

“BATTLE OF THE BAG”
***A Regional Government
Perspective***


San Francisco bans
traditional plastic grocery bags

The burden of
single-use plastic bags

Tax on plastic bags
too heavy-handed

Bag fee
idea rankles
plastics lobby

China bans plastic shopping bags

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Advisory committee says No to plastic bags in blue box

- potential litter problem
- contamination concerns
- low commercial value
- expensive to collect and process
- duplication of existing retail programs
- limited collection truck capacity

2005: Committee Questions

Memo response:

- 20 grocery stores in CRD have plastic bag collection program
- 25,000,000 bags per year distributed by local stores
- CRD has no authority to mandate return-to retail programs
- BC Ministry of Environment focus is on more pressing issues (electronics)



2006: Request to Tax Plastic Bags

Staff report states:

- plastic bags are less than 1% of waste composition
- people use plastic bags to contain their garbage
- many free in-store collection programs in place
- tax would be inconsistent with Ministry's Product Stewardship Business Plan



2007: Plastic Bags in the News


It's official: Manitoba town gives plastic bags the boot
Last Updated: Monday, April 2, 2007 | 12:02 PM CT

- Leaf Rapids: plastic bag ban
- Tofino: voluntary ban
- Real Canadian Superstore: first BC grocery retailer to go plastic bag free
- San Francisco: Plastic Bag Ordinance

Saanich resident Lana Popham has been campaigning for months to have plastic grocery bags banned,

Plastic bag ban here?

Too many plastic bags in the
dump worry politicians

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2008: 1. Acknowledge the Problem



Plastic bags:

- use non-renewable natural resources and create GHG
- are slow to breakdown
- create litter and can end up in waterways and harm wildlife
- often are sent to landfills, instead of the recycling bin
- add cost to public works clean-up budgets
- are the ultimate symbol of consumerism

2008: 2. What We Cannot Do



CRD has no regulatory authority to:

- ban sale of plastic bags in region
- tax plastic bags at point of sale
- mandate return-to-retail

CRD does not recommend landfill ban

2008: 3. What We Are Already Doing



CRD has been

- promoting voluntary retail programs
- supporting inclusion of plastic bags in BC Recycling Regulation
- encouraging reusable bags, including give-aways
- promoting 3 R hierarchy

2008: 4. What More We Will Do



CRD will

- write to Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
- research inclusion of plastic bags in blue box program
- add plastic bag use as an environmental indicator and set a reduction target
- work with plastics industry
- increase education about alternatives to plastic bags

2008: CRD Choose to Refuse Campaign

- film plastic collection pilot at Hartland recycling facility
- enhanced website: Hot Topic link, list of 53 drop off locations, 3R Tips
- “Choose to Refuse” social marketing campaign
- “Borrow-A-Bag” in-house pilot project

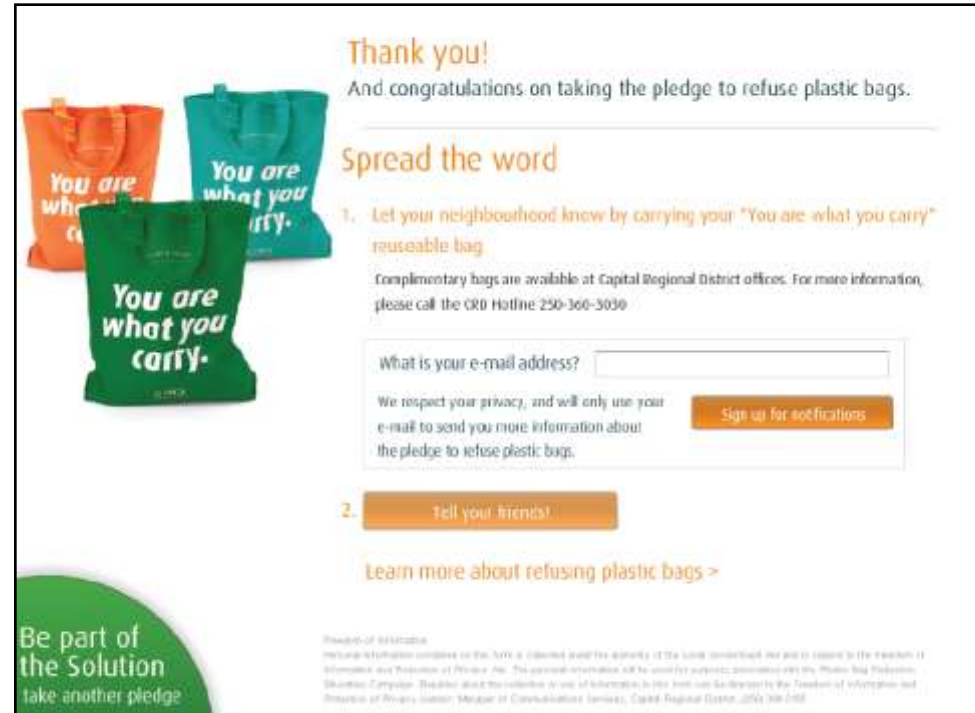


- Choose to Refuse pledge campaign to refuse plastic bags
- A reusable bag is provided to individuals who take the pledge

2008: CRD Plastic Bag Campaign – Results

- positive public response
- 4,000 pledges received
- 19 distribution sites
- positive earned media

- Next?
 - expand in-house pilot
 - map plastic bags in our region
 - hold municipal contest



Thank you!
And congratulations on taking the pledge to refuse plastic bags.

Spread the word

1. Let your neighbourhood know by carrying your "You are what you carry" reusable bag
Complimentary bags are available at Capital Regional District offices. For more information, please call the CRD Hotline 250-360-3030

What is your e-mail address?

We respect your privacy, and will only use your e-mail to send you more information about the pledge to refuse plastic bags. [Sign up for notifications](#)

2. [Tell your friends!](#)

[Learn more about refusing plastic bags >](#)

Be part of the Solution
take another pledge

Privacy of Information
Personal information collected on this site is obtained under the authority of the local government and used to provide the residents of information and education of Prince George. The personal information will be used for subject's promotion of the Plastic Bag Reduction Strategy Campaign. Residents should be advised to use of information is not from our Government by the Transfer of Information and Access to Privacy Commissioner of Communications Services, Capital Regional District, 2008-08-08

1989: CRD Board Motion

- Excerpt of 1989 Minutes:

ENVIRONMENTAL Committee's Report

Victoria, B.C. 3 May 1989

To the Chairman
and Directors of the Capital Regional
District Board:

Your Environment Committee

reports and recommends as follows:

• Degradable Plastic Bags

That the Chairman of the Board write to the Federal and Provincial Ministries of the Environment requesting that ways to encourage the reduction of unnecessary packaging, and promote the use of packaging which can be readily re-used or recycled, be examined.

Plastic bag
creates quandary

Vancouver Council to mull
plastic-bag ban

Court puts Bag Ban on Hold
in Oakland, Calif.

Attention News/Business/Political Editors:

**B.C. industry brings in comprehensive plan on
plastic bags**

- Target 50 per cent reduction in plastic bag use by 2013 -

Seattle's bag
fee may go to
citywide vote

Bomb the ban

Common sense
and plastic bags