

Dear

Re: Stop excessive distribution of plastic bags

As a concerned regular customer of your store, I am writing to ask you to join in with other leading retailers to reduce the distribution of disposable plastic bags.

This can be done in many ways. For example, offering a \$.05 or \$.10 credit per bag for customers that chose to bring their own bags or introducing a small fee per disposable, single-use plastic bag. This will both save you money and help establish your business as a responsible retailer that cares about our environment.

Some facts about plastic bags:

Introduced 25 years ago, single use plastic bags are now consumed at a rate of approximately 500 billion per year globally, or 1 million per minute. It is estimated that 1% or 5 billion of these bags end up as wind blow litter each year. These bags that take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade, often wind up in waterways or the landscape, becoming eyesores and eventually degrading water and soil as they break down into tiny toxic bits.

Their manufacture and disposal also uses large quantities of non-renewable resources especially petroleum. Large amounts of global warming gases are released during their production, transportation, and disposal. Hundreds of thousands of marine animals, including endangered sea turtles, die every year when they eat plastic bags mistaken for food. Paper bags are not the answer, since independent studies show they have roughly as many negative impacts as plastic ones.

Thank you for your careful thought on this matter, and I hope, the introduction of a store policy to start reducing the number of plastic bags that you give away. Consumers are becoming increasingly aware about the environment, and this will put you in a good light with them. It also allows you to compete with the larger retail stores who are already putting such initiatives in place.

Sincerely,