# Always Carry a Reusable Bag!

**International Earth Day Network**




It's estimated that we use 4 TRILLION plastic bags each year worldwide

Besides being made from fossil fuels, the average plastic bag is only used for 10-20 minutes (just think about how quickly you can get from the grocery store to your house) Unfortunately, that plastic bag lives on much, much longer — perhaps as much as 1,000 years in a landfill

What's worse, plastic grocery bags aren't recyclable curbside. In fact, plastic bags spell big trouble for recycling facilities, getting caught in the machinery and slowing or even halting the entire recycling process. They're called 'tanglers' by professionals in the recycling business for a reason…

According to Waste Management, only 1% of grocery bags are returned to grocery stores for recycling

So we know that we should never use plastic grocery bags, but sometimes you get to the store and realize you left your reusable shopping bag at home. We know, we've been there too!



The key to improving our environmental behavior is to make a plan, and build your environmental muscle memory: Put your recyclable bags somewhere that will ensure you always remember to bring them with you.

# Clean Up Microplastic Pollution!!

**The Yale Ledger**



## Reduce Oil Production

Plastic bags may seem light and inoffensive but they have a surprisingly large environmental footprint. Approximately 8 percent of the world's total oil production is used to make plastic and 12 million barrels of oil are used to manufacture the 30 billion plastic bags consumed in the United States each year. Furthermore, plastic bags use fossil fuels as they are shipped around the country or the world.

Each plastic bag is used for a mere 12 minutes on average. After this time, the plastic bag becomes waste. Communities and governments spend millions of dollars to manage the ballooning amount of plastic waste.

## Prevent Pollution

Plastic pollution is a serious global problem. Because plastic can take a minimum of 500 years to biodegrade, millions of tons of plastic waste are filling up our landfills and flooding into our oceans. This plastic waste kills wildlife indiscriminately by trapping, strangling, choking, and poisoning them. It is estimated that 1 million marine birds and 100,000 marine mammals die from plastic ingestion every year.

In addition, large pieces of plastic break down into smaller pieces of plastic over time. These tiny microplastics move through the ecosystem and the food chain, absorbing toxins that are released when they are later ingested. Microplastics have now been found in our soil, our drinking water, a myriad of animals, and even in human placenta.

## Suit Your Style

Reusable shopping bags come in a huge variety of different materials and designs. From cotton and canvas to fabric made from recycled water bottles, consumers are spoilt for choice. While the materials may vary, all reusable shopping bags are lightweight, durable, and washable, allowing for several years of versatile use.

Reusable bags can be much more attractive than boring single-use plastic bags. Many brands are joining the reusable bag movement. With so many stores stocking their own range of reusable bags, you can get custom reusable bags from your favorite brand. Or you could choose a reusable bag with a design or slogan that you love.

# Keep Your Parks, Cities, and Lakes Clean!

**Project Clean Water**

Single use bags are a widely known pollutant, and have many negative effects including environmental damage, harm to wildlife, stormwater pollution, and more. Reusable shopping bags are a simple solution to this global and local issue, and all it takes is a minute to remember to grab yours on the way to the store. We recommend keeping a bag or two in your car as well in case you forget them when you leave your home!

If you're not convinced, here are four reasons to opt for reusable bags instead of single use plastics:

1. **Help prevent storm drain blockages**

Plastic bags that are not properly disposed of in a covered trash receptacle can clog drains, causing flooding, backups and other serious issues. Skip the single use and help keep drains clear and flowing free.

2. **Reduce stormwater pollution**

It doesn't take much for plastic bags to end up washed down our storm drains (if they don't clog them first), and this means they end up in our waterways and ocean. By opting for reusable bags instead you can help keep plastic bags out of your local waters.

3. **Protect wildlife**

Plastic bags can be dangerous to animals and marine life. The handles can tangle or choke animals' legs or throat, and sea turtles often mistake plastic bags as jellyfish and suffocate when they try to eat them! Choosing reusable bags is an easy way to instantly protect the fragile and amazing ecosystem that lives in your local waterways.



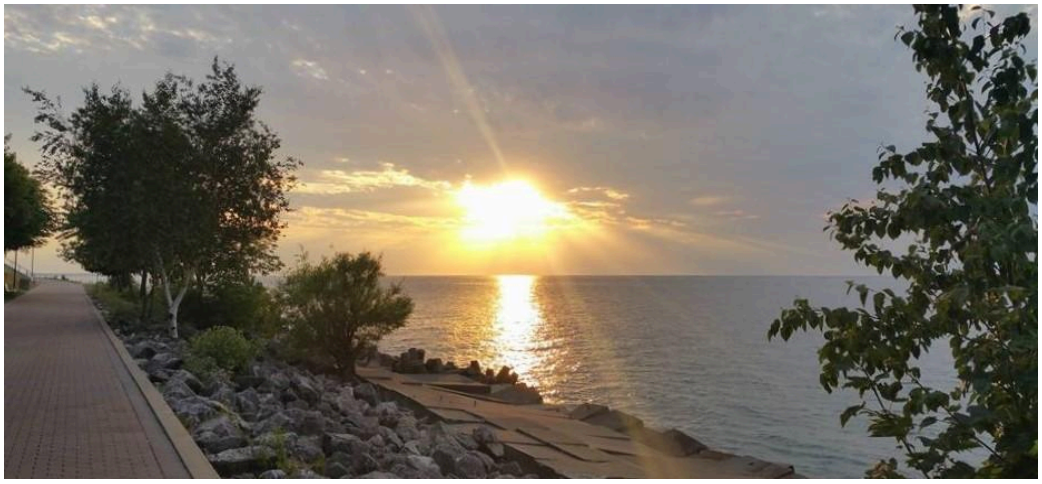
4. **Keep your parks, cities and oceans clean**

Plastic bags are lightweight and often get blown out of trash cans and landfills. Reusable bags on the other hand help to reduce litter and keep those areas clean.



https://www.earthday.org/actions/always-carry-a-reusable-bag/
https://projectcleanwater.org/why-you-should-opt-for-reusable-bags/
https://campuspress.yale.edu/ledger/why-everyone-should-use-reusable-shopping-bags/
https://citypapercompany.com/blog/2016/04/19/the-benefits-of-reusable-shopping-bags-and-the-impact-of-plastic-bags-on-the-environment

# Sustainable Living:



## #4 - Use compact, fold-up, reusable shopping bags.

# Free bags!