

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 090861)

RESOLUTION

Calling on All Philadelphia Retail Stores to Implement Plastic Bag Recycling.

WHEREAS, The Federal Trade Commission estimates that Americans use 90 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps each year; and

WHEREAS, Those plastic bags not properly disposed of or recycled are often a source of visual litter in our communities and cause environmental harm; and

WHEREAS, As a major source of plastic bags in our community, retail stores should take measures necessary to divert plastic bag waste to our landfills; and

WHEREAS, The recycling of plastic bags and film grew to 27% in 2007 to over 830 million pounds, demonstrating the effectiveness of bag and film recycling; and

WHEREAS, Consumer education about the recyclability of plastic bags and access to locations to recycle bags leads to higher recycling rates for plastic bags; and

WHEREAS, More aggressive plastic bag recycling would help achieve the Greenworks Philadelphia Target 7 to divert 70% of solid waste from landfill; and

WHEREAS, There are successful plastic bag recycling programs that exist throughout the country including Phoenix, Arizona and Austin, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Many local retailers have already taken the initiative to set up plastic bag recycling and provide reusable bags at a reasonable cost in their stores; and

WHEREAS, All retailers should be encouraged to have a program to reduce bag waste and to educate consumers on effective waste management options for plastic bags, such as increased recycling of plastic bag and use of reusable bags,

WHEREAS, An effective program will include:

* Convenient locations for the collection of plastic bags to be recycled;

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 090861 continued

* A Citywide public education program to convey the importance of recycling to all Philadelphians;

* A retail store employee awareness initiative to reduce wasteful bagging practices, promote recycling of plastic and paper bags and the use of reusable bags;

* A management reporting system to provide annual updates on the success of the reduce, reuse and recycling efforts; and

WHEREAS, A unified and coordinated education/advocacy/recycling program of this nature will reflect a meaningful and positive step forward towards reducing litter and plastic bag waste; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby call on all Philadelphia retail stores to implement plastic bag recycling.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 090861 continued

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 090861 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the nineteenth of November, 2009.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Kenney, DiCicco and Jones

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Kenney, DiCicco, Jones Greenlee, Goode, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Green, Tasco, Blackwell, Miller, Rizzo, O'Neill, Clarke, Sanchez and Kelly