

## County of Los Angeles Single-Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program - Fact Sheet

On January 22, 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the ***Single-Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program***, a comprehensive strategy to reduce plastic bag litter. The Program aligns supermarkets, retailers, environmental groups, the plastic bag industry, local government, and the public to phase out plastic bags while increasing the use of reusable bags. The Program is summarized below:

### Framework

1. County and stakeholders develop and establish a comprehensive program to:
  - Promote reusable bags
  - Increase at-store recycling of plastic bags
  - Reduce carryout plastic bag usage
  - Increase the post-consumer recycled content of paper bags (minimum 40%)
  - Promote public awareness of litter impacts and consumer responsibility
2. Work with affected stores (initially includes large supermarkets and retail stores as defined under AB 2449; may be expanded to include convenience, franchise, and other stores distributing plastic bags in the future) to develop and implement required store-specific programs that would include:
  - Training that targets unnecessary double bagging and increased use of reusable bags
  - Incentives for reducing plastic bag usage (e.g. per-bag credit or fee)
  - Reusable bag promotions and educational efforts
3. Establish aggressive goals for reducing plastic bag usage and increasing recycling using total consumption for Fiscal Year 2007-08 as the baseline:
  - 30 percent disposal reduction by July 1, 2010, and
  - 65 percent disposal reduction by July 1, 2013
4. Assist partner cities in establishing a similar program, including sharing of relevant information and public education and outreach materials. City programs can utilize the County's Program as a framework while tailoring implementation according to their needs.
5. Establish significant consequences if Program goals are not met, including outright plastic bag ban.
6. Pursue State legislative efforts to:
  - Establish a statewide plastic bag fee with proceeds distributed to local governments on a per-capita basis to fund litter prevention and source reduction efforts.
  - Allow local government implementation of a per-bag fee, since fees have been found to be effective in reducing plastic bag usage.
  - Implement statewide benchmarks equivalent to Program goals above.
  - Print an environmental message on each plastic bag describing the negative impacts of plastic bag litter and the benefits of using reusable bags.
  - Repeal the sunset provision of AB 2449 (Public Resources Code Section 42257) to eliminate the need for the State Legislature to reintroduce and adopt a new plastic bag recycling law by January 1, 2013, which may or may not contain the existing and proposed elements of AB 2449 that are crucial to the efforts undertaken by local governments.

### Program Benefits

- Creates a broad-based collaborative effort to effectively reduce plastic bag litter Countywide.
- Incorporates supermarket and retail store employee training and public education to meet the goals of the Program.
- Establishes performance goals and a measurement methodology to demonstrate Program success, using the State's existing reporting framework (established by AB 2449) to obtain data.
- Maximizes regional benefit while minimizing duplicative efforts by local municipalities.