

**Sustainability Commission Public Education Efforts for Plastic Bag Ordinance 2016-**

9.

Activity	Contact person	Deadline	Notes
Write articles (3-5) for News Times, Leader	John and Elaine	completed	6+ articles already in papers
Place two articles regarding plastic bags on Sus Website	Elaine and John	Sept 2015-completed	Email Bev
Table at Farmers Market First Wednesday-take public comment	July 1-Edgar, Deke, EJ, Jacob Aug 8-John, Mitch, (need more)	July 1, August 5-completed	City has a table-EJ will get clipboard, draft ordinance, hats, bag samples, comment sheet, John H bullet points
Plan Open Forum at FG Community Auditorium-collaboration with CCI	Sebastian (CCI Chair) Brian	July 7, 5:30pm CCI meeting Sept.2, 7-8:30- Completed	Coordinate with CCI to plan dates & outline ~45+ people in attendance
Educate & enlist Chamber of Commerce	Hope, John	Attend June meeting-completed	Requested list of businesses from Mr. Sullivan to talk to about ordinance
Draft local business support letter and ask them to sign on	Elaine, John, Dale and Karin	September 2015-ongoing	Addressing President Johnstone's concerns, Route through Chamber of Commerce
Broad public notification - utility mailer	Jon	Completed	Elaine is crafting FAQ for yet another utility bill insert
Submit CEP grant for reusable bags	John	completed	RFP for bags-we have 3 quotes, Companies; Green Solutions, Chico bag, Discount Mugs
Plan educational component for reusable bag campaign	Elaine and John	Title selected, ongoing education	<b>City of Forest Grove-Sustainability is in the Bag!</b>
Talk to businesses to advertise on reusable bags	John	ongoing	As we talk to businesses about the ordinance we can have this discussion too
Decide on two educational efforts to take to FGSD-High School	Edgar and Sierra G	Complete and getting survey results now	Roll out at beginning of school club fair
Commission engagement - Public Safety Commission	Include Paul & Jon to discuss complaint process	When we have compliance language written we will email Commission	Discuss complaint driven responses
Engagement with WA Co., City of Hillsboro and City of Cornelius-Rob Drake	Elaine will call and email colleagues	~July-Sept-ongoing	Sus colleagues & Partners for a Sustainable WA CO community meeting, met with Cornelius City Council, Talked with WA CO Sustainability colleagues (Robin and Leah)
Talk with Major retailers in FG	Elaine, John, Dale, Tom	ongoing	Safeway-Env. Project Manager-Jay Feeney 503-305-9642

**Council criteria (template)**

- public hearings - 3
- public notification (utility mailer) - 1
- newspaper articles - 5
- Commission engagement - Public Safety
- Civic engagement - Chamber of Commerce (survey local businesses)

**Look into**

- Template for cigarette ban (who knows?)
- Ban at county-level, local cities (need contacts)
- Can we infer the desired discretion from Councilor comments at our June 8 work session? (i.e., what we SHOULD do without Council permission): engage all relevant stakeholders, including commissions, city departments, civic organizations, county and local city officials. And inform the Council about our findings.

## Plastic Bag Ordinance 2015 Outreach and Education Summary

**Outreach and Education.** The following is a list of public outreach and education we did in 2015 and in particular, since our last work group session on June 8, 2015. We will also summarize our outreach to businesses and a meeting we had with the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and President.

- Wrote articles for *News Times, Leader*; plastic bag articles appeared about 5 times
- Wrote successful CEP grant for reusable bags
- Placed two articles regarding plastic bags on the City of FG Sustainability Commission website
- Took public comment at two First Wednesday Farmers' Markets
- Held an Open Forum at FG Community Auditorium in collaboration with CCI; 50 participants
- Discussed ordinance with Economic Development Commission on April 2, 2015; EDC expressed no opposition to plastic bag ban (but not the 5-cent charge for paper)
- Spoke with about 60 local business owners in Forest Grove regarding ordinance
- Included two informational write-ups in utility bill inserts; responded to residents who emailed after reading the inserts
- Decided on a title for the reusable bag campaign: ***City of Forest Grove-Sustainability is in the Bag!*** (overwhelming choice of survey at Farmers' Markets)
- Spoke with business owners about advertising on reusable bags
- Conducted educational effort at FG High School, including a fall survey
- Conducted outreach to Washington County, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Committee
- Spoke with major retailers in Forest Grove

**Proposed Change to Ordinance.** A majority of individuals and businesses in Forest Grove support a ban on plastic bags. The only major controversial piece is the proposed charge of 5 cents for paper bags. The Economic Development Commission, the Chamber Board of Directors, many business owners, and about half of the participants at the Open Forum expressed concern about the proposed 5-cent charge. In a meeting we had with the Chamber Director and President, they said that the Chamber Board was not opposed to the plastic bag ban if small businesses could avoid charging 5 cents for paper. Consequently, the Sustainability Commission took up a proposal to recommend to the City Council that the proposed ordinance be changed so that businesses with 10 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees would be given the option to charge or not to charge for paper but not be required to do so. The commission voted unanimously for this recommendation.

The commission strongly feels that the 5-cent charge for paper remain for larger businesses because use of paper is not great for the environment, and consumers need some incentive to use reusable bags. In addition, the National Grocers Association supports plastic bag bans if a 5-cent charge for paper is included.

**Summary of Outreach to Businesses.** We have contacted about 60 Forest Grove businesses about the proposed plastic bag ban. Of the 45 that have indicated an opinion, 70% supported the ban. An additional 7 have said that they might support the ban, while 6 more are still considering it. Some businesses that we contacted early on did not support the ban because of the 5-cent charge for paper, which has now changed for small businesses.

**Summary and Recommendation.** Single-use plastic checkout bags are very harmful for the environment and, as the most used consumer item, serve as a symbol of a throwaway society. The Sustainability Commission and, indeed, most residents and businesses in Forest Grove believe that it is time to enact an ordinance banning single-use bags.

We believe that we have done due diligence in providing more education and getting public input and feedback. We would like to submit this ordinance for council's approval at this time. We hope that you would consider putting this on an upcoming Council meeting.