

## **Implement a plastic/non-biodegradable bag tax.**

The Youth Commission's policy report recommends the County consider implementing a bag tax or fee in an effort to reduce the use of disposable plastic bags in Clark County.

What we're not recommending is that plastic bags are taken out entirely. What we're not recommending is that this tax will last forever. What we want is for people to convert over to using reusable bags or even using the plastic bags they have at home. Implementing a 5 to 20 cent bag tax over time will get people to change. The public isn't going to want to pay a tax on bags forever. What we want is eventually; perhaps over a span of a year or two, the tax would no longer be necessary.

We understand what we're asking. Seattle, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, will be implementing this kind of tax. There are several European countries that are and have been doing this. We understand it's not as simple as it seems but in our opinion, at least after a while, many people would stop using plastic bags and start at least reusing the ones they already have so they wouldn't have to pay the tax. Paying the tax is almost voluntary. You don't have to keep getting the plastic bags if there is another choice.

We also understand that the lower income families won't be able to afford to buy the reusable bags that are provided in the stores. What we recommend is that you provide up to a certain time that the reusable bags are free for the lower income families. As the Youth Commission, we have discussed that poverty stricken people aren't going to care about sustainability if the choice is between whether they have food on the table or buying florescent light bulbs. They are going to make a choice that benefits them now. Personally some of us have been there with our families, where we have to choose what bill we are going to pay or how much we can spend on food. That is why we recommend giving away the bags for a certain time period.