The impact of waste plastics on our environment is a growing problem for communities everywhere. Discarded plastic bags can block storm drains, litter streets, pollute waterways, clog recycling facility machinery, and harm wildlife.

The Tukwila City Council has proposed legislation regulating the use of bags at retail establishments. Like other cities in the region, Tukwila's bill would prohibit retail or grocery stores from giving out single-use plastic carryout bags at the point of sale. It also strives to promote customer use of reusable carryout bags.

Reducing waste, protecting the environment – it's a step toward a pollution solution.



If you have any questions regarding the details of this legislation, please contact **Laurel.Humphrey@TukwilaWA.gov** or 206-433-8993



# Information about Tukwila's proposed bag regulations

#### What is the proposed law?

If passed, customers would no longer be provided single-use plastic carryout bags for the purpose of transporting groceries or other merchandise.

### Why do these regulations exist?

Like many other cities in the region, Tukwila wants to reduce litter, protect the environment, and remove hard-to-recycle bags from our waste stream.

#### What businesses are affected?

All retailers including grocery stores, corner stores, drug stores, clothing stores, and every other retail store that provides bags to customers at point of sale.

### Which carryout bags are businesses allowed to provide?

A business can provide recycled content paper bags – standard grocery size – for a minimum 8¢ fee. Recycled paper bags must be composed of a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled material, and display that fact on the outside of the bag. Reusable plastic bags (at least 2.25 mils thick) are also acceptable.

## Are all customers required to pay for the carryout bag?

The law requires customers to pay a minimum 8¢ fee for provided bags. It also requires businesses to show the purchase as a taxable retail sale on the customer's receipt. Households using vouchers or electronic benefits from state or federal food assistance programs do not have to pay the 8¢ fee.

### Can businesses provide other non-carryout bags?

Exemptions exist for these types of bags:

In-store – for packaging loose items (produce, bulk foods, unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods, coffee, greeting cards, small hardware items)

In-store – for packaging items to contain dampness (meat/seafood, frozen food, deli meats, flowers or plants)

Special purpose – for newspaper delivery, laundry/dry cleaning, door hangers, tire bags, plastic bags sold in packages (garbage, pet waste, food storage), live animals (goldfish)

#### When would the law take effect?

The City Council is considering a nine-month phase-in period to allow retailers time to use up their supply of non-compliant bags.

# How can consumers help this effort?

The most environmentally responsible approach is for consumers to start carrying reusable bags with them when shopping.





