

more than a bag NEWS

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR PLANET

California Inspired a Wave of Plastic Bag Bans – With an Unfortunate Loophole

22 October 2024 – Ten years ago, California became the first U.S. state to ban plastic bags. But over the next few years, the state’s landfills actually saw an increase in plastic waste. That’s because a loophole in the state’s bag ban allowed stores to continue offering plastic bags at checkout, so long as the bags cost a few cents, were labeled as reusable, and were made of thicker plastic. This thicker plastic, of course, meant that each new bag created more waste than its pre-ban counterpart when it found its way to a landfill.

The idea behind the original law was to encourage people to eschew single-use bags and instead bring their own reusable ones to the store. What policymakers appear not to have realized is that it would take more than a 10-cent fee to change people’s behavior.

California finally closed its loophole last month. The legislature updated the original law to ban all non-paper bags from being distributed at store checkout stands.

Read More: <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/california-inspired-a-wave-of-plastic-bag-bans-with-an-unfortunate-loophole/>



BAG BAN Target and Walmart set to make sweeping change to all of their stores across US state – and it’s signed into law

25 September 2024 – Starting on January 1, 2026, all plastic shopping bags will be banned at grocery stores.

This means the classic question of "paper or plastic" will no longer be asked at shopping centers like Sam's Club and Kroger.

Consumers who don't bring their own bags will be asked only if they want a paper bag to carry their items.

The law will affect bags at checkout, not the typical plastic bags that hold raw produce.

Read More: <https://www.the-sun.com/money/12539084/plastic-bag-ban-california-walmart-target/>

New research suggests plastic bag bans are driving down debris

23 September 2024 – Every year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers fan out along beaches and waterways around the world to rid the landscapes of that haunting by-product of consumer culture: disposable plastic. Peeking through the mountain of debris is a ray of hope: new research is drawing a correlation between plastic bag bans in the United States and a drop in plastic bags collected as part of this massive cleanup.

According to Washington-based Ocean Conservancy, volunteer trash collectors found 29% fewer plastic bags on U.S. beaches in 2022 and 2023, compared to levels that were collected prior to the pandemic. At the same time, since 2020, the percentage of the U.S. population covered by plastic bag bans has doubled, from 12% to 25%, the advocacy group reported in its September study.

Read More: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/plastic-bag-bans-reduce-waste/>