

Below are a number of informative links on the topic of single-use plastic bans. Some of the links are pro-bag ban, some are anti-bag ban. Below each link is a very brief description of the contents of the link. The order of the links is random.

R. Rucker

Links for Bozeman Bag Ban:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/661e9f488497e644e735f54f/t/6650ec36aaf57d7fcc1d9840/1716579383341/52224+PETITION.pdf>

The source above is a pdf with the petition and the provisions of the proposed ban.

<https://www.mtplasticfree.com/>

- This site has some information on the details of the ban (although not a ton of info) and some links to other sites that seem to provide supporting information for the ban.
- The Microplastics in Montana report cited indicates finding microplastics in a majority of the 50 fishing access sites they studied, but provides no indication of how much they found.

When was sb 270 up before the legislature in CA? approved by CA assembly on August 28, 2014

<https://montanafreepress.org/2024/08/22/ban-on-single-use-plastics-follows-tumultuous-path-to-bozeman-ballot/>

Title describes content.

<https://plasticsparadox.com/impact-litter-waste/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CA%20compilation%20of%20all%20of,usually%20less%20than%201%25.%E2%80%9D>

The source above indicates that “plastic bags” (which includes more than just single use bags) make up less than 1 percent of all litter!

<https://reason.org/policy-brief/an-evaluation-of-the-effects-of-californias-proposed-plastic-bag-ban-2/>

The source above is a summary of the 2014 Reason study on the effects of California’s proposed plastic bag ban. It contains links to the longer study.

https://a8d50b36.rocketcdn.me/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/california_plastic_bag_ban-1.pdf

The source above is the longer study by Reason. It estimates that the costs of cleaning reusable bags is about 1.66 billion per year!! See p. 15. At the end of this article, there is a discussion of impacts on grocery stores.

https://open.clemson.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=cudp_environment

The source above is the almost 200 page Clemson study of Life Cycle Assessments of grocery bags commonly used in the United States.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1992/08/13/nyregion/seeking-the-truth-in-refuse.html>

The source above is an NYT article on Rathje's research. Very interesting!

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/13/world/reusable-grocery-bags-cotton-plastic-scn/index.html>

This article discusses the new environmental problem created by reusable bags that are replacing the single use plastic bags. Mentions the 7,100 times number for a cotton bag relative to a single use bag. NJ grocery store delivery services are using heavy duty bags that NJ consumers don't know what to do with. Pretty good article. Cites experiences from various places.

<https://www.kimecopak.ca/blogs/news/how-much-does-a-reusable-bag-cost#:~:text=How%20much%20does%20it%20cost%20to%20produce%20reusable%20bags%3F&text=Non%2Dwoven%20polypropylene%3A%20The%20most,%240.10%20and%20%240.25%20per%20bag.>

How much does it cost to produce a basic reusable bag? In Canada, between \$0.25 and \$3.00. Fair amount of information in this blog.

<https://stanfordmag.org/contents/paper-plastic-or-reusable#:~:text=Reputation%20aside%2C%20single%2Duse%20plastic,the%20carriers%20you've%20chosen.>

The article above is in Stanford Magazine. It has a decent discussion of tradeoffs between single use plastic bags and alternatives. It does not, however, discuss the implications of washing reusable bags.

<http://www.seattlebagtax.org/nwepseminar.html>

This is a link to the Nickerson and Associates Seattle Bag Tax website. Not clear how many of the links are still viable.

<https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/microplastics-everywhere>

Article from Harvard Medicine. Discusses various aspects of microplastics. Lots is not yet known. Mentions a 2022 report by the World Health Organization. Clearly, they are everywhere.

<https://www.goodstartpackaging.com/plastic-straws/#:~:text=The%20combination%20of%20plastic%20straw's,advocacy%20for%20reducing%20their%20use.>

Article from "Start Packaging" whatever that is. Discussion of plastic straws and why they are bad for our environment.

<https://www.beyondplastics.org/fact-sheets/plastic-straws>

Article from Beyond Plastics about plastic straws. Strongly anti-straw.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/09/how-microplastics-get-into-the-food-chain/>

Recent article (September 2024) on microplastics from “Nature and Biodiversity.” Contains discussion of some nitty gritty details related to microplastics. Warnings about potential dangers from microplastics. All this seems very speculative at this point.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/aapp.13473>

Academic article from Appl Econ Perspect Policy. Looks at some spillover effects of CA’s ban on single use plastic bags. Seems to focus on unregulated single use plastics like cutlery, cups, and plates. They find weak relationships.

<https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/center/resources/plastic-bag-bans-work/>

2014 Reason study on plastic bag bans

Microplastics in the Environment: Much Ado about Nothing? A Debate at

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gch2.201900022>

This contains an extended debate about the 2017 short article arguing that the concentration of microplastics is very low. It was published in 2020.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11100893/>

the source above is a pre-print from PubMed Central on the accumulation of microplastics in decedent human brains. Date appears to be May 2024. Concludes that particles accumulate in the brain and that this is increasing over time.

<https://www.ypradio.org/environment-science/2019-11-06/report-plastic-pollution-widespread-in-montana-waterways>

The source above describes a study of 50 fishing access sites. The majority have evidence of microplastics (in the water?).

<https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Microplastic-in-Montana-final.pdf>

This is the study (10 pages) described above.

<https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/center/resources/plastic-bag-bans-work/>

Pro-bag ban website. Bag bans work because they reduce bag litter.

<https://www.plasticbaglaws.org/>

Another pro-bag ban website from Plasticbaglaws.org. describes itself as “A resource for legislative bodies considering laws that limit the use of plastic bags.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/1992/08/13/nyregion/seeking-the-truth-in-refuse.html>

Link to NYT article from 1992 on Rathje and his research.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1992/07/05/books/we-are-what-we-throw-away.html>

Article on Rathje's research that describes old newspapers.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/13/world/reusable-grocery-bags-cotton-plastic-scn/index.html>

CNN article on how many times a reusable bag has to be re-used. There is a link here to the study that says cotton bags must be reused 7,100 times! Also, a discussion of some unintended consequences of bag bans in various cities.

<https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/microplastics-everywhere>

Relatively short article on microplastics and what is known about them. Dated Spring 2023. From Harvard Medicine.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-many-times-must-bag-reused-more-environmentally-friendly- chua/>

This article cites the 7,100 number. She evaluates the numbers and adjusts some of them, but fails to acknowledge the impacts of having to wash reusable bags, which is a game changer. Mentions that bags made from organic cotton need to be reused 20,000 times to break even.

<https://www2.mst.dk/udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf>

The link above is to the Danish article saying that organic cotton bags must be used 20,000 times to break even with single use plastic bags.

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.7b05463>

The article above is the "op-ed" by G. Allen Burton Jr. suggesting the concentration levels from microplastics are too low to warrant the concern they are generating.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickgleason/2024/01/22/new-jersey-bag-ban-followed-by-increased-use-of-plastic/>

New Jersey Bag Ban Followed By Increased Use Of Plastic

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/23/us/california-plastic-bags-ban.html#:~:text=But%20the%20move%20backfired%20in,from%20CalRecycle%2C%20California's%20recycling%20agency.>

SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-Credential=ASIAUPUUPRWE5VBES4OR%2F20241121%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Signature=276ab44b3dcf1272465920b28a0f97a4885d9e6191610906caa43a83d6b08970&abstractId=2196481

The link above is to Jon Klick's paper on sickness in San Fran following bag law.