

Carry a Reusable Bag and when asked Paper or Plastic, say Neither!

Designed for only a few minutes of use but capable of lasting for over 1000 years, disposable plastic bags may break into smaller pieces over time but can never be broken down completely.

And paper bags aren't much better either, as they can generate 70% more air and 50 times more water pollutants during manufacture than plastic bags.

Bringing your own canvas bags, however, conserves energy and natural resources, reduces litter, saves money, reduces the volume of waste disposal in landfills, and leads to a more sustainable lifestyle.



This brochure is truly a community effort that offers numerous opportunities for community-wide participation.

When you are done with this brochure



Please recycle it to a friend.

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF SENECA COUNTY

Concerned Citizens of Seneca County, Inc.
P. O. Box 553
Waterloo, New York 13165

Phone: 315-412-0407
E-mail: ccsenecacounty@gmail.com
Website: ccseneca.org

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Bring

Your

Own



Bag

... and save energy,
money,
landfill space,
and ...

Maybe
even our
planet



Learn the Facts and Take Some Action . . .



See the bigger picture.

BYOB Best Practices and Suggestions

- ⇒ Purchase a few reusable bags and keep them handy (in the car, at home and at work)
- ⇒ Use reusable bags made from natural fibers or recycled plastic if possible.
- ⇒ Use high quality bags that won't give out on you after a few gallons of milk are carried home.
- ⇒ Encourage local retailers to offer a bag refund to customers who bring their own bags.
- ⇒ Bring an extra reusable bag to the grocery store the next time you shop and give it away to a stranger who doesn't have one.
- ⇒ Write a letter to the newspaper explaining environmental issues associated with use of plastic and paper bags.
- ⇒ Create a petition asking for your town or city to take on the single-use bag problem.
- ⇒ Give your friends and family reusable bags as gifts for birthdays, graduation, house-warming parties, and special holidays.
- ⇒ Wage a campaign in your town and city to end the use of single-use bags by encouraging legislators to implement a grocery bag fee.
- ⇒ Set a good example by just saying NO to single-use bags when you're at the store so others will be encouraged to do the same.

Did you know?

100,000,000,000
(100 Billion)

. . . Amount of plastic bags discarded by U. S. consumers each year.

1 to 2

. . . Percent of single-use plastic bags that are recycled each year.

1,000

. . . Years it takes for a plastic bag to degrade.

12,000,000
(12 Million)

. . . Barrels of oil used to make plastic bags in the U.S. each year.

200,000

. . . Number of disposable plastic shopping bags added to U.S. landfills per hour.

1,000,000

. . . Number of whales, birds, seals, turtles and other sea creatures killed annually because of contact with plastic shopping bags.

46,000

. . . Number of pieces of plastic per square mile in the world's oceans.

300 to 700

. . . Number of disposable plastic shopping bags the average American uses per year.

Reducing trash by not creating it (using canvas bags) is part of the bigger picture. Let's all reduce, re-use, recycle, and rot (compost) our waste, whenever possible. It's something we all can do!

Trash Travels — Stop it at Its Source

The world's largest dump can be found floating between Hawaii and San Francisco. Wind and sea currents carry marine debris from all over the world to what is now known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch— or Pacific Trash Vortex, as others have called it. This "floating landfill" is estimated to be the size of North America and holds an estimated 3 million tons of our discarded trash, mostly plastics, including plastic bags.