
Plastic Checkout Bag Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21, PART III BY ADDING NEW ARTICLE VI REGULATING THE USE OF PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS IN THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES



The Need

- Solid Waste Operations Business Plan
- Challenges remain at Corpus Christi Recyclery
- Challenges remain with collecting wind blown film at Transfer Station & Cefe Valenzuela Landfill
- Plastic checkout bags remain third most littered item in Coastal Bend
- Community Aesthetics and Pride



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Plastic Bag Goals

- Reduce the number of plastic bags
- Create Education Program- “Keep it Clean, Corpus Christi!”

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in plastic bags by 60% in Corpus Christi by 2015
- Increase reusable bag usage
- Overall decrease in litter
- Expand the market for recycling plastic bags



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History

- Online survey
- Litter Index Surveys
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Best Practices
- Code Enforcement Officers- February 2013S
- “Keep it Clean” Education Campaign
- Partnership Commitments- Bag Hero, Bags to Benches School Contest, STRIPES, HEB, Valero
- CCISD Educator- to start 2013-2014 school year



Environmental Recovery Fee

- \$.10 per bag
- \$1.00 per transaction
- Green Star Program Certification allows for ½ of fees
- And no fee



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Green Star Program Elements

- Demonstrate 60% reduction
- Trash Receptacles
- Comprehensive Litter Plan
- Signage Requirements
- Reusable Bags
- Training Programs



Timelines

- Phase 1 – Public Education stage - September 1, 2013 to April 1, 2014: No restrictions to allow for Green Star registration, retailer change-over, consumer education, and in-store signage. Call for request for proposals for ad agency services.
- Phase 2 – Retailer Transition stage – October 2013 to December 2013: Mail out to all businesses outlining online registration process; monthly meetings will be held at area City facilities for Green Star Program tutorials and Chapter 21 Ordinance Education.
- Phase 3- Consumer Transition stage -January 2014 to March 2014: Mass education campaign to include billboards, print, radio & television.
- Phase 4 – Final stage - Beginning April 1, 2014: Single-use bags are prohibited from distribution without environmental recovery fees in place.

Enforcement

- Hotline- 826-CITY (2489)
- Staff Audits

Penalties

- Written warning
- \$100- first violation
- \$200- second violation
- \$500- each additional violation

Questions?



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