



AGENDA

**City Council Work Session
Monday, July 27, 2026
Council Chambers
(following the Regular Meeting at 6 p.m.)**

1. Discussion of Adding a Plastic Bag Fee.
2. City Assessment Manual Revisions.
3. Adjournment



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

City Council Work Session

1.

Meeting Date: 07/27/2026

Agenda Item:

Discussion of Adding a Plastic Bag Fee.

Recommendation/Action(s):

Provide direction.

Summary:

Mankato Zero Waste has requested a discussion regarding adopting an ordinance adding a fee for plastic bags. Following the presentation and discussion, the Council should provide direction on any next steps.

Attachments

Presentation
Duluth Ordinance
Edina Ordinance
Health Harm
Beyond Plastics
Resolution

Plastic Pollution: A Global Challenge, A Community Opportunity



Jane Dow
Mankato Area Zero Waste
Beyond Plastics Mankato Area



Overview

- The Problem – Global Plastic Pollution
- Why Should You Care?
- Taking Action: What Can We Do?
- Why Should We Do It?
- Next Steps

LOCAL ACTION. GLOBAL IMPACT.

Small choices in our community create a cleaner, healthier planet.

The Problem: Global Plastic Pollution

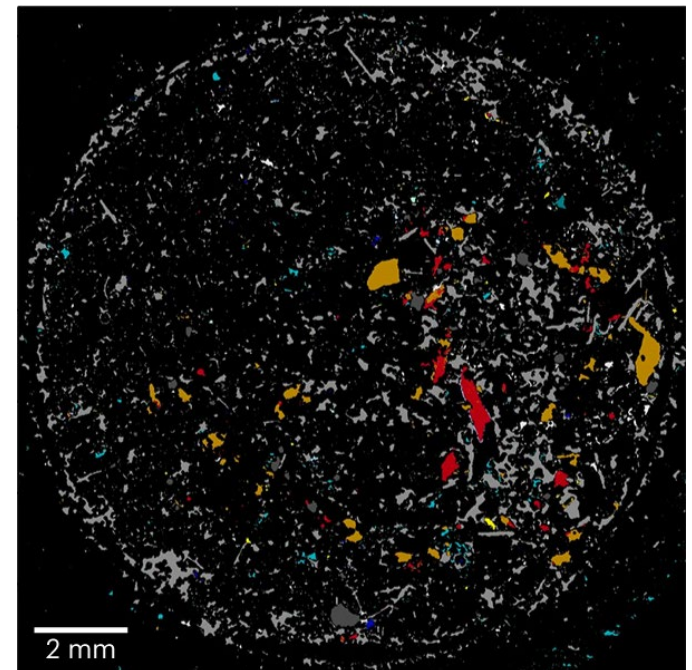
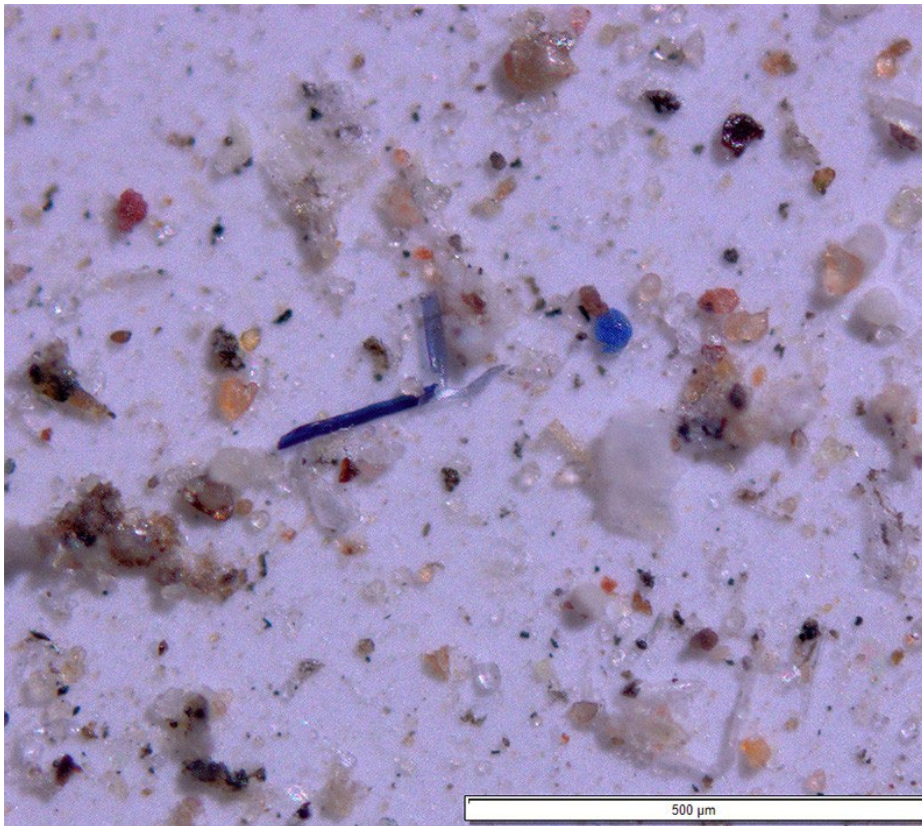
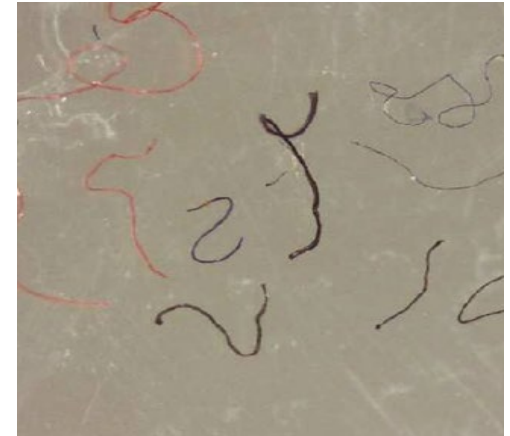
Nearly 9 billion tons of plastic have been produced since 1950.

Plastic is made from fossil fuels – mainly ethane and 16,000 chemical additives.



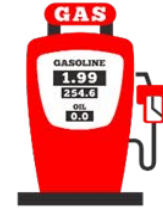
- Plastics never completely break down.
- Microplastics - smaller than five millimeters (about the size of a pencil eraser).
- Nanoplastics - the size of a bacterium or virus and not visible to the naked eye

Microfilaments - upholstery, carpet, clothing

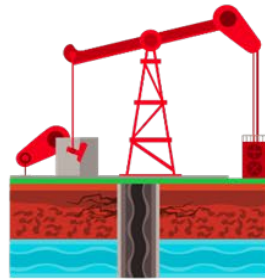


What's The Petrochemical Industry Thinking?

PLAN A



PLAN B



By 2021, 85% of the new power built ran on renewable energy.

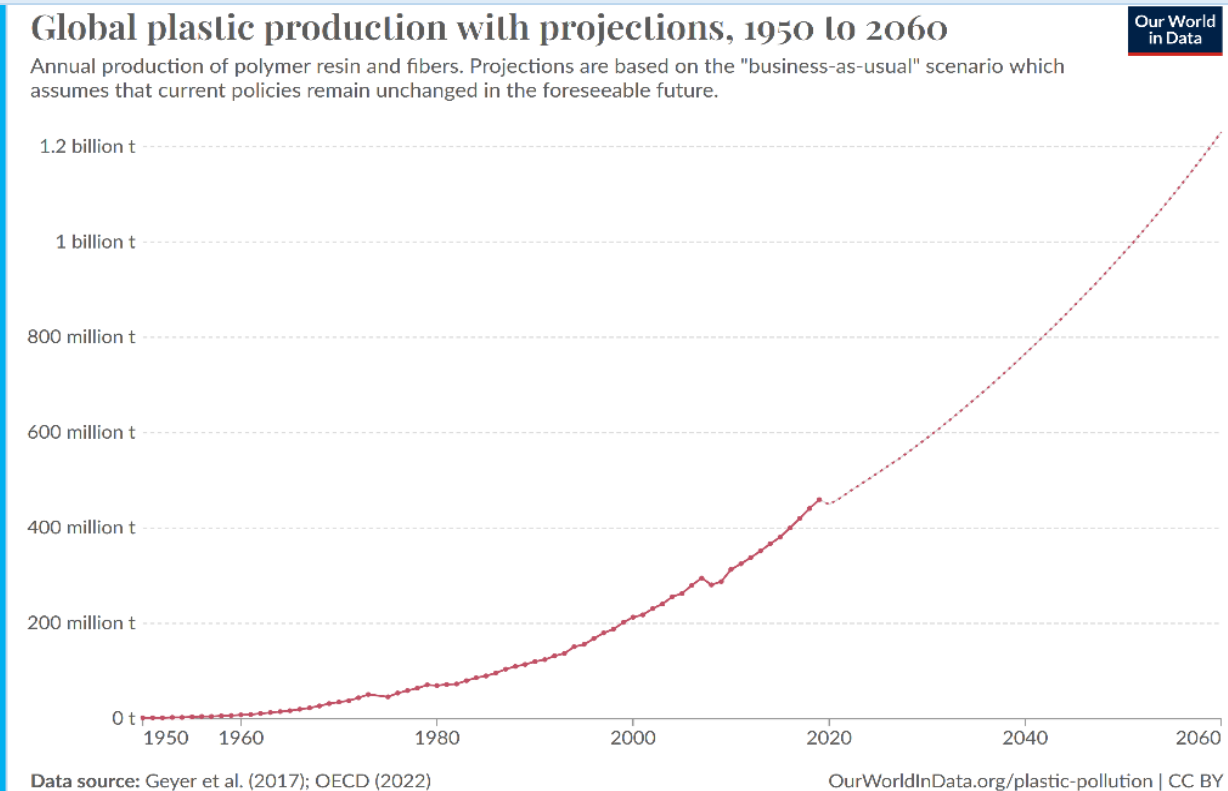
Solar costs fell by 90% over the past decade and solar is now widely used.

Electric cars, solar, wind and geothermal energy have caused fossil fuel demand to fall.

Plastic is the Oil & Gas industry's Plan B. They see 80 percent of their growth potential as "dependent on single-use plastics applications."

Unfortunately, their Plan B means game over on climate for all of us if we allow it to move forward.

Production will triple by 2060 to 1.2 billion metric tons



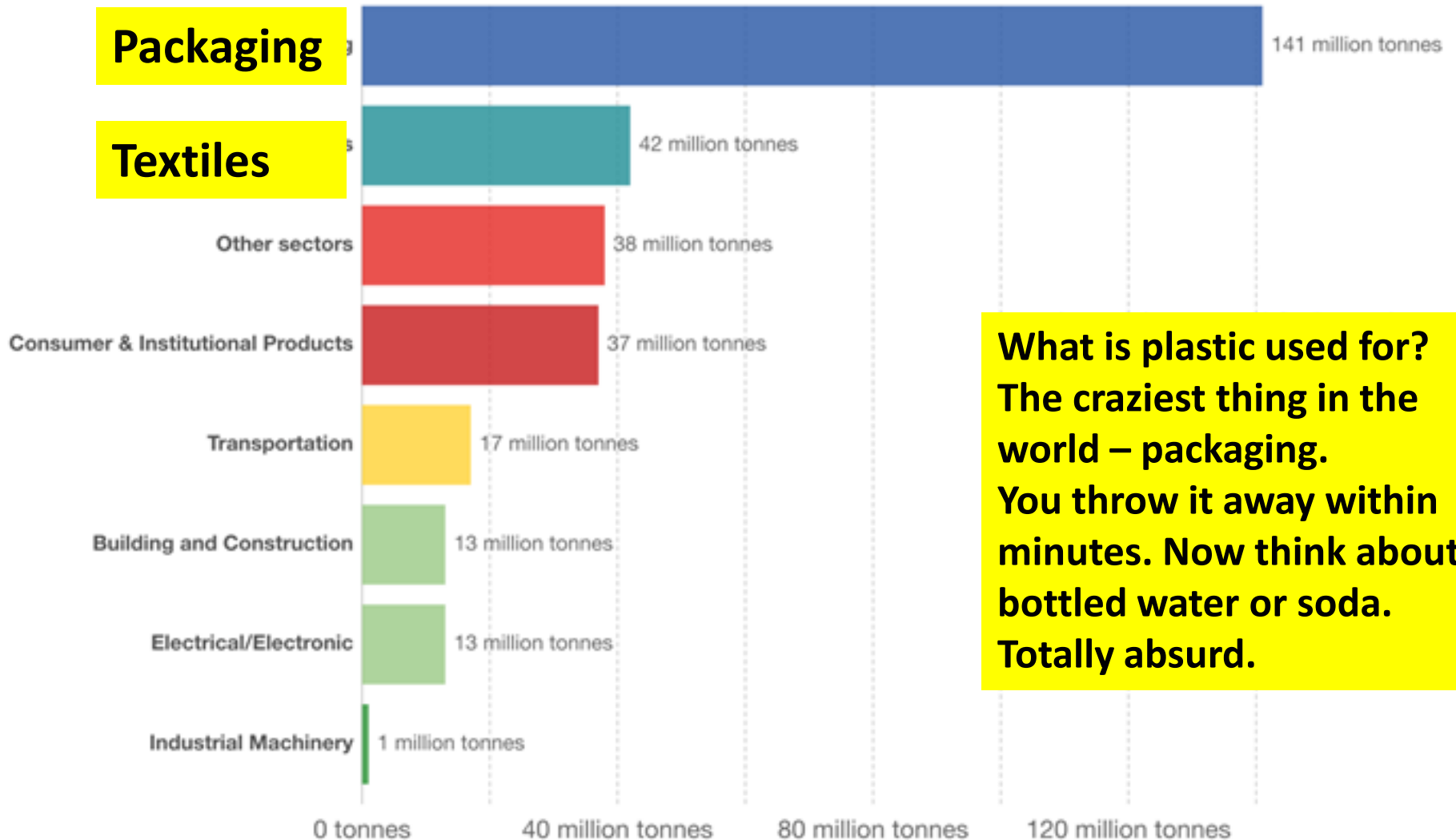
- World production - over 460 million metric tons of plastic in 2019.
- 52 million metric tons a year of plastic pollution, enough to fill New York's Central Park with plastic waste as high as the Empire State Building – expected to triple by 2060.
- U.S. the plastic industry emissions - **32 million tons of GHG a year equal to CO2 emissions from 50 million cars and predicted to outpace coal emissions by 2030.**
- **By 2050, world GHG emissions 15 to 20% of the remaining carbon budget.**

40% OF PRODUCTION IS THROWAWAY PACKAGING

Plastic waste generation by industrial sector, 2015

Global plastic waste generation by industrial sector, measured in tonnes per year.

Our World
in Data



**What is plastic used for?
The craziest thing in the
world – packaging.
You throw it away within
minutes. Now think about
bottled water or soda.
Totally absurd.**

Why Should You Care?

“The level of scientific certainty is absolute. **that plastic causes disease, disability, premature death, economic damage and damage to ecosystems at every stage of its life cycle (\$1.5 trillion in health care costs in 2015).**

If we don't stop releasing these pollutants into our environment now, we may **pass the tipping point that would cause eco-system collapse, making continued life on earth tenuous.”**

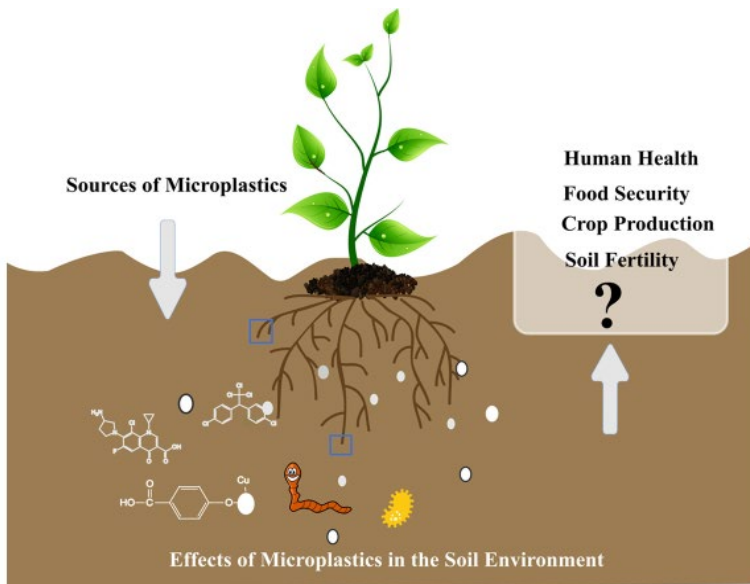
- **Dr. Philip Landrigan**, renowned Epidemiologist and Pediatrician, Professor & Chair Emeritus of Environmental Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



16 to 32 million tons per year



Microplastic in Plants



10 to 25 million tons enter the ocean yearly,
equal to about 2 dump trucks a minute.

(www.beyondplastics.org)

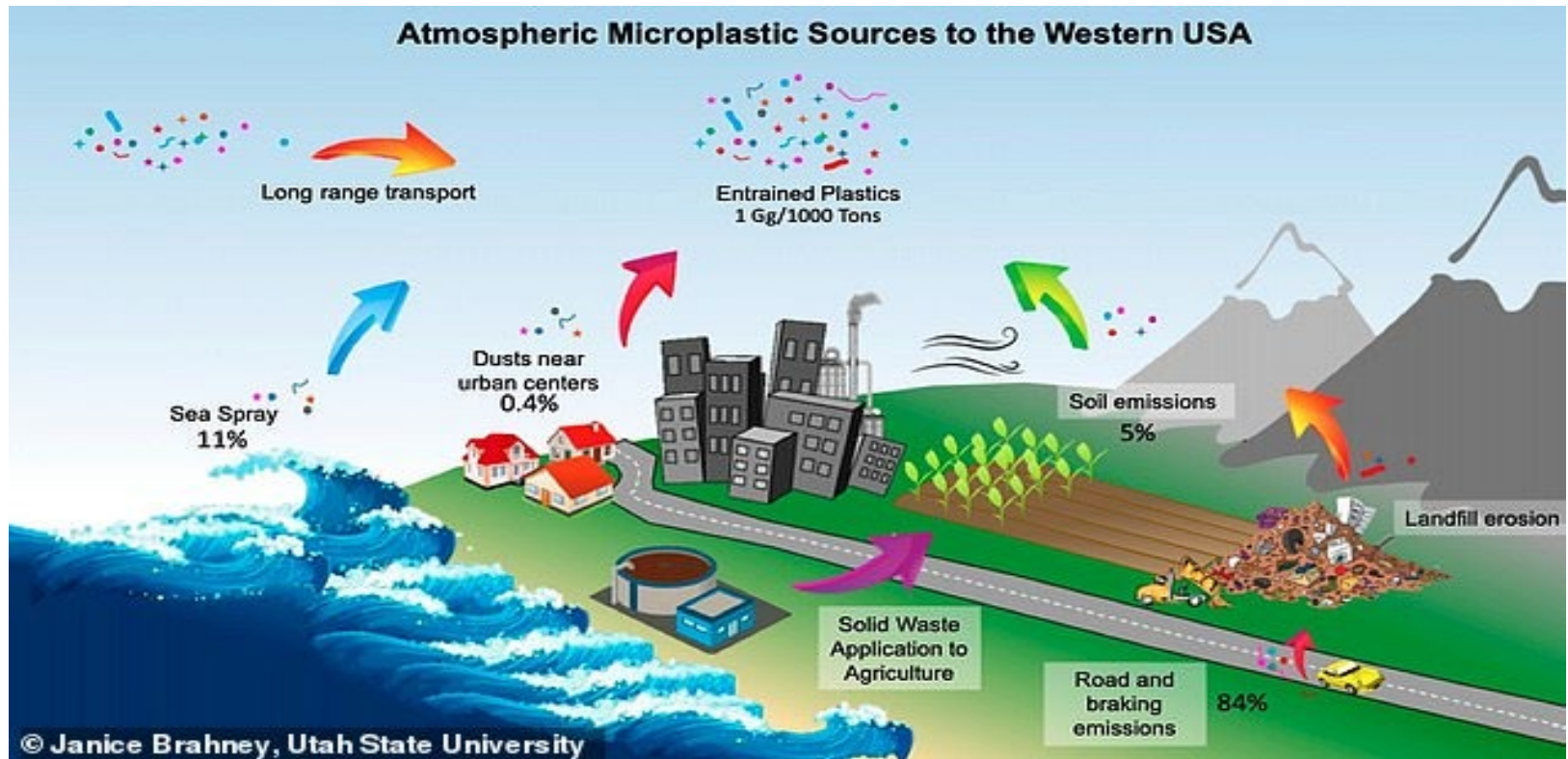


Albatross feeding chick plastic on the Atoll Islands north of Hawaii

100 million marine animals die a year,
1000 turtles die yearly from entanglement



Microplastics are carried by dust globally.



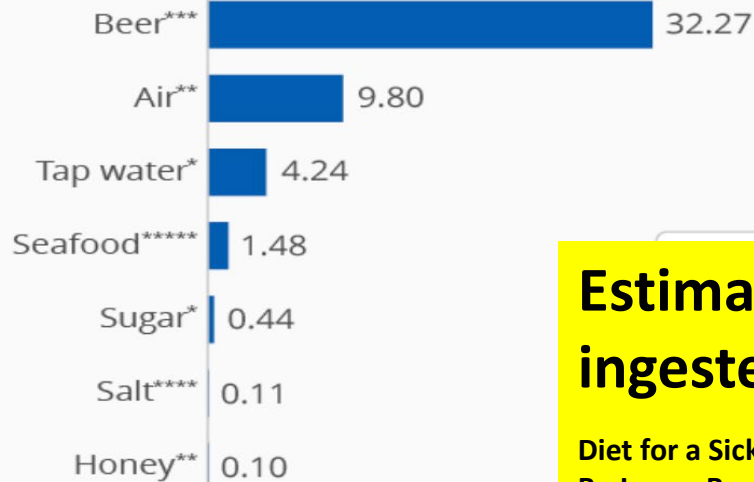
We breathe in 272 microplastics a day from plastic carried in dust from:

- Tires on the road
- Agricultural soil
- Sea spray

MICROPLASTICS IN FOOD AND DRINKS

Average number of microplastic particles found per gram/liter/m³ of selected consumables

Bottled water



* Based on 1 study
** Based on 2 studies
*** Based on 3 studies
**** Based on 4 studies
***** Based on 14 studies



Source: 'Human Consumption of Microplastics', Cox et al.
in Environmental Science & Technology (2019)

**Estimated annual microplastic particles
ingested or inhaled per person 3.8 million**

Diet for a Sick Planet: Studies Find More Plastic in Our Food and Bottled Water
By James Bruggers, January 10, 2024

<https://www.consumerreports.org/health/food-contaminants/the-plastic-chemicals-hiding-in-your-food-a7358224781/>

statista

250,000 to 500,000 nanoplastics per liter of bottled water
Stop drinking bottled water to protect your health.

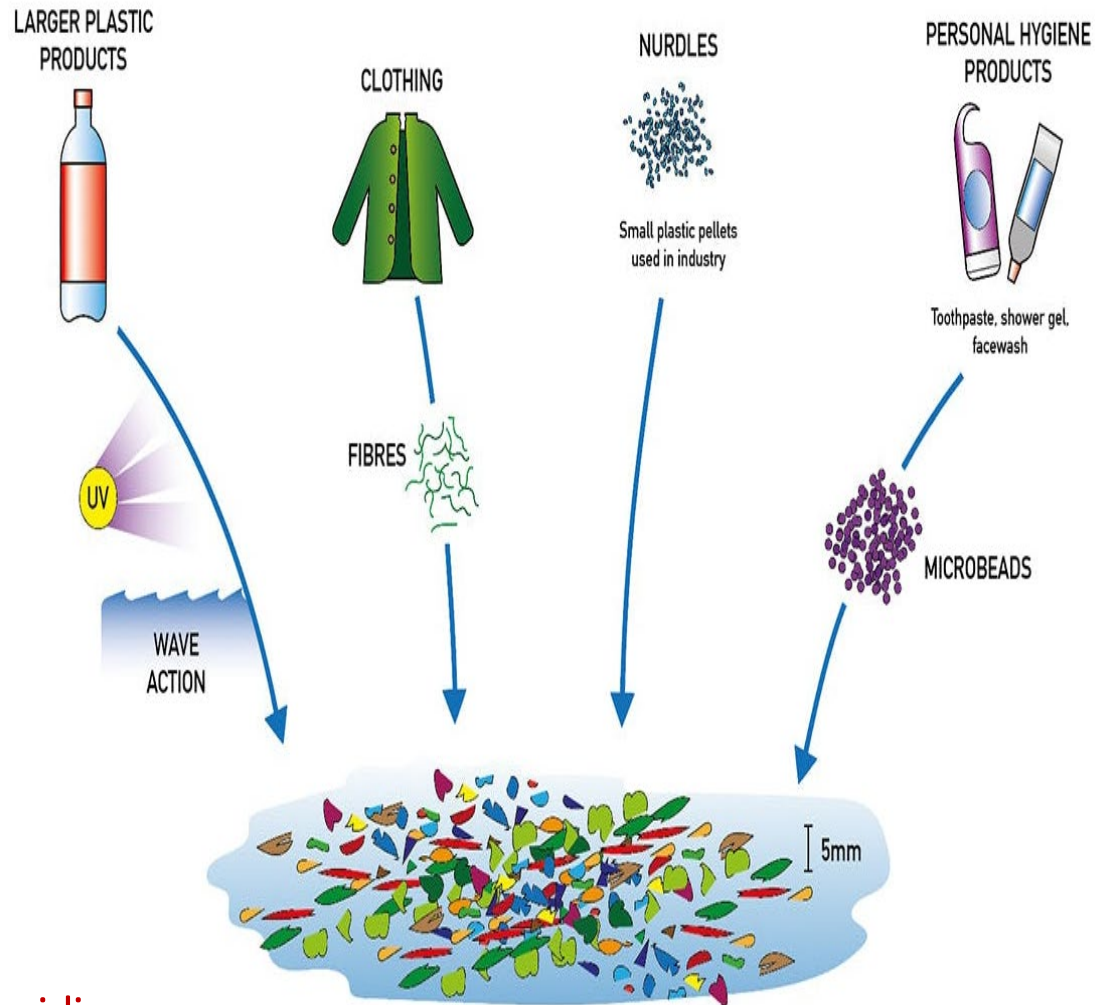
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-08/bottled-water-contains-previously-undetected-nanoplastics>

Microplastics in Our Homes

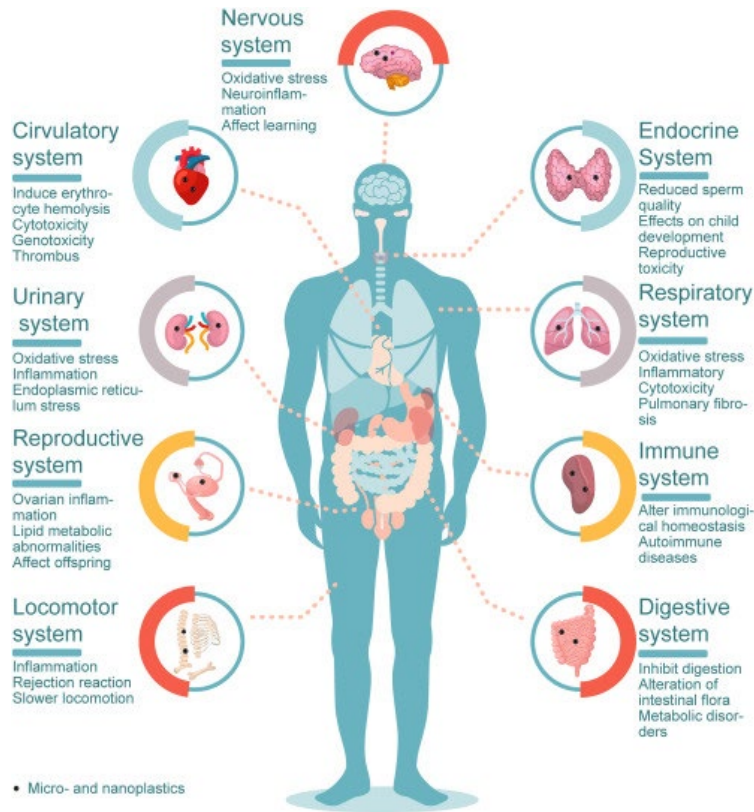
Food containers
Beverage bottles
Plastic wrap
Cleaning supplies
Polyester clothing
Polyester textiles
Paints
Vinyl Flooring and siding
Shower curtains
Polyester Carpets & furniture

Replace with:

Glass or steel containers
Compostable bags
Aluminum foil wrap or plate
Baking soda and vinegar
Cotton, linen and wool clothing
Clay paint
Cork, bamboo or wood flooring
Cotton or linen shower curtain
Cotton or wool carpets
Wood, metal, concrete or stucco siding



NANOPLASTICS EFFECTS IN OUR BODIES



Cancer – [National Institute of Health, Sept 2022](#)

Intestinal diseases - lowered immune system – damage to mucous lining and bacterial flora
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9552327/>

Inflammatory bowel disease -
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34935363/>

Alzheimer's disease – incr. nanoplastics in brain
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/dementia-are-microplastics-accumulating-in-our-brains-a-risk-factor>

Parkinson's disease
<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/nanoplastics-may-help-set-stage-parkinson-s-risk>

Strokes and heart attacks – higher levels of microplastics in artery plaque
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2309822>

Infertility – decline in sperm quality and quantity
<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2024/6/14/plastic-harms-mens-fertility-how-to-protect-your-health>

Learning disabilities – damage to hippocampus memory center
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304389422002199>

Over 16,000 chemicals are intentionally added

PLASTIC CHEMICAL SAMPLER

CHEMICAL GROUP Example	WHAT THEY DO	PRODUCT TYPE	HEALTH HARMS
BISPHENOLS & PHTHALATES PLASTICIZERS "Everywhere chemicals" "BPA-free" does not mean safe. Industry replaces BPA with other toxic bisphenols.	BISPHENOLS #3, #7 Makes plastic clear, rigid, shatterproof	BISPHENOLS Plastic drink bottles, polycarbonate & other containers, clamshells, baby bottles, sippy cups	Pseudo-POP: We eliminate them (through urine) but get daily exposures so we have a constant body-store of them. - EDC, Obesogen - Metabolic Disruptor - Reproductive Disruptor - Neuro-Disruptor - Cardiovascular Disruptor - Carcinogen
	PHTHALATES #3 Makes plastic clear, soft, supple & flexible	PHTHALATES Plastic wrap & bags, shower curtains, toys	POP - EDC, Obesogen - Metabolic Disruptor - Reproductive Disruptor - Neuro-Disruptor - Cardiovascular Disruptor - Carcinogen
PFAS/PFOA PLASTIC COATINGS - Slippery, shiny, non-stick chemicals "Forever Chemicals"	- Makes food packaging & synthetic (plastic) textiles WATER & GREASE RESISTANT - Keeps plastic from sticking to machinery	Lining of cans, cups, fast food packaging, take-out containers, water bottles,, condiment packets, chip & snack bags, paper and plastic wrappers; textiles	POP - EDC, Obesogen - Metabolic Disruptor - Reproductive Disruptor - Neuro-Disruptor - Cardiovascular Disruptor - Carcinogen
FLAME RETARDANTS	Prevents plastic from catching fire	Almost all products	POP EDC & same as above. Lowered I.Q.
HEAVY METALS - Lead - Mercury - Cadmium and others	- Adds color! - Makes plastic soft, pliable - Catalyzes (kick starts) other chemical reactions used to make plastic	Almost all products	- Neurotoxin Lower IQ, Learning & attention, psych & behavioral disorders - Carcinogen

RECYCLING IS A MYTH

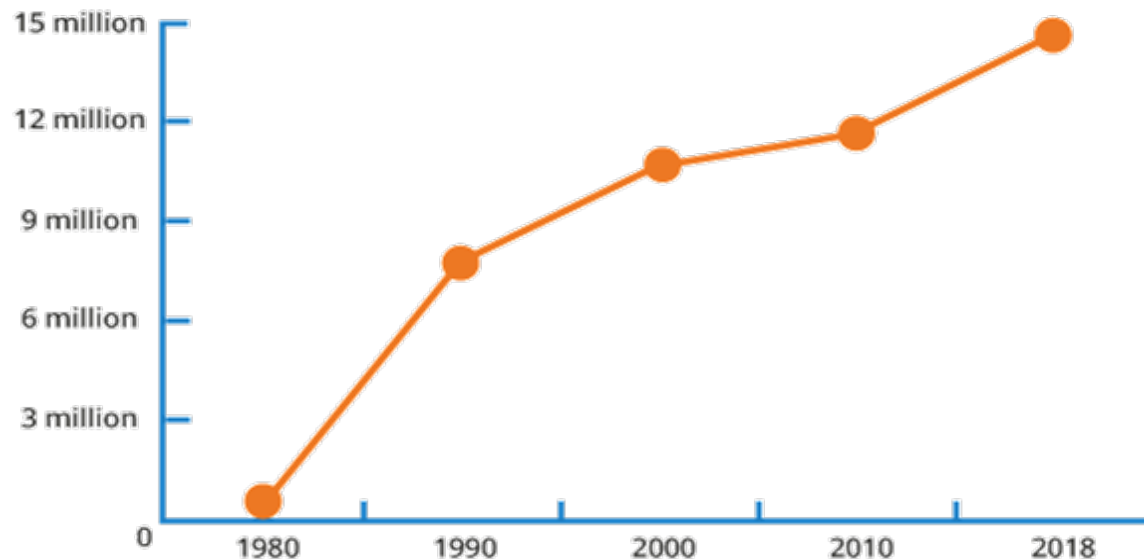


- A U.S. recycling plant creates about 400,000 tons of microplastics a year = about 29,000 dump trucks of microplastics.
- We shipped 1.4 billion pounds of plastic trash overseas in 2020 (50% of our throwaway plastic).

(www.beyondplastics.org)

The Plastics Industry's Continued Expansion Threatens Our Ability to Avoid Climate Crisis

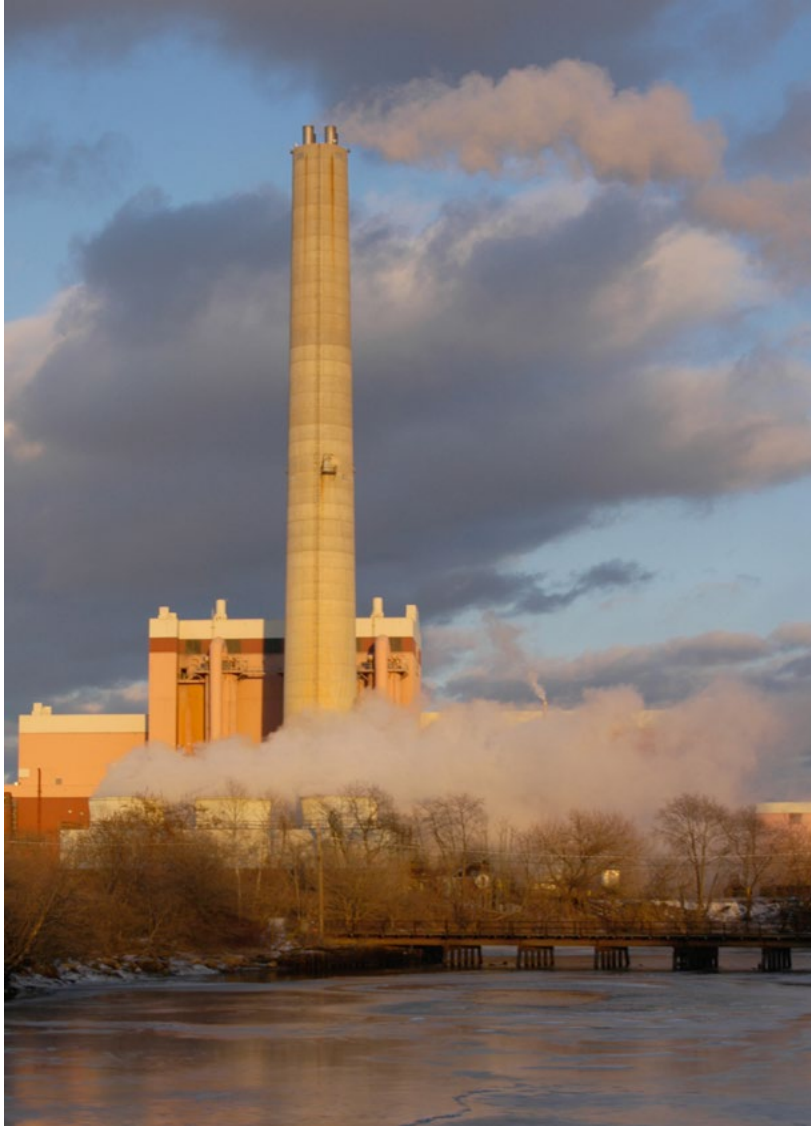
CO2E RELEASED FROM U.S. PLASTIC WASTE INCINERATION MEASURED IN TONS



It has the highest climate impact of any waste management.

12% is burned in 66 incinerators emitting toxic pollution = 14 million tons of CO2 a year = 1.6 million cars driven for a year

Chemical Recycling Is Not the Answer!



- Turns plastic into dirty diesel fuel, chemicals and gases
- Toxic emissions – dioxin, Benzene, GHG, carcinogens and other toxic emissions
- Only about 15% of plastic collected turned into plastics.
- Health effects - cancer, nervous system, reproductive, developmental, organ damage.
- Only recycle 1.3 % of plastics
- Projects, if built, could emit more than 18 million tons of greenhouse gases per year.

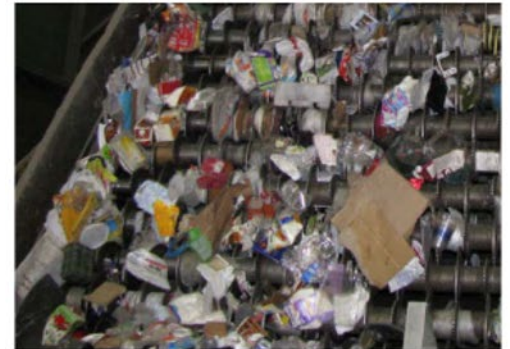
Taking Action: What Can We Do?

Reduce Local Plastic & Other Waste

For starters, target local sources of plastic waste – SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS.

- 1) Reduce litter in streets, parks, waterways, and stormwater systems.
- 2) Reduce waste.
 - Minnesotans throw away 87,000 tons of plastic bags each year. Less than 5% of plastic bags are recycled.
- 3) Improve efficiency of recycling centers.
 - Recycling centers spend 4-6 hours a day removing plastic bags from equipment.
- 4) Life-cycle environmental impacts.
 - Takes 500 to 1000 years to break down, releasing ethylene and methane, both toxic gases.

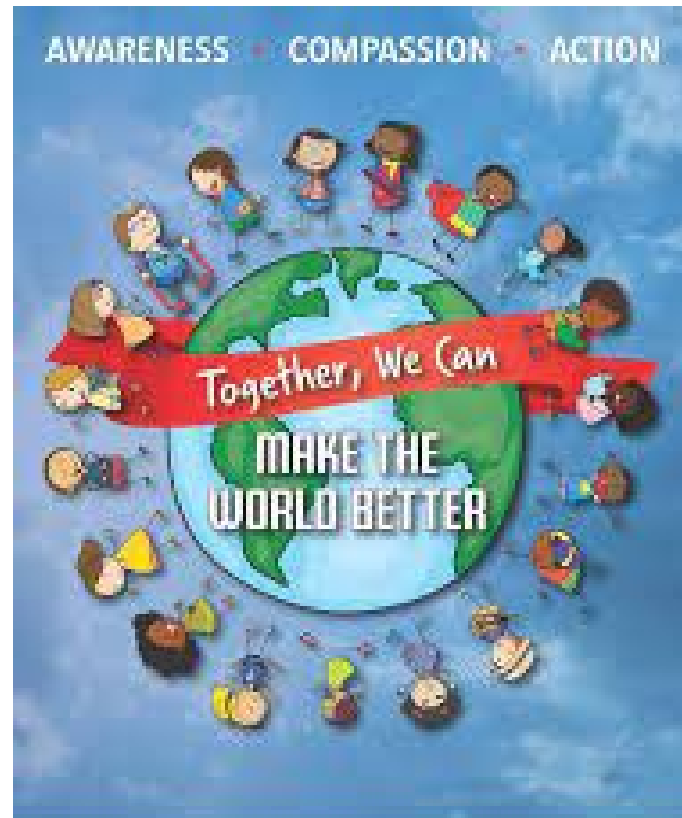
Impose local **DISPOSABLE CARRYOUT BAG FEE.**



Why Should We Do It?

A majority of Americans (85%) think that plastic waste pollution is a serious problem that requires immediate political action to solve.

We have gathered 500 Mankato signatures on a resolution to put a fee on plastic bags and skip the stuff.



Why Put a Fee on Disposable Carryout Bags?

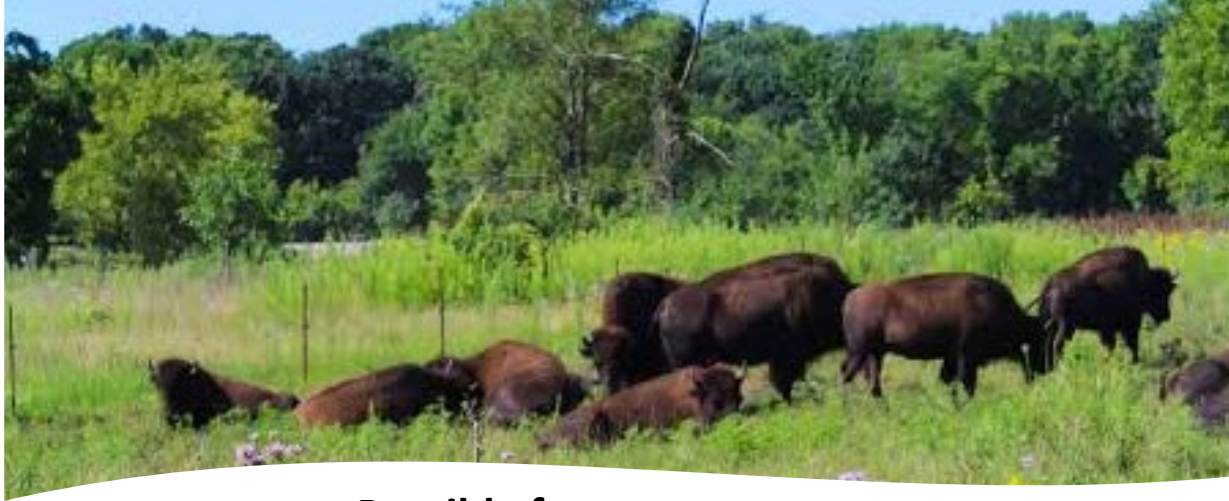
- Curb local plastic pollution.
 - Plastic bags are one of the top five items found during beach and river cleanups.
 - Plastic bags clog sewer drains and recycling equipment, and result in microplastics in our water supply.
 - Environment Minnesota Research and Policy Center tested 40 Minnesota lakes, rivers and streams and found microplastics in everyone of them, including Blue Earth River, Minnesota River and Lake Crystal.
<https://minnesotareformer.com/briefs/report-found-microplastics-in-minnesota-rivers-lakes-in-all-samples-tested/>
<https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/MNE-Microplastics-Report-Oct25-1.1.pdf>
- Create additional revenue stream for City and local businesses.
- Spread awareness of plastic pollution harms.
- Support local waste-reduction and education programs.
- *Lead the way!*



BAG FEE FACTS

- Over 200 counties and municipalities, plus 12 U.S. states and several U.S. territories, have bag fees or bans.
- 101 countries have bag bans, with varying degrees of enforcement, and 32 countries have bag fees.
- Bag fees range from 5 to 25 cents.
- In Minneapolis, wholesale bag costs are 1.5 to 2.5 cents per plastic bag, and 3 to 5 cents per paper grocery bag. After the fee, the net profit per bag is approximately 2.5 to 3.5 cents. On paper bags, businesses break-even or have a very small profit/loss.
- Minneapolis, Duluth, and Edina charge 5 cents for carryout bags.
- Bag use has dropped an average of 65 to 85% in locations with bag fees.





Mankato characteristics that make community-led environmental change possible:

1. Engaged citizens
2. Strong local institutions
3. Thriving downtown
4. Commitment to protect the places people love

Possible fee:

- Customers are charged 10 cents for every disposable check out bag they receive. 4 cents is retained by the retailer to offset implementation and administration costs. 6 cents is remitted to the City each quarter. The fee applies to all retail stores.

Possible Exemptions:

- Reusable bags
- Produce bags
- Bags for meat, fish, bakery items, and bulk foods
- Pharmacy bags
- Dry-cleaning and garment bags
- Small paper bags (such as many lunch sacks)
- Customers participating in federal or state food assistance programs (such as SNAP or WIC)

REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAILERS

- Charge the required fee on applicable bags.
- Display signs informing customers of the fee.
- Show the number of disposable bags and total fee on customer receipts.
- Submit the city's share of the fee each quarter.
- Use paper checkout bags that are 100% recyclable and contain at least 40% post-consumer recycled content.

CITY'S USE OF REVENUE

- Purchasing and distributing reusable bags
- Public education and outreach
- Community cleanup events
- Waste reduction initiatives
- Recycling and litter-prevention infrastructure
- Reducing impacts to stormwater systems
- Administration and enforcement of the ordinance

SAMPLE PROFITS FROM BAG FEES

- Washington D.C. - 5-cent fee since 2009 - \$1.8 million to \$2 million annually - Businesses remitted \$1,783,172.25 to the city in 2024 - 75% of residents used fewer bags - The money goes to a river cleanup fund.
- Fairfax County Virginia – 5 cent bag fee since 2022 - 7 million fewer bags have been used –The \$10 million in revenue funds environmental education programs, pollution and litter mitigation and cleanup efforts, and the distribution of reusable bags to residents in need.
- Denver, CO - 10-cent bag fee since 2021 generated – 211 million fewer bags (300 bags per resident) - \$5.76 million in revenue over 3 years - The city kept 6 cents per bag, utilizing the funds for free reusable bag programs, recycling, and composting services; Denver offering up to \$600 worth of reusable service ware, such as plates, cups and cutlery to small retail businesses and a reusable cup program for large events to switch from disposable cups to reusable ones.
- Boulder, Colorado – 10 cent fee since 2012 - 70% reduction in plastic bag use - By 2018, \$1 million in revenue which was reinvested into waste-reduction and environmental programs like purchasing reusable bags for the community and food banks; compostable bin liners for businesses; community education
- Edina – 5 cent bag fee since 2025, \$124,062 in collected fees – Businesses keep the fee.

POTENTIAL START UP COSTS

1. **Legal and Ordinance Drafting (\$2,000 - \$5,000)** Staff Time: City Council and city attorney hours required to draft the ordinance text, hold public hearings, and formally adopt the policy. Precedent Savings: Mankato can heavily reduce this cost by mirroring existing, tested ordinance language from Edina's Carryout Bag Fee policy or Minneapolis's "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance.
2. **Public Education & Business Outreach (\$5,000 - \$12,000)**
3. **Retailer Toolkits (\$3,000 - \$6,000):** Creating and distributing physical and digital packets to Mankato's retail, grocery, and dining establishments. These kits include point-of-sale register signage explaining the fee to customers.
4. **Community Awareness (\$2,000 - \$5,500):** Designing a dedicated city webpage with FAQs, running local press releases, and collaborating with local environmental groups like Mankato Area Zero Waste to distribute free reusable bags to low-income residents.
5. **Translation Services (\$500 - \$1,000):** Translating compliance materials into multiple languages to support Mankato's diverse business owners and residents.
6. **Compliance Setup & Administration (\$1,000 - \$6,000)**
7. **Database Updates (\$1,000 - \$3,000):** Modifying existing city business licensing systems to log which retailers are subject to the fee and tracking initial compliance certifications.
8. **Enforcement Integration (\$0 - \$3,000):** Mankato does not need to hire new staff. Enforcement is typically integrated into the routine workloads of existing environmental health inspectors or code compliance officers or fire inspector or business license renewals. Start-up costs are limited to creating standard warning letters and fine schedules for non-compliant businesses.

CASE STUDY: Duluth Fee Enforcement Details

The enforcement mechanism is a warning followed by a fine.

The warning process is driven by citizen reports of retailer noncompliance or routine fire department inspections

Compliance is easily verified by bag cost appearing on sales receipts.

The incentive for retailers is cost savings in not having to buy bags and their desire to be good environmental stewards.

Many businesses want to do the right thing and this evens the playing field when all are required to do the right thing.

Bag Fees are widespread and growing

Bag fees are now widespread throughout the U.S. Many multistate retailers such as Walgreens, CVS, Target, Walmart, Barnes and Noble and Home Depot already charge for plastic bags in many geographic areas, so their cash registers and software systems are preprogrammed and ready for when their city or state adopts the bag fee.

At the World Economic Forum, delegates said, “Millions have realized that it’s easy to live without plastic bags, get used to bringing a bag from home, or skipping a bag.”



- **Saves money** – Giving out straws, utensils and condiments upon request reduces costs and saves the restaurant owner money and taxpayers money by reducing waste disposal. Restaurants spend \$19 billion purchasing disposable food ware every year and local governments spend \$1 billion managing waste and cleaning litter.
- **Attracts new customers** – People want to go to restaurants who don't use plastic and want to reduce plastic pollution.
- **Protects the planet** – Restaurants have a big role to play in reducing plastic pollution that is harming our health and the planet.



**Plastic utensils, straws and
condiments on request only please**



Thank you!



Next Steps

Develop Ordinance & Implementation Plan

- 1) Connect with stakeholders to facilitate collaborative process and engage the community and local organizations.
- 2) Identify model policies/ordinances.
- 3) Draft ordinance and supporting materials.
 - Requires consideration of definitions, exemptions, enforcement methods, tracking, collection of fees, etc.
- 4) Adopt ordinance.
- 5) Prepare for implementation.
 - Educating businesses, communicating to local residents, distributing reusable bags, etc.
- 6) Implement.
- 7) Use revenue to support local sustainability initiatives.

Thank you!

Section 24-39. Findings of fact and statement of purpose

(a) The Duluth city council finds as follows:

1. Single use carryout bags are polluting city waterways and sewers, endangering wildlife, contributing to climate change, and causing unsightly litter; and
2. Single use carryout bags clog storm-water drains; and
3. Plastic single use carryout bags last for many years in community landfills and are a potential source of harmful chemical pollution; and
4. It is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of Duluth to reduce the cost to the city of litter clean up and solid waste disposal and to protect our environment and our natural resources by reducing the distribution of single use carryout bags and incentivizing the use of reusable bags in the city.

(b) The purpose of this Article is to reduce cost of litter clean up and waste disposal and to improve the environment of Duluth by encouraging the use of reusable carryout bags by imposing a pass through fee on single use carryout bags for retail checkout of purchased goods.

Section 24-40. Definitions

(a) Carryout bag. Carryout bag means a plastic bag that is provided by a retail establishment at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. Carryout bags do not include the following:

1. Any bag without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats, other food items or merchandise to the point of sale inside a store or to prevent such items from coming into direct contact with other purchase items;
2. Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs;
3. Bags used to transport take-out foods and prepared liquids intended for consumption away from the retail establishment;
4. Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry-dry cleaning bags, bags used to protect fine art paper or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags; or
5. Bags made out of paper.

(b) Pass-through charge. Pass-through charge means a charge to be collected by retailers from their customers when providing carryout bags and retained by retailers to offset the cost of bags and other costs related to the pass-through charge.

(c) Retail establishment. A retail establishment means any person, corporation, partnership, business venture, public sports or entertainment facilities, government agency, street vendor or vendor at public events or festivals or organizations that sell or provide merchandise, goods, or materials including, without limitation, clothing, food, beverages, household goods, or personal items of any kind directly to a customer. Not-for-profit organizations, food banks and other food assistance programs are not considered to be retail establishment for the purposes of this section.

Section 24-41. Pass-through charge

(a) Retail establishments shall collect a pass-through charge of not less than five cents for each carryout bag provided to customers. It shall be a violation of this section for any retail establishment to pay or otherwise reimburse a customer for any portion of the pass-through charge. All retail establishment shall indicate on the customer's transaction receipt the number of carryout bags provided and the total amount of the pass-through charge.

(b) No retail establishment shall collect a pass through charge for items purchased by any person using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program funds as full or partial payment.

(c) No retail establishment shall charge a pass through fee or prevent a customer from using a bag of any kind that the customer brought for the purposes of carrying goods from such business establishment.

Section 24-42. Signage

Retail establishment must post signage clearly indicating the per bag charge for carryout bags.

Section 24-43. Enforcement and Penalties

(a) The city clerk shall be authorized to assist with the enforcement of the provisions of this article. Violations of this article may be enforced as administrative offenses pursuant to Chapter 12 of the Duluth City Code. This article may also be enforced by injunction, abatement, mandamus, or any other appropriate civil, administrative or criminal remedy in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) A fine may be imposed upon any retail establishment that has provided a carryout bag to a customer in violation of this Article, as follows:

1. A fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a first violation;
2. A fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a second violation within one year of the first violation; and;
3. A fine not exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for a third violation and subsequent violations within one year of the second or greater violation.

(c) In the event of a continuing violation, each day such offense continues shall constitute a separate additional violation .

(d) If a retail establishment does not violate this Article for one year, a new violation will be considered a first violation.

(Ord. No. 10662, 11-25-2019)

ARTICLE XIV. CARRYOUT BAGS PROVIDED BY MERCHANTS TO CUSTOMERS

Sec. 20-643. Findings and purpose.

For the promotion of health, safety, order, convenience and general welfare of the public, the City finds that disposable carryout bag production and pollution pose a threat to our land, water, and air on a local, regional, and global scale. The purpose of this Article is to reduce this threat by reducing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions from disposable carryout bags, meeting City Climate Action Plan goals related to waste reduction and elimination of petroleum-based single-use products in Edina, and inspiring merchant and consumer behavior change.

(Ord. No. 2023-18, § 1, 10-17-2023)

Sec. 20-644. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Carryout bag means a paper, plastic, or similar bag that is provided by a merchant at the check-out stand, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment.

Carryout bags include:

- (1) plastic bags;
- (2) Compostable plastic bags;
- (3) Paper bags; and
- (4) Reusable bags

Carryout bags do not include:

- (1) Produce and bulk good bags;
- (2) Baked goods bags;
- (3) Dry cleaning bags;
- (4) Newspaper and doorhanger bags;
- (5) Secondhand bags;
- (6) Flower wrap bags;
- (7) Prescription drug bags;
- (8) Bags brought by a customer; and
- (9) Bags used as prepared packaging for retail goods

Merchant means any person, corporation, partnership, business venture, public sports or entertainment facilities, street vendor or vendor at public events or festivals or organizations that sell or provide merchandise, goods, or materials including, without limitation, clothing, household goods, or personal items of any kind directly to a customer. This includes entities that meet the definition of "retail" as defined by Edina City Code. Food banks and other food assistance programs are not considered to be merchants for the purposes of this section.

Pass-through charge means a charge to be collected by merchants from their customers when providing carryout bags, and retained by merchants to be used at their discretion.

Point-of-sale system means a cash register, credit card machine, or other device that can be programmed or is capable of being used to itemize purchases including a description and/or cost for each item, which can calculate sales tax, add applicable fees, or which is capable of generating sale reports.

(Ord. No. 2023-18, § 2, 10-17-2023)

Sec. 20-645. Carryout bag requirements.

- (a) Merchants shall collect a pass-through charge of not less than five cents for each carryout bag provided to customers. It shall be a violation of this section for any merchant to pay or otherwise reimburse a customer for any portion of the pass-through charge. All merchants shall indicate on the customer transaction receipt the number of carryout bags provided and the total amount of the pass-through charge. Merchants may use the revenue from the five-cent charge at their discretion.
- (b) Merchants shall provide, upon annual request by the City, a report identifying the number and value of the carryout bag fees charged to customers.

(Ord. No. 2023-18, § 3, 10-17-2023)

Sec. 20-646. Exceptions.

Merchants are not required to collect a pass-through charge from anyone with a voucher or electronic benefits card issued under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) support programs, or the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as Basic Food), or a recognized Minnesota food assistance program.

(Ord. No. 2023-18, § 4, 10-17-2023)

Sec. 20-647. Exemptions.

The charge shall not apply when the merchant is a government agency, or to entities that meet the definition of "food establishment" as defined by Edina City Code.

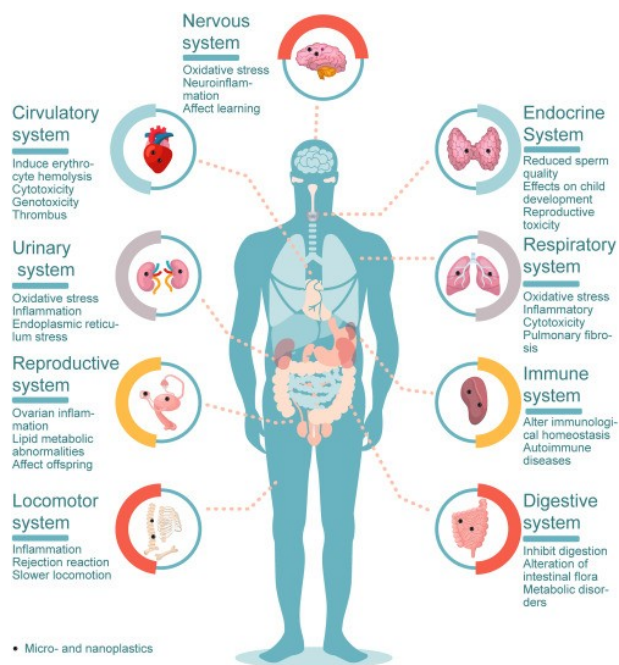
(Ord. No. 2023-18, § 5, 10-17-2023)

Sec. 20-648. Enforcement.

The City shall have the duty and the authority to enforce provisions of this chapter pursuant to City Code chapter 1, section 1-18.

(Ord. No. 2023-18, § 6, 10-17-2023)

NANOPLASTICS EFFECTS IN OUR BODIES



Cancer – [National Institute of Health, Sept 2022](#)

Intestinal diseases - lowered immune system – damage to mucous lining and bacterial flora
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9552327/>

Inflammatory bowel disease -
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34935363/>

Alzheimer's disease – incr. nanoplastics in brain
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/dementia-are-microplastics-accumulating-in-our-brains-a-risk-factor>

Parkinson's disease
<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/nanoplastics-may-help-set-stage-parkinson-s-risk>

Strokes and heart attacks – higher levels of microplastics in artery plaque
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2309822>

Infertility – decline in sperm quality and quantity
<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2024/6/14/plastic-harms-mens-fertility-how-to-protect-your-health>

Learning disabilities – damage to hippocampus memory center
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304389422002199>

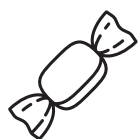
Over 16,000 chemicals are intentionally added

PLASTIC CHEMICAL SAMPLER			
CHEMICAL GROUP Example	WHAT THEY DO	PRODUCT TYPE	HEALTH HARMS
BISPHENOLS & PHTHALATES • PLASTICIZERS • "Everywhere chemicals" • "BPA-free" does not mean safe. Industry replaces BPA with other toxic bisphenols.	BISPHENOLS #3, #7 Makes plastic clear, rigid, shatterproof	BISPHENOLS Plastic drink bottles, polycarbonate & other containers, clamshells, baby bottles, sippy cups	Pseudo-POP: We eliminate them (through urine) but get daily exposures so we have a constant body-store of them. • EDC, Obesogen • Metabolic Disruptor • Reproductive Disruptor • Neuro-Disruptor • Cardiovascular Disruptor • Carcinogen
	PHTHALATES #3 Makes plastic clear, soft, supple & flexible	PHTHALATES Plastic wrap & bags, shower curtains, toys	
PFAS/PFOA • PLASTIC COATINGS • Slippery, shiny, non-stick chemicals • "Forever Chemicals"	• Makes food packaging & synthetic (plastic) textiles WATER & GREASE RESISTANT • Keeps plastic from sticking to machinery	Lining of cans, cups, fast food packaging, take-out containers, water bottles,, condiment packets, chip & snack bags, paper and plastic wrappers; textiles	POP • EDC, Obesogen • Metabolic Disruptor • Reproductive Disruptor • Neuro-Disruptor • Cardiovascular Disruptor • Carcinogen
FLAME RETARDANTS	• Prevents plastic from catching fire	Almost all products	POP • EDC & same as above. Lowered I.Q.
HEAVY METALS • Lead • Mercury • Cadmium and others	• Adds color! • Makes plastic soft, pliable • Catalyzes (kick starts) other chemical reactions used to make plastic	Almost all products	• Neurotoxin Lower IQ, Learning & attention, psych & behavioral disorders • Carcinogen

PLASTICS and Human Health

Over 98% of plastics are made from fossil carbons such as oil and gas. Turning these substances into plastics involves the addition of petrochemical additives – quite a lot of them. Over 13,000 chemicals are known to be involved in the production of plastic. More than 2300 of these are “chemicals of concern.” Some are highly toxic, and include carcinogens, neurotoxins, and endocrine disruptors. These chemicals pose serious risks to human health because they can leach or migrate at every stage of plastics’ life cycle.

How Am I Exposed?



Food Packaging: When food or beverage is packaged in plastic, chemical additives can leach into what we eat. It is well established that bisphenol A and phthalates (which make plastics rigid or flexible) migrate into food but because many of the chemicals present in plastics are undisclosed, researchers are only partially aware of the risks. Chemical migration from packaging into food increases with smaller serving sizes (due to the increased ratio of surface-to-food), higher temperatures, and longer storage times.

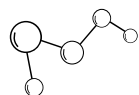


Microplastics: Plastics don’t biodegrade; they break up into smaller and smaller pieces known as micro- and nanoplastics, which are so small that they become caught up in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. These pieces are present almost everywhere researchers have ever looked, including inside the human body. Scientists have detected plastic particles in human lung tissue, intestinal tissue, blood, breast milk, the muscle of the heart, and both sides of the placenta – including inside fetuses and newborn babies.

What Happens After I’m Exposed?

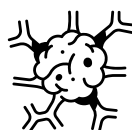


Cell damage: Plastic particles inside the body can irritate, inflame, and even puncture cells. This is especially concerning in the intestine and lung, where microplastics make direct contact with thin, sensitive tissue.



Chemical leaching: Microplastics never stop leaching their chemical contents. Once they are inside the human body, they can act like tiny trojan horses, spilling out chemical additives for as long as they are present.

How Is My Health Affected?



Cancer: Many of the chemical additives in plastics are known to cause cancer. Bisphenol A, phthalates, and polyvinyl chloride, for instance, are well-documented carcinogens.



Endocrine Disruption: A great number of additives mimic hormones and disrupt signaling throughout the body. They can scramble appetite cues and metabolism, leading to obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. They can hijack reproductive signals, speeding puberty, lowering sperm counts, and prompting infertility. Endocrine disruptors are also associated with cancer – especially breast, prostate, and testicular cancers.



Neurological Effects: Endocrine disruption can disturb brain development, leading to lower IQ, ADHD, and autism-spectrum disorders.

Who Is The Most Vulnerable?



The brains and bodies of infants, fetuses, and small children undergo exquisitely complicated and carefully timed changes. When these are disrupted, the effects can be permanent – and profound. Infants and fetuses also face risks of prematurity, stillbirth, low birth weight, birth defects of the reproductive organs, impaired lung growth, and childhood cancer.

What Is The Health Cost?



A report published in the *Annals of Global Health* in 2023, conservatively estimated that Americans spent over \$1.5 trillion on health costs related to plastics in 2015. “These estimates undercount the full costs of plastics’ health damages,” the authors warned. “They are externalized by fossil fuel and plastic manufacturing industries.”

What Are The Solutions?



Nearly half of all plastics manufactured today are single use items and packaging. Legislation that reduces the production of these items and mandates extended producer responsibility will go a long way toward relieving health risks. It is vital that lawmakers regulate the chemical content and toxicity of plastic. Many of the chemicals used to manufacture plastic are unnecessary and can be banned and substituted with safer alternatives.

Beyond Plastics Greater Mankato Area

Resolution to reduce single use plastic in Mankato, North Mankato and St. Peter

- Whereas plastic never completely breaks down but breaks into smaller microplastic and nano plastic particles that remain in our environment indefinitely (approximately 9 billion tons in total);
- Whereas only 8% is recycled or recyclable;
- Whereas about between 16 million and 26 million tons of plastic waste escape into the oceans annually (two dump trucks full a minute), killing millions of animals and marine organisms;
- Whereas we ingest an estimated 3.8 million microplastics a year from food and dust particles that carry microplastics; microplastics have been found in our blood, veins, organs, lungs, breast milk and fetuses;
- Whereas of the 16,000 toxic chemical additives in plastic bags and food ware, more than 4200 of them are hormone disrupting chemicals of concern known to cause breast, prostate and other cancers and harm our reproductive, neurological and cardiovascular system;
- Whereas microplastics found in human fetuses cause miscarriage, low birth weight, immune problems, neurological and developmental changes;
- Whereas the 30 to 36% increase in plastic production in the next 6 years will become an international health issue that will pose serious threats to future generations;
- Whereas a recent scientific study concluded that the cocktail of chemical pollution that pervades the planet now threatens the stability of global ecosystems upon which humanity depends;
- Whereas 130 plastics facilities report greenhouse gas emissions roughly equal to 57 average 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants with another 42 plastics facilities slated to open by 2025;
- The global plastic chain of production emitted 1.8 billion tons of CO₂ in 2015. By 2050, greenhouse gas emissions could reach over 56 gigatons, 10 to 13% of the remaining carbon budget.
- The U.S. plastic industry emits 232 million tons a year equal to CO₂ emissions from 50 million cars, soon to outpace coal emissions;
- Whereas an average local grocery store gives out approximately 1.5 million plastic bags a year that are used once and thrown away;
- Whereas Americans throw away 25 trillion Styrofoam cups, 40 billion plastic utensils and 4 billion plastic straws a year that are not recycled and contaminate our environment;
- Whereas Polystyrene components, Benzene and Styrene, are known carcinogens and neurotoxins and the industry is the 5th largest creator of toxic waste in the U.S.;
- Whereas chemicals such as vinyl chloride and benzene released during the production of plastic utensils are known carcinogens and neurotoxins;
- Whereas the health care costs related to plastics' harm in 2015 were \$1.5 trillion;

Be it resolved that the city of Mankato authorize the following actions to protect our environment and health of our community from throwaway plastic pollution:

1. Put a fee on all plastic and paper bags in all retail establishments;
2. Provide plastic straws, utensils and condiment packets upon request only.



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

City Council Work Session

2.

Meeting Date: 07/27/2026

Agenda Item:

City Assessment Manual Revisions.

Recommendation/Action(s):

Discussion/Direction

Summary:

Discuss draft revisions to the City's Manual of Assessment Standards adopted by the City Council dated April 24, 1989 (latest revision January 13, 2020)

Draft revisions include language pertaining to:

1. Homestead versus non-homestead properties
2. Benefit Appraisals

Attachments

Presentation

Manual of Assessment Standards

- Guiding document for the City to provide fair, uniform, and transparent calculation of special assessments.
- Adopted by the Mankato City Council on April 24, 1989
- Latest revision was adopted on January 13, 2020

Reason for Considering Current Updates

- The E Main Street resurfacing project has received inquiries about homestead versus non-homestead assessment rates.
- The City has been utilizing a benefit appraisal methodology to finalize assessment amounts. This methodology protects the City from potential appeals and ensures equitable assessment amounts.

Staff Review

- Reviewed what type of data currently exists regarding homestead vs non-homestead to help guide development of a policy
- Reviewed using zoning data. Too many variables with different variances exist.
- Reviewed using rental license data as a qualifier. This data is up to date and easily extracted.
- Ultimately, staff were looking for an accurate, consistent, & repeatable process.

Homestead vs Non-homestead

- As part of the 2026 Resurfacing project (E Main Street) staff received clarification inquiries regarding properties classified as homestead versus non homestead. In general, a property classified as homestead is the owner's primary residence.
 - Homestead property: Property that meets the requirements of Minnesota Statue 273.124 and has been classified as Homestead by the Blue Earth County Assessor.
 - Non- Homestead property: All property not meeting the definition of Homestead Property.
- *SECTION VII of the City's Manual of Assessment Standards lists various assessment rates per front foot of calculated frontage abutting the improvement. A property classified as homestead is the owner's primary residence. Non-homestead properties consisting of rentals with 4 units or less or a residential home not the owner's primary residence shall be assessed at the lesser (homestead) frontage rate because they receive a similar benefit to homestead property and use. All other non-homestead properties shall be assessed at the higher (non-homestead) frontage rate.*

Benefit Appraisals

- Minnesota law indicates that the amount charged on a special assessment must bear a direct relationship to the value of the benefits the property receives.
- *Prior to the final assessment hearing, the City will conduct a special benefit analysis for all parcels proposed to be assessed with the improvement. The analysis will utilize a qualified and licensed appraiser to interpret the increase in market value as a result of the improvement for each parcel. The final amount assessed against each parcel will be the lesser of the special benefit analysis or the calculated assessment as described in the manual.*

Next Steps

- City Council to consider adopting these Phase 1 revisions on August 10, 2026.
- Look for a greater assessment manual revision in quarter 2 of 2027.