

# more than a bag NEWS

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR PLANET



## DESPITE AN EARLIER PLEDGE, KROGER HAS YET TO ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

In 2018, Kroger announced it would eliminate single-use plastic bags from its stores by 2025. These types of bags are among the kinds of trash most frequently found in coastal cleanups and are often a subject of retailers' initiatives to reduce plastic use.

In an editorial published in the Cincinnati Enquirer at the time, Kroger chairman and CEO Rodney McMullen wrote that the waste generated by these bags at its 2,700-plus stores would drop by 123 million pounds per year. "Our customers have told us it makes no sense to have so much plastic only to be used once before being discarded. And they're exactly right," McMullen wrote.

McMullen said such a major change could not happen overnight and that the seven-year timeframe would give customers plenty of time to adapt to a new way of shopping. The company, however, has yet to meet that goal. The plan would begin with Seattle-based division QFC, which eliminated single-use plastic bags in 2019.

Read More: <https://www.modernretail.co/operations/despite-an-earlier-pledge-kroger-has-yet-to-eliminate-single-use-plastic-bags/>

## CHINA'S EXPORTS IN DECEMBER UP 10.7%, BEATING ESTIMATES AS HIGHER US TARIFFS LOOM

HONG KONG (AP) — China's exports in December grew at a faster pace than expected, as factories rushed to fill orders to beat higher tariffs that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose once he takes office.

Exports rose 10.7% from a year earlier, according to official customs data released Monday. Economists had forecast they would grow about 7%. Imports rose 1% year-on-year. Analysts had expected them to shrink about 1.5%. With exports outpacing imports, China's trade surplus grew to \$104.84 billion in December, and nearly \$1 trillion for the year, at \$992.2 billion.

Read More: <https://apnews.com/article/china-trade-december-exports-imports-2d3e72e833b82de057237d7d01d98378>



## BEST REUSABLE PRODUCE BAGS

Single-use plastics like zip-top bags and plastic wrap are everyday items in many kitchens. But while they're convenient, they're not great for the environment. Luckily, there are effective reusable alternatives.

We think the first step to reducing your own waste is to find ways to use the jars and bags you already have. But if you need to fill in the gaps, we tested 20 reusable food storage bags—from mesh sacks to silicone pouches—to see which ones are worth the investment.



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