



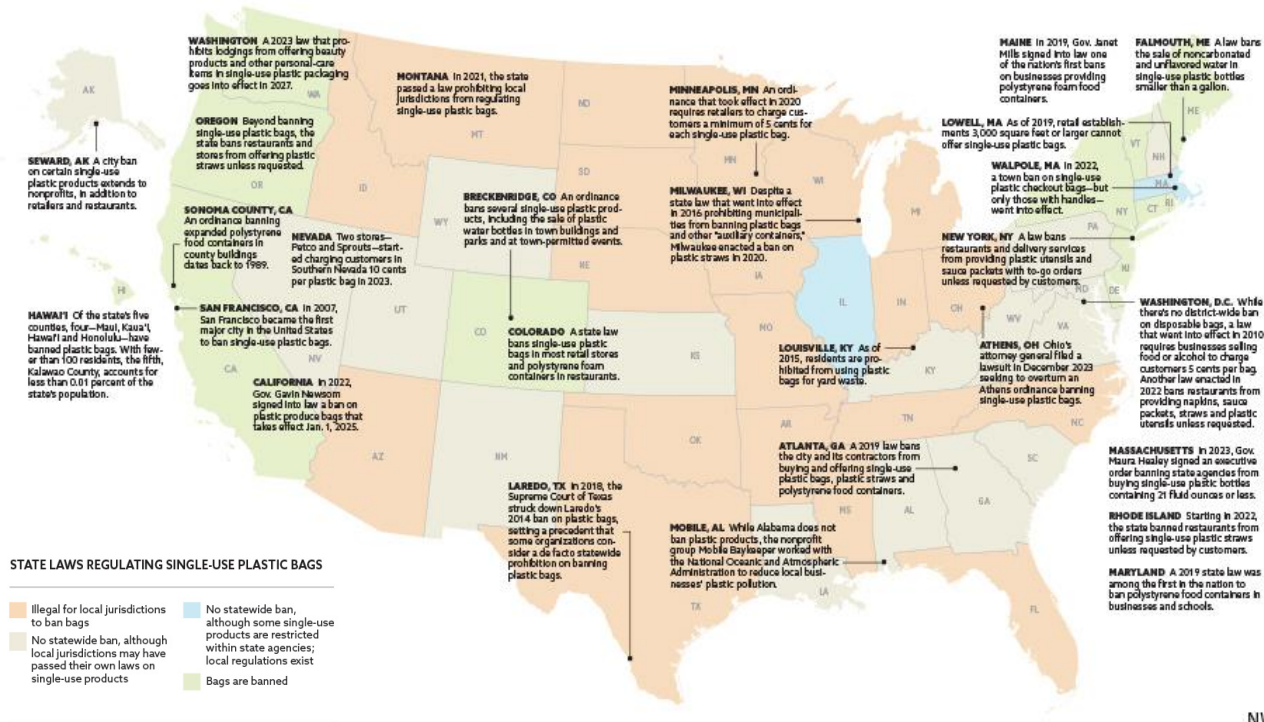
COOL CITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	February 23, 2026
TITLE:	Single Use Bag Fee Research
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development
PROJECT MANAGER:	Caitlin Rice, AICP, Senior Planner
REQUESTED ACTION:	Discussion
SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AREA(S):	Engagement, & Education

- **Single Use Bag Fee Research:**

- [Skipping the Bag – Assessing the Impact of Chicago’s tax on disposable bags](#)
- [Closed Loop Partners & Beyond the Bag – A Path Toward Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bag Waste 2023 Impact Report](#)
- [Closed Loop Partners: Legislation in Action: Measuring the Impacts of US Single-Use Bag Policies on Waste Reduction.](#)
- [Plastic Bag Bans Work – Environment America, US PIRG, Frontier Group 2024](#)
- [Time – Plastic Bag Ban Success 2025](#)
- [Forbes 2019 List of US City Plastic Bag Bans](#)
- **New:**
 - [Retail Compliance Center](#)
 - [Consumer Bag Matrix](#) (Excel file)
 - [Britannica – Single Use Plastics Debate](#)
 - [National Library of Medicine \(NIH\)](#)
- [Illinois Senate Bill 1872](#)
 - Would prohibit single use plastic bags at checkout. Only offer recycled paper bag or reusable bag to customers. Recycled bag requires 10 cent fee retained by merchant. Exemptions for bags on food assistance programs, provides signage and education – would over ride home rule powers.
- Quick facts:
 - [EPA](#) –4.2 million tons of plastic bags, sacks and wraps generated in 2018 with only 10% being recycled. 3.04 million tons were landfilled
 - 1 Trillion one-time use plastic bags are used every year globally.
 - American families take home approximately 1,500 disposable plastic bags a year.
 - Takes 100-1,000 years for plastic bags to fully decompose, depending on the type.
 - There are 6 times the amount of plastic debris in the north pacific ocean as zooplankton ‘plans of the sea’
 - Plastic bag policies lead to a 25-47% decrease in plastic bags as a share of total items collected relative to areas without policies.

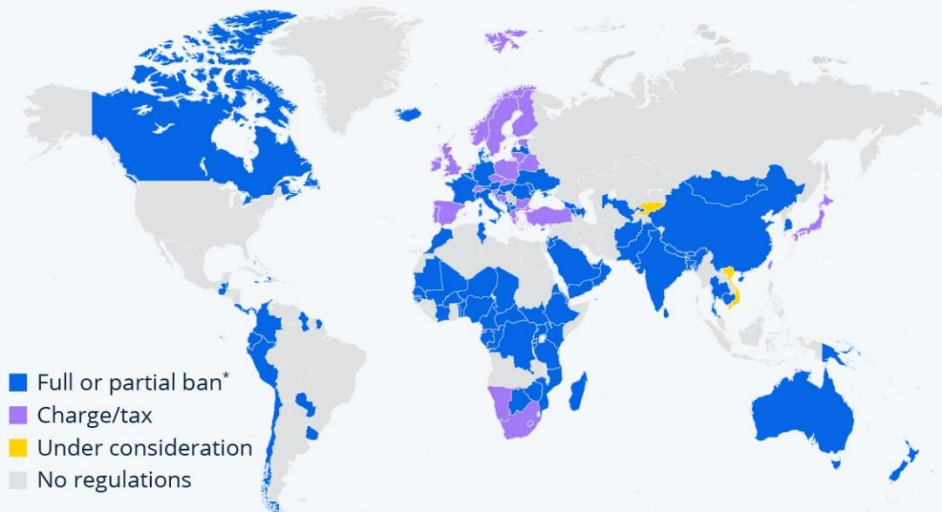
- Key policy standards
 - 10 cent fee is most common
 - Apply to all single use bags
 - Common exceptions: Restaurants, store size or stores in the area, prescriptions, produce/meat bags (non-checkout bags)
 - Fee not applied to those of food assistance programs
 - Over 5,000-7,000 sq. ft. enforcement common
 - Fee vs tax?
 - Incentive for businesses to enforce if they receive the fee funds
 - Cost to manufacture plastic shopping bags >1cent, cost to business to purchase plastic bags for use ~1-5 cent average.
 - Tax has negative connotation/perspective from the public
 - Tax would require development of City fund and appropriate spending
 - Tax funds could be used to supply free reusable bags to the community.
 - Fee going to the business is profit.
 - Fee going to business might make it more difficult to determine if the fee is actually being collected or how effective the program is.
- Business size examples in Collinsville
 - Walgreens – 14,896
 - Dollar Tree (Collinsville Crossing) – total space 9,855 (sales floor 8,204)
 - Walmart – 205,992
 - Home Depot – 101,848
 - Rural King – 104,200 (entire structure)
 - Spectrum – Collinsville Crossing – 2, 384 sq. ft.
 - Casey’s – N Bluff – 3,485
 - Verizon – 2,800
 - AT&T – 2,850
 - ALDI – 19,619
 - O’Reilly – 9,555
 - AutoZone – 5,170
 - Quintons Crafthouse – 7,500 (Uptown exception?)
 - Lou Belle & Bing – 2,411
 - Collinsville Mini Mart – 3,668
 - Rich’s Records – 2,215
 - Swing City – 10,600
 - Schnucks – 54,276



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The Countries Banning Plastic Bags

National-level regulation to ban/limit the use of plastic bags (2024)



- Full or partial ban*
- Charge/tax
- Under consideration
- No regulations

* Can also include charges
 Some legislation not yet in effect. Implementation varies
 Source: Statista research

