



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation

Retail West Conference

Avery Gottfried, ME, P.Eng – Senior Policy Specialist
Clean Communities, Environmental Protection Division
November 2, 2023

Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

In July 2023, the Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation was announced as part of the government's CleanBC Plastics Action Plan to better deal with harmful plastic waste, and promote the transition to using more environmentally friendly, reusable items.

Plastic shopping bags

(Fees for alternative options)



Food service ware



Food service accessories

(Alternative options by-request)



Oxo-degradable plastics

Plastic that contains an additive that breaks down the plastic into microplastics.

Found in a wide range of plastic products.

Shopping Bags: Business Responsibilities

The business operator must:

- ❌ Not distribute or sell plastic shopping bags.
- ✅ Offer customers to use their own shopping bag.
- ✅ Collect a fee for any new recyclable paper shopping bag and new reusable shopping bag sold.
- ✅ Prior to sale, inform the customer of the fee to be charged.
- ✅ On the receipt, include a separate line item for the fee charged.
- ✅ Keep records for the average number of recycled paper and reusable shopping bags sold (only if 500+ employees).



Shopping Bags: What type of bags can be sold?



New reusable shopping bag

- ✔ Minimum fee of \$2.00 each.
- ✔ Manufactured to be washed 100 times.



New recyclable paper shopping bag

- ✔ Minimum fee of \$0.25 each.
- ✔ ≥ 40% recycled content.
- ✔ Must be labeled with the % of recycled content and the word “recyclable”.



Plastic shopping bags

- ✘ Plastic bags.
- ✘ Compostable or biodegradable bags.
- ✘ Oxo-degradable bags.

Free to distribute:

- ✔ Used bags.
- ✔ Paper bags that are <15cm x 20cm, when flat.
- ✔ Bags that are not a shopping bag.
- ✔ Used, paper and reusable shopping bags provided by a charity for transporting food, beverage or personal hygiene products.
- ✔ Paper bags used to transport:
 - medical devices/products.
 - food or beverage products purchased for delivery or drive-through restaurant.

Shopping bags: Fees

Why fees?

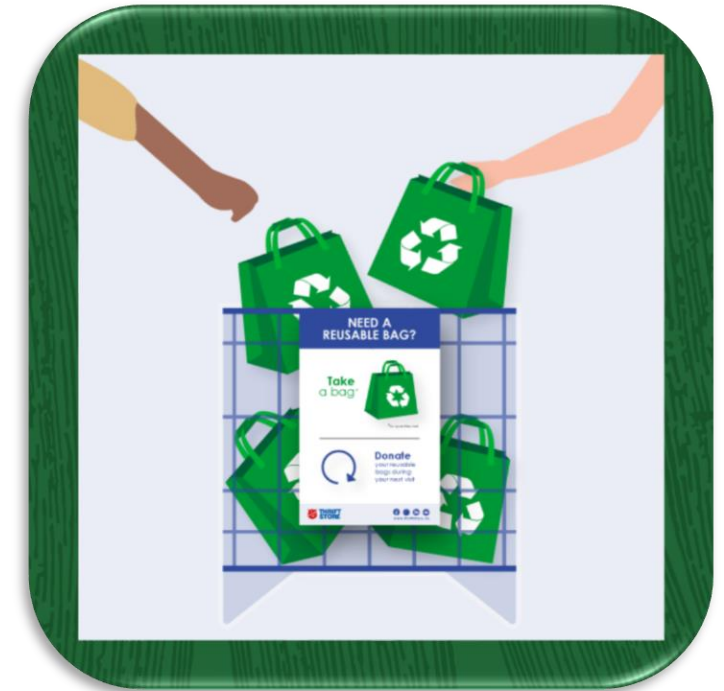
- Promotes the use of reusable items to ensure overall reduction in waste.

Who retains the fees?

- Business operators.

What do I do with the collected fees?

- Help offset the additional costs associated with recyclable paper and reusable bags.
- Invest into creating a bag share or “take-a-bag, leave-a-bag” program, or other initiatives to promote reusable items.
- Donate to a local charity or community initiative.



Source: Salvation Army

Shopping Bags: Supporting Compliance

The Ministry follows a compliance promotion approach to encourage voluntary compliance through:

- Education,
- Outreach; and,
- Raising awareness of regulatory requirements.

Businesses are expected to make reasonable efforts to comply with the regulation.

Continued non-compliance will be forwarded to the Ministry's Compliance and Enforcement branch.



Questions

Email: plastics@gov.bc.ca

Visit the provinces plastics web page for more resources:

- Single-use Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation
- Fact sheets
- More resources to be posted once available
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/zero-waste/plastics>

