

Cache County Plastic Waste Management Program

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Prepared by Bear River Health Department & Logan City Environmental Department

Plastic bags and plastic film are a waste management issue in Cache County.

Litter from loose plastic bags and film impact our community during disposal, transport, and at the landfill and in the recycling process. Plastic is handled multiple times for disposal: from the consumer to the can, the can to the transfer station, transfer station to the landfill (or from recycling center to the transfer station and landfill) and then again it becomes litter. In short:



- State and federal rules prohibit litter surrounding the landfill
- Plastic litter is unsightly in the landscape
- Plastic litter prevents us from being a good neighbor to our community
- Plastic waste litter control is expensive

To combat the plastic waste problem in Cache County, the Solid Waste Advisory Board worked with Logan City Environmental Department and the Bear River Health Department to lay the foundation for a “Plastic Management Program” for Cache County. We want to ensure our community remains a healthy and litter free place to live, work and grow and have taken steps to develop a program that fosters a community effort that engages and coordinates with multiple partnering cities and towns, agencies, businesses, and individuals.

In developing this Plastic Management Program Logan City Environmental Department completed the following:

1. In 2019 the Logan City Environmental Department hired staff to perform a community assessment of bag distribution and retailer assessment of current plastic management in store. It was found that each shopping trip nets an average of 2.5 bag per customer and that in just the few hours we assessed plastic bags there were thousands of shoppers at our major retailers.
2. We have run several comprehensive educational campaigns about plastic bag using the newspaper, and radio and social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram. We have distributed thousands of fliers educating residents about plastic bags in recycling,

partnered with Utah Public Radio on bag education, and promotion of reusable bags is ongoing. We also hosted reusable bag making clinic and distributed more than 2,000 bags at retailers throughout Cache County. These programs are ongoing. Pre-pandemic we met with dozens of schools and community groups to discuss the difficulties in plastic waste management in the waste disposal industry.

3. We held meetings with manufactures and retailers in Cache County to discuss plastic waste reduction and management. Our goal was to work with retailers to formulate a plastic bag reduction program as part of plastic waste management.
 - a. 28 manufacturers were invited to a meeting, 10 attended. None expressed real concerns. 5 submitted agreements at the time, two with retail outlets (In attendance were: EliTech Group, Gossners, Schreibers, TTM, Reynolds, JBS, Central Milling, Pepperidge, Inovar, Lower Foods).
 - b. 100 retailers were invited, 17 attended. Their concern was that they wanted a level playing field so that all retailers had to do the same thing to comply. They expressed a preference for a \$0.10 fee across the board for both paper and plastic bags and a county wide proposal. (In attendance were: Associated Foods, Macey's, Lee's, Al's, JoAnn's, Best Buy, Dollar Tree, Staples, TJ Maxx, Global Village Gifts, Anderson's Seed & Garden, Kroger, The Home Depot, Smiths Marketplace, Ross, Smiths, CAL Ranch, JC Penney (plus 3-5 corporate contacts and 2 other businesses who agree to participate).



As a result of the above-mentioned outreach and education efforts, Logan City Environmental Department is hereby adopting the following Plastic Waste Management Program, effective January 1, 2022:

Pre-consumer Plastic Reduction Requirements:

- **Option 1:** Recycling. Businesses will implement plastic bag/film recycling at their facility and provide reports quarterly.
- **Option 2:** Containment. Businesses will bundle bags sufficiently before being disposed of with the garbage so that plastic bag waste cannot blow at the landfill or transfer station or from the trucks.

Retailer Plastic Reduction Requirements:

- **Option 1:** Retailers will eliminate free single use plastic bags, or implement an approved recycling program.
- **Option 2:** Retailers will provide plastic bags only if the retailer charges a \$0.10 fee per bag supplied (retailer keeps revenue).

Note: Some businesses may need to meet both the Pre -consumer and Retailer plastic reduction requirements.

Business entities who do not implement this Plastic Waste Management Plan will be charged \$17.50/ton special handling fee for waste they generate (or \$1.09/yard/pickup) over their existing garbage rates based on volume or tonnage (depending on how the customer is billed) after one written warning. Revenue from all special handling fees will be used for litter management.