

What Makes This?



495 kJ (kilojoules) of natural gas
+ 120 kJ of petroleum
+ 80 kJ of coal
= Polyethylene
+ The energy used to extract the above
nonrenewable fossil fuels and to heat,
compress and extrude
= 1 Plastic Shopping Bag



- In the US alone, 12,000,000 barrels of oil is required to produce the 100 billion bags consumed in our nation each year.
- That's \$500,000,000 spent on just one ingredient annually.



- 4% of the world's total oil production is used to make plastic bags



What Makes This So Great?



- Up to 1,000,000,000,000 (one trillion) are used each year.
- 1,000,000 are used each minute.
- It must be those handy handles!

What Makes This So Bad?



- They cost a lot of money and use a lot of resources to produce.
- They blow in the wind, littering the land and water.
- They cause plastic starvation death in livestock and kill ocean life.
- They cause downtime for landfill employees when track equipment becomes clogged with bags and requires cleaning. THAT costs taxpayers money.



What Can You Do?



Refuse

- BYOB – Bring Your Own Bags. No matter what type of store you're visiting.
- If you can carry your items without a bag, offer to do so.
- Ask store owners to provide paper bags, cardboard boxes or other biodegradable containers.

Reduce

- Ask for more items to be placed in each bag.
- Go without plastic bags whenever possible.



Reuse

- Bring plastic bags back to the store to use again. Havre's Gary & Leo's IGA credits you for each bag you bring in to reuse, no matter what they're made of.
- Use them for garbage.
- Make useful items out of them.

Recycle

- Drop them off at the 24/7 bins in the Pacific Steel & Recycling lot with your #s 1 and 2 plastics.

Don't Be THAT GUY!



YOU Make a Difference!



A 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization
www.RecycleHiLine.wordpress.com