

RECYCLING NEWS

2023 vol. 9

Lower Allen Township

Plastic Bag Facts

- 160,000 plastic bags are used every second in the world
- the average family will use 60 plastic bags in 4 trips to the grocery store
- the lifespan of a plastic bag is 12 minutes
- the number of plastic bags in the world could circumnavigate the world 4200 times
- it takes 1000 years for a plastic bag to decompose
- 300,000,000 plastic bags make it into the Atlantic Ocean every year
- 100 countries, cities, towns and counties have banned plastic bags or placed a tax on single use plastic bags since 2007
- 1 million seabirds are killed by plastic bags each year



Americans use 10 billion bags

Only 1% of all plastic bags are recycled in the world. The rest end up in landfills or in waterways including local and international waters. Using a reusable bag can replace 22,000 single use plastic bags.

Many will argue that plastic bags can be recycled. This is true but they cannot be recycled in curbside recycling pick up services by contracted haulers. A separate drop off location needs to be sought out to recycle single use plastic bags, then we need to remember to take them back. It's easy to toss them in the trash, taking approximately 12 seconds of our time.

Reusable bags are available for produce, bottles, groceries, wet clothes, zip top, open top, and any other use you can think of.

Municipalities across the state are banning single use plastic bags in an effort to fight the litter that is found along the streets and making its way into be waterways. Local businesses have stopped giving out bags totally or have turned to charging for the use of paper bags.



September Challenge = Take a Reusable Bag (or 2)