

Central Saanich Community Association Plastic Bag Pan Task Force Project Charter

Vision Statement

Within Central Saanich single-use plastic checkout bags will not be used or available, resulting in reduce plastic pollution, plastic bag litter and waste in our community.

What Change is Needed

In order to protect Central Saanich's rich farming history / committee, our many creeks and waterways, we need to move away from single-use plastic products to more sustainable products that do not create harmful waste and pollution. A very significant volume of plastics bags is being used in Central Saanich every year and many of these bags are ending up in the landfill, streams, farmers fields, ditches and our local ocean waterways.

Additional information can be found on the following website.

<https://vancouverisland.surfrider.org/ban-the-bag/>

Current Situation

Plastic checkout bags are currently given to customers free of charge in the municipality of Central Saanich. Some of the larger grocery stores operating in the municipality have started taking steps to reduce the use of plastic checkout bags:

- Thrifty Foods uses only paper and reusable bags. They charge a per bag fee for use of the available bags.
- As of December 2017, Fairway Market has started charging a fee for plastic bags. Once their current stock of plastic bags is used, they will be switching to paper bags. Fairway will also be charging a fee to customers for paper bags.

Others municipalities in the area have banned or are in the process of banning single-use plastic checkout bags:

- City of Victoria have already passed and implemented the single-use plastic bag ban.

- The municipality of Saanich has recently voted to adopt the ban as well though the rules will not be implemented until 2020.

Proposal

Central Saanich Council will follow the example of the City of Victoria and District of Saanich and ban single-use plastic checkout bags.

The main points of the plastic bag ban are as follows:

- A Business may provide a Checkout Bag to a customer only if:
 - (a) the customer is first asked whether he or she needs a bag;
 - (b) the bag provided is a Paper Bag or a Reusable Bag; and
 - (c) the customer is charged a fee not less than 15 cents per Paper Bag and \$1 per Reusable Bag
- No Business may sell or provide to a customer a plastic bag or provide a checkout bag to a customer free of charge.
- No Business shall deny or discourage the use by a customer of his or her own Reusable Bag for the purpose of transporting items purchased or received by the customer from the Business.
- The ban does not apply to small paper bags or bags used to:
 - a) package loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy;
 - b) package loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts;
 - c) contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, poultry, or fish, whether pre-packaged or not;
 - d) wrap flowers or potted plants;
 - e) protect prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged;
 - f) contain prescription drugs received from a pharmacy;
 - g) transport live fish;
 - h) protect linens, bedding, or other similar large items that cannot easily fit in a Reusable Bag;
 - i) protect newspapers or other printed material intended to be left at the customer's residence or place of business; or
 - j) protect clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning

Road Map

Responsibility – Central Saanich Community Association Task Force on Single Use Plastic Checkout Bags

- Identify those businesses that use a significant volume of single-use plastic checkout bags and discuss this proposed banning of these bags to get for their input, suggestions and consideration:
 - Co-op Grocery Store on Keating (**Bruce**)
 - The three large drug stores in Central Saanich:
 - Shoppers
 - Rexall
 - Pharmasave
 - Sleggs Lumber on Keating
 - Butchart Gardens
 - Farmers markets (**Bonny**)
 - Buckerfields on Keating (**Bonny**)

- Further research into local impacts is needed. This is to be achieved through discussions with local businesses and consumers to determine possible negative impacts or concerns people may have regarding the change. (**Roger**)

- Consultation with the Victoria and Saanich councils on their process and results (**Bonny**)

- Communication with the Surf Rider organization whose #banthebag campaign played a big part in the success of the Victoria bylaw for suggestions on how we should proceed. (**Bonny**)

- After community consultation is done meet to discuss ways to minimize negative impacts (**group meeting**)

- After community consultation and research has been completed, obtain support from at least one Central Saanich Councillor for their support and input. Zeb King and Niall Paltiel have previously voiced support for the bylaw.

- Present our findings to the Central Saanich Council as a presentation to council and in written form.