

Did you know this about carryout bags?

- It is estimated that a person living in the U.S. uses 365 plastic bags per year,¹ and in Colorado that adds up to an estimated 4.6 million single-use plastic bags every day.²
- Bag fees encouraged a behavior change resulting in over 70% fewer bags used per year based on experiences of locations that already have a bag fee.³
- Plastic bags are the most common pollutant found in Colorado's rivers, harming wildlife and the beauty of the environment.⁴
- A single paper carryout bag requires one gallon of water to produce, while the mass production of paper bags is contributing to deforestation.⁵
- Plastic bags never biodegrade. They only break down into smaller and smaller plastics and get into our water and soils, or are consumed by animals, ultimately ending up in the food we eat. One study indicates that an average person could be eating a credit card worth of plastic every week.⁶
- Only 10% of plastic bags get recycled,⁷ and a plastic bag is used for an average of 12 minutes.⁸

¹ [Eco-Cycle](#), oldest mission-based recyclers and Zero Waste organizations in the U.S.

² Eco-Cycle.

³ Eco-Cycle, based on experiences of Boulder with a bag fee for several years.

⁴ Eco-Cycle.

⁵ Eco-Cycle.

⁶ [Good Business Colorado](#) fact sheet.

⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

⁸ The Center for Biological Diversity.