

A Reusable Bag Bill for Washington (SB5323)



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

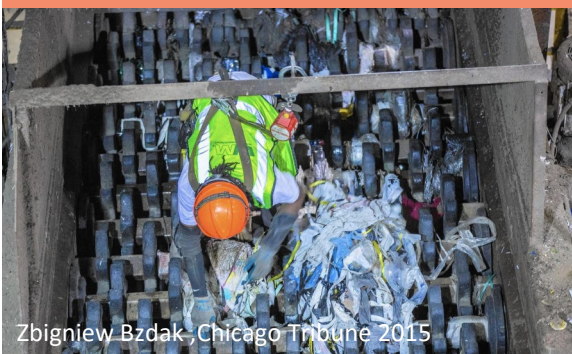
Adult salmon ingest an estimated 39-91 particles of plastic per day through eating zooplankton in the straight of Georgia (Desforges et al., 2015). Microplastics are present at every level of the food chain, from mussels and oysters to salmon and cod.

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

60 countries worldwide have implemented a plastic bag fee or ban of plastic bags!



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



Retailers charge \$0.08 for paper carry-home bags and thick reusable plastic bags (2.25 mil thick) 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.

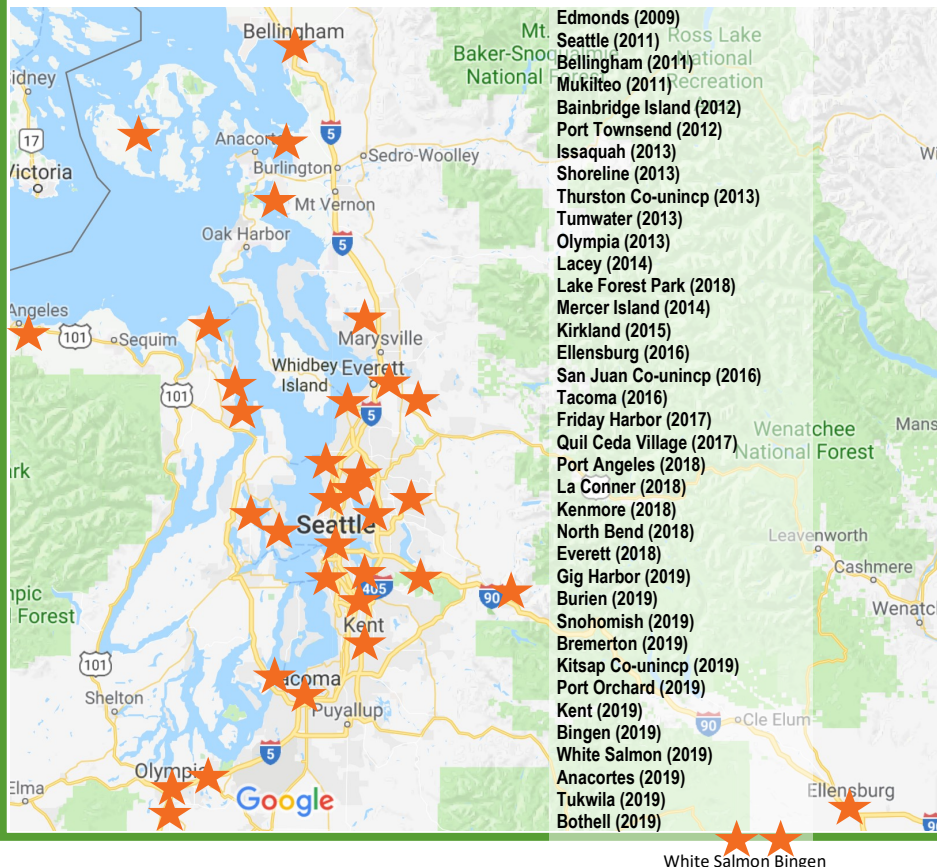


All WIC/EBT/TANF participants are fee exempt



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

37 jurisdictions in Washington State already have a reusable bag ordinance. **It's time to go statewide!**



Supporters of statewide bag bill:

350 Bellingham
 Adrift Hotels SPC and Pickled Fish Restaurant
 Alma Mater Tacoma
 Bainbridge Island Watershed Council
 Bainbridge Island Zero Waste
 Bike Barn Rentals
 Cascadia Consulting Group
 Caterpillar, Inc.
 Citizens for a Healthy Bay
 Citizens for the Preservation of Gig Harbor
 Comeback Farm Organic Produce
 Compost Manufacturing Alliance
 Conation Technologies
 Cosmonaut Coffee
 Defenders of Wildlife
 Devil's Reef
 Earth Ministry
 Environment Washington
 Equal Exchange Espresso
 Friends of the San Juans
 Hilltoploans
 Inside Passage Seeds
 Metro Parks Tacoma
 Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
 Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
 Tacoma Nature Center
 Point Defiance Marina
 Mt Baker Group WA State Chapter Sierra Club
 Nico Rouse Corporation, PS
 North Cascades Audubon
 North Sound Trout Unlmt
 Nystrom Design
 Osteria La Spiga
 Our Environment of Kittitas Co.
 Paper Delights
 Patagonia-Seattle
 Peaks and Pints
 Plastic Free Pierce County
 Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
 Recology
 REI
 River Valley Organics
 Save Our wild Salmon Coalition
 Science and Math Institute
 Sea Witch Botanicals
 Seattle Aquarium
 Skagit Audubon Society
 Skagit Valley Food Co-op
 Sno Isle Food Coop
 Social Bar and Grill
 Spokane Riverkeeper
 Surfers' Environmental Alliance
 Surfrider Foundation
 Sustainable Bainbridge
 Sustainable Food Trade Association
 The Fern Room
 The Food Co-op
 The Grand Cinema
 The Sock Monster
 The Swiss Restaurant & Pub
 Three Magnets Brewing Co.
 Toxic-Free Future
 Washington Environmental Council
 Whale and Dolphin Conservation
 Whale Scout
 Zero Point Engineering
 Zero Waste Washington