory Group
- Emails to all business associations
- Community Environmental Advisory Commission
- Homegrown Minneapolis
- Northern and Southern Green Zones
- Waite House
- Little Earth Residents Association
- Industry meeting 11/1/19
- Resident survey
 - 787 responses from Minneapolis residents

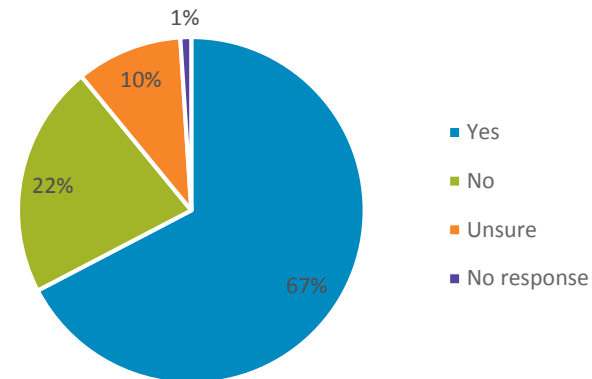
Resident survey results

- 787 responses received from Minneapolis residents

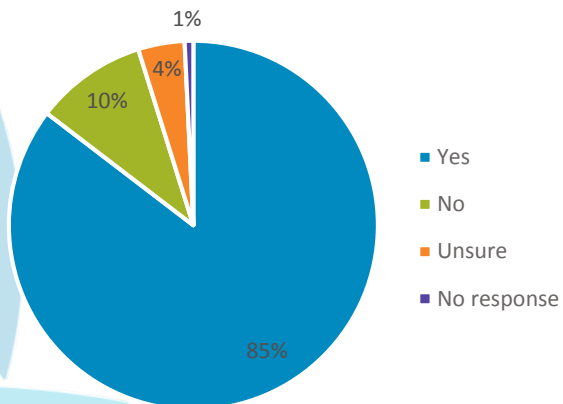
Do you believe the City should take action to reduce waste and litter?



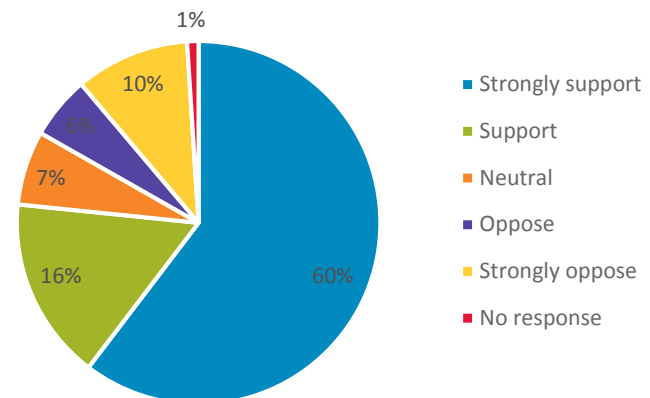
Are you more likely to bring your own bags to a store if you are charged a 5-cent fee on each carryout bag?



Do you support efforts to reduce carryout bags (both paper and plastic)?



How do you feel about a 5-cent fee on paper and plastic carryout bags?



Outreach and education

- Communications Department
 - City social media
 - Newsbites (CM Newsletters)
 - Press releases
- Other Department outreach
 - Environmental Health e-News
 - Business Advisory Group email list
 - Solid Waste & Recycling – Recycling Reminders
- Hand deliver flyer to non-compliant establishments and include in correction order letter

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Questions?