

Carryout Bag Regulations – Ordinance No. 653

April 29, 2013



Proposed Ordinance No. 653

- Plastic carryout bags are banned
- Mandatory pass-through fee of at least 5 cents on 'one-eighth barrel' or larger paper bags; charge must be shown on receipt
- Paper carryout bags must contain an average of 40% post-consumer recycled content; must be stated on the bag
- Regulations become effective on January 1, 2014



Proposed Ordinance No. 653 - Exemptions

- Food banks exempt from regulations
- Low income exemption for paper bag fee
- Plastic bags not defined as 'carryout bags' exempt
- Thicker plastic bags exempt

Proposed Ordinance No. 653 – Education and Enforcement

- Citizen and Business communication
- Communication with Trade Groups/Business Associations
- Complaint-based enforcement
- \$250 civil infraction will be used for retailers that willfully refuse to comply with regulations
- Retailers that do not have locations outside of Shoreline that allow plastic bags will be able to use up old inventory past the effective date

Next Steps

- Begin implementation and education phase
 - Draft FAQs
 - Create carryout bag regulations webpage
 - Draft currents articles
 - Create and mail business material

Recommendation

- Staff recommends that Council adopt Ordinance No. 653

