



# Plastic Bag Program

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City of Corpus Christi  
Solid Waste Operations

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# Original Plastic Bag Goals

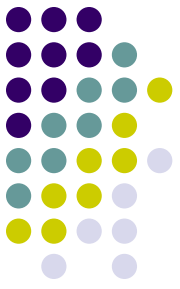


- Reduce the number of plastic bags on roadsides and waterways
- Create Education Program.

## Environmental Recovery Fee Ordinance Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in plastic bags in Corpus Christi
- Increase in reusable bag usage
- Overall decrease in litter
- Expand the market for recycling plastic bags

# Green Star Program



- Retailer Eligibility Requirements:
  - Retailer must fill out registration.
  - Retailer must be interviewed by City staff.
  - Have receptacles properly labeled and emptied on timely basis.
  - Have no or little parking lot litter.
  - Have staff training in litter reduction.
  - Must eliminate single use plastic bags usage by replacing with re-usable bags.
  - Must have proper signage to informing customers of the option to use reusable bags
  - Acceptance of the Green Star program exempts retailer from Environmental recovery fee

# Plastic Bag Ordinance



## Sec. 21-61. Establishment and Remittance of Environmental Recovery Fee

- (a) A fee is hereby established for customers making purchases from businesses utilizing single use plastic checkout bags or single use garment bags to offset the cost to the City Environmental Recovery Program. No fee shall be charged for single use plastic bags used for meat, poultry or fish.
- (b) The fee shall be either :
  - i. \$0.10 per plastic checkout bag and/or single use garment bag (“per bag”), OR
  - ii. \$1.00 per transaction involving plastic checkout bags and/or single use garment bags (“transaction”)
- (c) Each business shall make an election of either the per bag or transaction fee at the time the business submits a Plastic Bag Reduction Program to City of Corpus Christi Solid Waste Department Green Star Program. If no election is made by the business, the per bag fee shall apply.
- (d) If a business wishes to change from the per bag fee to the transaction fee or vice versa, the request must be:
  - i. Within the first 6 months of election,
  - ii. In writing, sent certified mail, return receipt requested to the Director of the City of Corpus Christi Solid Waste Department, and
  - iii. May only be changed once every 365 days.
- (e) Fees must be paid by the customer at the time of purchase. Businesses shall not pay the fee on behalf of customers.
- (f) All businesses which choose the per plastic check out bag fee shall indicate on the consumer transaction receipt if the customer used plastic bags and the total amount of fee charged.
- (g) Fees shall be collected by the business on a calendar month basis and remitted to the City of Corpus Christi Solid Waste Department by the 10th of the following calendar month. A late payment fee shall be assessed of five percent for each month the fees are unremitted to the City.

# Environmental Recovery Fee Uses



- Reusable bags
- Additional litter pick up and mowing cycles through TxDot & City right of ways
- Support of City & County Clean Ups
  - Easter Weekend- Parks & Recreation
  - Dumpsters at Parks & Beaches
  - Recycling containers at Municipal Fields
  - Nueces County River Authority Clean Ups
  - Illegal Dump Sites- TCEQ, Council of Governments & Code Enforcement
  - Litter Critter Program- Solid Waste Ops
- Litter Abatement/Community Outreach Programs
  - Educational Literature/Materials
  - Media Buys
- Clean Up Events- Great American Clean Up, National Day of Action, Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off, Grow Green, Corpus Christi Clean Sweep & Adopt a Beach support
- Corpus Christi Recycles Week- November 10-16, 2013
  - Day without a Bag- November 15<sup>th</sup>
  - E Recycling Event- November 16