



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  
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February 13, 2013

<<BUSINESS NAME>>, Attn: Operations  
<<SITE ADDRESS>>  
<<CITY>>, <<STATE>> <<ZIP>>

Dear <<BUSINESS NAME>>,

### Important Information Regarding New Plastic Checkout Bag Policy

In an effort to promote reusable shopping bags and reduce use of single-use plastic checkout bags, Portland City Council voted unanimously in November 2012 to expand the City's plastic bag ban to all retail establishments and food vendors.

Oregonians use an estimated 1.7 billion single-use plastic bags each year. Reducing the use of single-use plastic shopping bags decreases litter, reduces ocean pollution and helps achieve Portland's waste reduction and recycling goals.

Portland's plastic bag ban has been in effect for more than a year at grocery stores and large retailers with pharmacies. The expansion takes a phased approach to banning single-use plastic checkout bags in the City of Portland.

The first phase goes into effect on **March 1, 2013** and covers retail establishments and food providers with stores greater than 10,000 square feet. All other retail establishments and food providers will be required to comply by **October 1, 2013**.

The policy requires that retail establishments and food vendors only provide recycled paper bags or reusable bags as checkout bags for customers. Recycled paper bags must contain an average of at least 40 percent recycled content and be accepted in the City of Portland curbside recycling program. The policy exempts bags provided by a pharmacist to contain prescription medication and bags without handles used to protect a purchased item from other purchased items (e.g., produce, bulk food, meat).

Businesses with remaining stocks of plastic bags on site that do not have additional store locations outside of Portland may apply for a waiver to allow for the draw down of existing inventory. For additional information including the ordinance, regulation and enforcement definitions, please visit [www.bringyourbagpdx.com](http://www.bringyourbagpdx.com) or contact Megan Ponder at [megan.ponder@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:megan.ponder@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-823-9582.

The City encourages use of reusable bags and has distributed more than 45,000 durable reusable bags to Portland residents since 2007. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will continue to distribute "bring-your-bag" reminders throughout Portland.



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps)  
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868

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Thank you for your partnership in this waste reduction effort.

Best Regards,  
Bruce Walker, Solid Waste and Recycling Manager



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