

Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance Passed

What are the expected results of adopting this ordinance in Lacey?



The ordinance will not eliminate the presence of all plastic bags:

- Only the distribution of thin-filmed carry-out bags is banned.
- Exceptions in the ordinance allow the use of some thin-filmed bags to continue in some circumstances.
- Thicker plastic bags will still be available for use by merchants and consumers.

The amount of thin-filmed bags entering the waste stream may be reduced:

- A downward trend in the presence of single-use plastic bags in street, storm drain, and creek litter was reported by City of San Jose, CA staff during an eleven month litter survey following the implementation of that city's single-use plastic bag ban. The litter survey demonstrated a reduction in bag litter of approximately 89 percent in the storm drain system, 60 percent in the creeks and rivers, and 59 percent in city streets and neighborhoods, when compared to data collected from 2010 and/or 2011 (pre-ordinance) to data from 2012 (post-ordinance).

The overall environmental impact and the effect on businesses is debatable.

- A variety of conflicting statistics are available from various business groups, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Reducing the amount of single use plastic bags in the waste stream will fulfill the original recommendation made by the Thurston County Solid Waste Advisory Group.