

# Support a Fee on Disposable Bags

- We do a lot of work on collecting recyclables, compost, etc, and it's great to pursue a bill like S.205 that prevents waste. (reduce-reuse-recycle)
- Putting a fee on disposable bags has been done in hundreds of municipalities and countries across the country and globe.
- These policies have consistently resulted in significant reductions in the use of disposable bags.
- Studies have shown bag fees have resulted in a reduction in disposable bag litter.
- These programs save retailers money because they do not have to buy as many bags to give away. A single shop owner could save upwards of \$1,000 per year, large chains could save hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- These fees ultimately save consumers money when they avoid the hidden cost of "free" bags in higher prices, estimated at \$37.50 per year. They can avoid paying the fee simply by bringing their own reusable bags.
- The fees create a funding source for environmental initiatives. A portion of funds can also be used to give free reusable bags to lower-income people.
- Washington, DC, with a similar population to Vermont, enacted a fee in 2010, and since then have seen:
  - 78% of businesses surveyed (small and large) say the fee has had a positive or neutral impact on their business
  - 80% of DC residents report using fewer bags, and more than 80% support or have neutral feelings about the fee
  - Collection of about \$2 million per year, which has gone to support environmental work such as clean-up of the Anacostia River
  - Fewer bags have been reported in neighborhood litter clean-ups and in stream monitoring programs