

Subject: Re: Management of Disposable Shopping Bags

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2008 20:33:05 -0800

To: NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>

CC: FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Mayor & Council:

Congratulations on your unanimous support of a motion to seek a "reduction plan" for "non reusable plastic bags" (as if certain plastic bags are not reusable).

Whether it is a "ban" or "reduction plan" (read: more unnecessary gov regulation) the motion was clearly a final retirement gift to Councillor Mother Nature ... who somehow managed to link plastic shopping bags with plastic fish netting in the ocean.

Just think, if plastic bags are banned or regulated out of existence, will we go back to paper? Not likely. So then what? What will we do when we go to a department store and make a purchase, like an expensive new item of clothing? Are you going to carry it out of the store over your arm and into the mall as you continue to shop? Plastic shopping bags help to visually identify our purchases. Without them, you better hang on to your receipt, otherwise you might be accused of shoplifting.

When these dumb motions are debated, I just wish you guys would discuss the practical implications. Just what does a "reduction plan" ultimately mean to the consumer and merchant? Do you know, or again, is this just the irresponsible politics of "being seen to be green"? This sort of nonsense is why I don't even bother attending Council meetings anymore.

-Brian

Brian Platts wrote:

"The environment, or more properly environmentalism, robs people of their judgment....In the great competition to be greener than green, more precisely in the now almost universal passion to be seen to be green, politicians and celebrities drift ever more towards meaningless symbolism, outright folly, vulgar excess, and downright irrationality." - Rex Murphy, CBC Commentator

Mayor & Council:

The above quote just about says it all with respect to this motion, but I'll add a few additional comments. So instead of going to grocery store and having my purchases bagged with plastic bags provided by the store, I will now buy my own plastic bags for the same purpose, and this will somehow save the environment? I know that some might argue that consumers will carry cloth bags instead, but that just isn't a practical solution for most shopping.

Everyone I know already re-uses plastic bags, primarily for their household garbage. Usually these bags are lightweight plastic that break down relatively quickly. I had a Safeway grocery bag in my car over the summer (to carry books etc) and hadn't used it for a few months. When I recently removed it from my car's storage compartment, it looked like Swiss cheese, full of holes and falling apart. The heat in the car over the summer months had accelerated the decomposition process. Those grocery bags certainly don't last forever.

I seriously question the environmental benefits of this proposed ban. In my view this is nothing more than political statement, an effort to be seen "to be greener than green" at the expense of the general public and merchants. A ban on plastic bags will only serve to make everyone's daily shopping more difficult with no measurable benefit to NV District or the environment.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts