

Single-use Bag Ordinance

Single-use Bag Ordinance Overview:

- Store notification begins in March 2012
- Ordinance is effective January 1, 2013
- Bans plastic bags at all stores selling packaged food and some perishables (refrigeration is the indicator)
- Restaurants, and bags used within stores, are exempt
- Recycled content paper bags can be provided, but merchants must charge min. 10 cents each
- Stores keep bag fee
- Stores must keep paper & reusable bag sale data
- County Ordinance covers 125 perishable food retailers in Berkeley
- Paper bag fee goes up to 25 cents in 2015 if paper bag use has increased due to ordinance
- County will consider phasing in other types of retail at a later time

StopWaste.org did the countywide EIR to support a Single-use Bag Ordinance (and Mandatory Recycling). Their ordinance was approved on Jan 25. Each city in the County had an opportunity to opt out. Berkeley did not opt out and Council is asking us to consider expanding our City Ordinance to include all retailers on the same timeline. This is a complex consideration that I can elaborate on if you wish. The Zero Waste Commission will be preparing a report back to Council on the all-retail issue.

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