



Ways to reduce (or eliminate!) plastic bag usage at your business...

- 1. No bags.**
- 2. Skip a bag.**

Advise customers that every time they choose to skip taking a single use plastic bag, your business will make a charitable donation.
- 3. Charge for bags.**

Charge customers for single use plastic bags. Consider having reusable bags for sale as well.
- 4. Switch to paper.**

Still want to have free bags available to your customers? Consider switching to recycled paper bags.
- 5. Bag take-back.**

Establish a take-back program where customers can drop-off their plastic bags for other customers to use.
- 6. Bag It Forward.**

Become a Bag It Forward drop-off location in support of Winnipeg Harvest. Contact MMSM* for more information about the program and how your workplace can get involved.

*Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba:
www.simplyrecycle.ca / 1-877-952-2010

Benefits for your business:

Reduce the negative environmental impacts caused by single use plastic bags.

Save money by not purchasing as many (or any!) plastic bags.

Marketing! You'll be able to highlight charitable donations made in place of bag distribution and/or amount of waste reduced through your program.

PLASTIC BAG FACTS:

- > Plastic bags break down into small pieces over 500-1000 years, but these **micro-plastics will never fully bio-degrade.**
- > Plastic bags have **negative impacts on marine life and the environment.**
- > Plastic bags are **made using non-renewable fossil fuels.**
- > Plastic bags can be re-used or recycled at MMSM drop-off locations, but are **not recyclable in Manitoba blue bins** as they get tangled up in the sorting machinery at resource recovery centres.
- > The number of plastic bags distributed in Manitoba has stayed constant at about **160 million per year** since 2011.

Be sure to promote your program online, by the entrance and near tills!