

## **LET'S BAN PLASTIC BAGS IN GRANTS PASS!**

Cities and countries around the world are banning plastic bags. 13 cities in Oregon have done so. For the complete list and access to their ordinances, google "Which cities in Oregon have banned plastic bags." It will give you the exact page at [expooregonlive.com](http://expooregonlive.com).

### **Justification for the Ban**

*Portland's ordinance makes the case:*

"Plastic shopping bags have significant environmental impacts each year, including the use of over 12 million barrels of oil for bag production in the United States. Nationwide, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that **only 9.4% of plastic bags, sacks and wraps are recovered from the solid waste stream. Oregonians use an estimated 1.7 billion single use plastic bags each year.** The extensive usage of single-use plastic shopping bags and their typical disposal creates **an impediment to the City's waste reduction and recycling goals.** Although some facilities in Portland recycle plastic bags, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) estimates the recycling rate is 11 percent, with much of that commercially generated plastic film (e.g., shrink wrap). The actual recycling rate for single-use plastic shopping bags is significantly lower. **According to the DEQ, residential recycling of plastic bags would substantially increase sorting costs, rendering this effort cost prohibitive.** The economics of recycling plastic bags are only logical for large commercial volumes such as those generated by warehouses, not for single-use plastic shopping bags. Many of the plastic shopping bags end up in landfills. A significant number are "unaccounted for", lost into the environment, washed into streams and rivers and ultimately the oceans."

### **Oregon Cities Banning Plastic Bags**

1. PORTLAND July 2011
2. CORVALIS July 2012
3. EUGENE Oct. 2012

4. ASHLAND May 2014
5. FOREST GROVE June 2016
6. HOOD RIVER Jan. 2017
7. MCMINNVILLE Feb. 2017
8. MANZANITA Sept. 2017
9. MILWAUKIE Aug. 2018
10. HILLSBORO Nov. 2018
11. SALEM Nov. 2018
12. LAKE OSWEGO Dec. 2018
13. BEND Dec. 2018

**Each ordinance has plastic bag “exceptions”:**

For example, Ashland doesn't prohibit plastic bags used for fruit, vegies, candy, frozen foods, potted plants, product bags or laundry dry cleaning bags.

**NEXT STEP: Find out what others did to successfully achieve a plastic bag ban in their communities.**