

Plastic Bag Strategy Ideas

Approaching Businesses

- 1) Find one or two businesses willing to partner with EC on banning single use plastic bags
- 2) Share the research on why it's pertinent to eliminate single use plastic bags. Encourage owners to take the Plastic Reduction Audit
<https://www.productstewardship.us/page/RestaurantGuide>
- 3) Add signage in parking lots and store entrances with the question: "Did you remember your reusable bag?"
- 4) Retrain cashiers to ask "Do you need a bag for this item?"
- 5) Use these case studies and tell that story to the community (other businesses & township council)
- 6) Businesses can choose to donate the fee to community (e.g., funding hydration stations in local school)

Programs such as Rethink Disposal provide more working examples!

<https://www.cleanwater.org/campaign/rethink-disposable>

Approaching Township Council

- 1) Identify at least one township council member that's open to listening and being a champion for single use plastic bag ordinance
- 2) Share the research on why it's pertinent to eliminate single use plastic bags including local business case studies. Use **PHOTOS** from your town of plastic litter
 - North Bergen newspaper did comprehensive reporting about single use plastics problem in NJ called the War on Plastics
<https://www.northjersey.com/topic/14622eb6-d24f-4304-a237-709f72662963/war-on-plastics/>
- 3) Data Collection - making the business case on why ordinance is needed (collaborate with DPW, watershed organizations for data gathering)

(1) The amount of carry out bags in the residential waste and recycling streams;

(2) The amount of carry out bags identified as litter on streets, sidewalks and in parks;

(3) The amount of carry out bags found in city storm drains;

As per NJ.com - "Spodafora, a retired cost analyst for the U.S. Army, said an analysis he conducted before imposing the ban found that **plastic bags add as much as 30 percent to the cost of recycling** because they constantly clog sorting machines and force operations to halt, a figure that Gaerta officials said sounded about right."

https://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/10/dont_recycle_these_items_china.html

4) Litter Data Tracking Surveys

https://www.hudsonriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-Trash-Reduction-Toolkit-for-NY-NJ-Communities_FINAL.pdf

5) Measuring Plastic Bag Laws Effectiveness

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

6) Pass an ordinance: ANJEC's model plastic bag pollution reduction ordinance:

<http://anjec.org/action-alerts>

Approaching Schools & Students

- 1) Coordinate with school's environmental club or science teachers
- 2) Show movies and ask students and the school community to get involved: Bag It (ANJEC's lending library), Plastic Pollution (ANJEC's lending library) or Kids Can Save the Planet
- 3) Coordinate with art teachers and have poster "contest" on bringing your own bag
- 4) Students can also develop an educational flyer to distribute to local stores and hand out at town events.
- 5) Speak to teachers about incorporating environmental literacy specifically plastics into curriculum design. This is NOT outside of current course load, more of an integration.

<https://plasticpollutioncoalition.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/202673118-Education>

** Work regionally with neighboring ECs and Green Teams

** Contact legislators and invite them to clean up events and ask them to ban single use plastics

For additional information: <http://anjec.org/action-alerts/>

