

A Bag's Life

Public education initiative brings awareness about bag recycling

By Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

While it's true that plastic makes our lives much more convenient, it takes a very long time to decompose. The impacts are far reaching.

Plastic constitutes approximately 90 percent of all trash floating on the ocean's surface, with 46,000 pieces of plastic per square mile. One million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans.

According to the Earth Policy Institute, approximately one trillion plastic bags are used annually worldwide. More than two million bags are used every minute. There are many opinions on how long it can take for a plastic bag to decompose ranging from 20 to 1,000 years.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the

average American family takes home 1,500 plastic bags a year. According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually at an estimated cost to retailers of \$4 billion.

A new program can help your borough recycle plastic bags.

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Did you know that you can recycle newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, produce bags, and even wraps that cover water bottle cases, napkins, and paper towels?

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has created a new public education initiative, "A Bag's Life", to get your borough involved in recycling plastic bags and wraps.


Many communities offer curbside recycling for plastics, but

what should you do if your community's program doesn't include recycling for plastic bags and plastic wraps? The answer is easy: take plastic bags and wraps back to a grocer or retailer who recycles them.

The good news is that many major grocers and retailers across Pennsylvania will take back bags and wraps, so recycling can be as easy as reminding folks to do it. Check out A Bag's Life to learn more about which participating retailers in your community will take back your bags, wrap, and film. Your borough can work with community grocery stores and community areas to post signs.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful said the following participating grocers and retailers offer recycling of plastic bags.

BAG RECYCLING LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT PA



Acme	Giant	Redner's
Amelia's	Giant Eagle	Shop-n-Save
BiLo	JC Penney	Shoprite/Pricerite
Boyer's	Karns Quality Foods	Target
East Brady Freshmarket	Lowes	Walmart
Food Lion	Mallard Markets	WaWa
Fresh Grocer	Martins	Wegman's
Friedman's	Nell's	Weis Markets
Genuardi's	Quality Cleaners	