

The slide features a green background with a pattern of overlapping hexagons. A white rectangular box is positioned on the right side, containing the title text. A dark grey rectangle is located at the top of this white box. A thick green horizontal line is at the bottom of the white box.

California Plastic Bag Ban

SB 270 Single-Use Grocery Bags. What it is?

The Senate bill, approved on September 30, 2014, phases out single-use plastic grocery bags. Any alternative bag such as paper, reusable and compostable plastic bags may be sold with at least a \$0.10 charge.

By **July 1, 2015** all plastic grocery bags will be prohibited in supermarkets and drugstores in California. Smaller city ordinances have begun taking effect starting September 2014.

City ordinances in the Coachella Valley

- **Palm Springs (Ordinance 1849):** Council adopted a ban on plastic grocery bags, with a \$0.10 charge for paper on April 2, 2014 that took effect on November 2014 and all other stores by May 2015.
- **Palm Desert (Ordinance 1273):** Council adopted a ban on plastic grocery bags, with a \$0.10 charge for paper on May 8, 2014. It will take effect in April 2015.

Why was it put into place?

- The total cost to manage plastic bag litter in streets, waterways, recycling facilities and landfills amounts to millions.
- In 2012, about 13 million bags were used, so about 400 per second.
- The bags as litter travel easily by wind and end up everywhere.
- The bags do not biodegrade, they only break down with the sun. These broken particles however, end up contaminating soil, waterways, and animals.

Will it work?

- The fee on paper bags is to push the market away from a waste
- In Portland, OR when they banned without the fee, they saw a 491% increase in paper bag use and \$5 million increase in the cost of bags.
- When it was banned in the LA County with an added fee to paper bags, there was a 95% reduction in single-use bags
- In San Jose there has been a 90% reduction in plastic litter in storm drains, 60% reduction in creeks and a 59% reduction in streets

Doubts?

- Paper uses at least 30% less Green House Gas emissions than plastic bags
- Reusable bags made from recycled polyethylene has a lower footprint than any single-use plastic bag
- Reusable bags don't end up as litter either

References

- <http://www.reuseit.com/facts-and-myths/facts-about-the-plastic-bag-pandemic.htm>
- <http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plasticbagcampaign/faq>
- http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/current_legislation/sb270_14
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