

A Reusable Bag Bill for Washington State



The problem with plastic bags

- Made from finite, **nonrenewable natural gas and oil** resources
- **Clog machines at the recycling facility** causing contamination and extra costs
- **Become litter**—light, carrying easily in the wind out of trash cans and landfills
- **Littered plastics bags end up in the ocean**—a top item found at beach clean ups
- **Ocean plastics break into smaller pieces**, absorbing toxic chemicals



USFWS image 2014

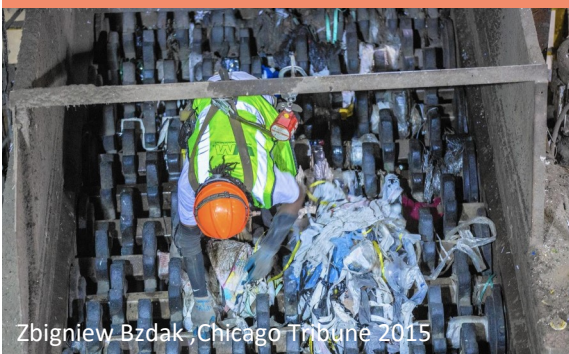
Adult salmon ingest an estimated 39-91 particles of plastic per day through eating zooplankton in the straight of Georgia (Desforges et al., 2015). Microplastics are present at every level of the food chain, from mussels and oysters to salmon and cod.

On average, Americans use **500 plastic bags** per year. That's **2 billion** used in Washington State!

Retailers spend **\$4 billion** providing plastic bags for free every year in the US (NRDC).



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mtsofan/3001081370>



Zbigniew Bzdak, Chicago Tribune 2015

WA Ecology estimates that it costs **\$700-\$1000 per ton** for recycling centers to remove plastic films from other recyclables.

The details



No more thin “t-shirt” plastic bags at grocery stores and retailers



Retailers charge \$0.10 for paper carry-home bags and thick (4 mil) reusable plastic bags and keep the pass-through charge



Produce bags, newspaper bags, and dry cleaning bags are exempt as are small bags for prescription drugs, nails, etc.

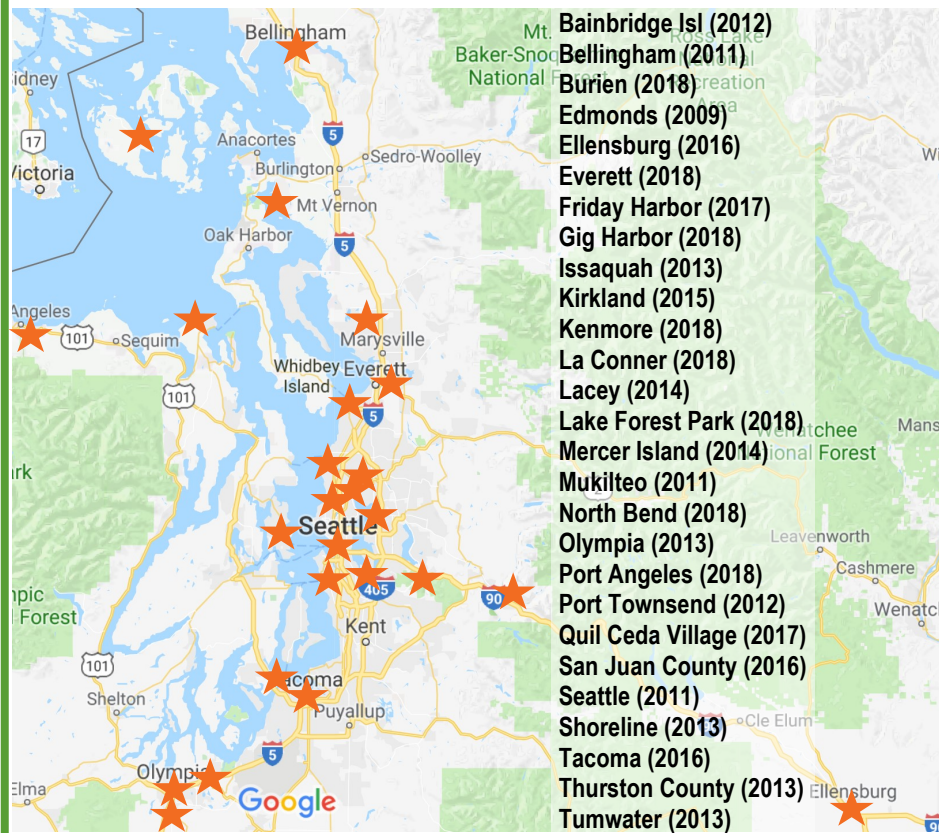


All WIC/EBT/TANF participants are fee exempt



Bags that are compostable are tinted green or brown. Non-compostable bags are NOT green or brown. No more confusion.

27 jurisdictions in Washington State already have a reusable bag ordinance. **It's time to for the State!**



60 countries worldwide have implemented a plastic bag fee or ban to reduce the environmental impact of plastic bags!

