



Banning Single Use Plastic Bags On Radford University's Campus



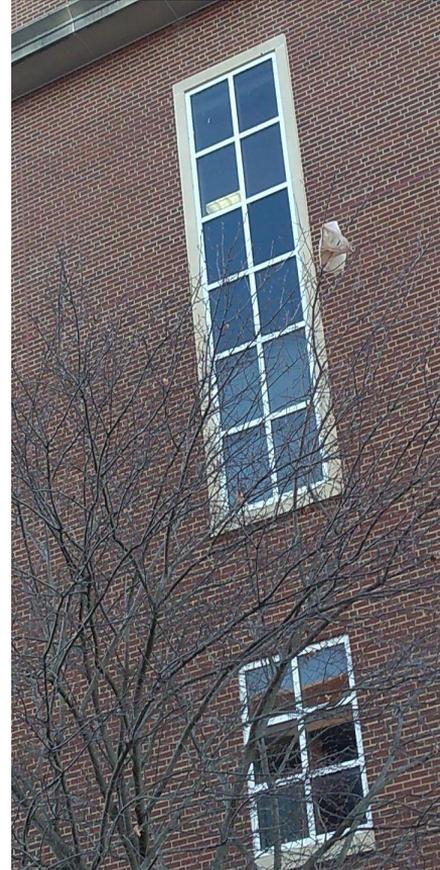
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Issue



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Research Questions

- A. How can Radford University decrease their amount of single use plastic bags?
- B. What can the single use plastic bags be replaced with?





Literature

- “Legislators in both the United States and the United Kingdom are attempting to force a reduction of one-time use plastic bags. Both countries rely on a combination of bans, use fees, recycling, and voluntary actions.”
- The competition: a bill that if broken a \$5 fee goes to the Virginia Litter Control and Recycling Fund, while another, while another policy maker was focused more on the plastic bag industry.
- Surveys:
 - Bag use can be affected by habits, age, customs, and level of eco-taxes
 - If there are options, people will pick the biodegradable option



Findings

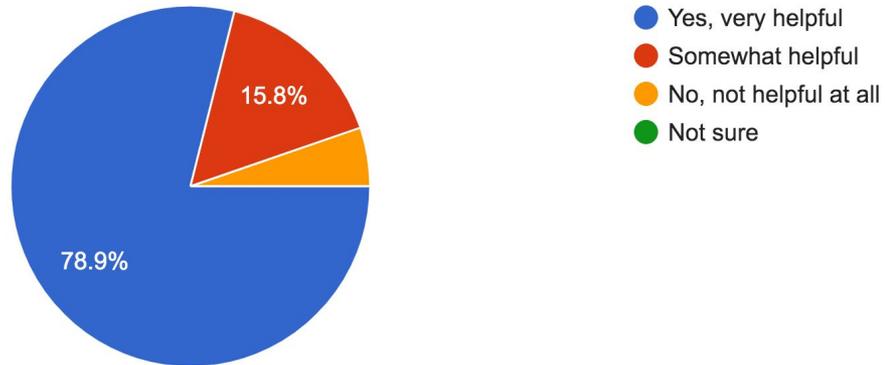
1. Amount of plastic bags purchased for RU dining locations?
Approx 3500 a week
2. Have you seen an increase or decrease in plastic bag use in the last 10 years?
Most units have seen a decrease
3. Which dining location on campus uses the most plastic bags?
Chick-fil-A but mainly because it has bags used for multiple units in that building.

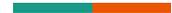


Findings

Do you think that reducing the use of plastic bags would be beneficial to the environment? (rivers, lakes, soil, wild animals)

38 responses

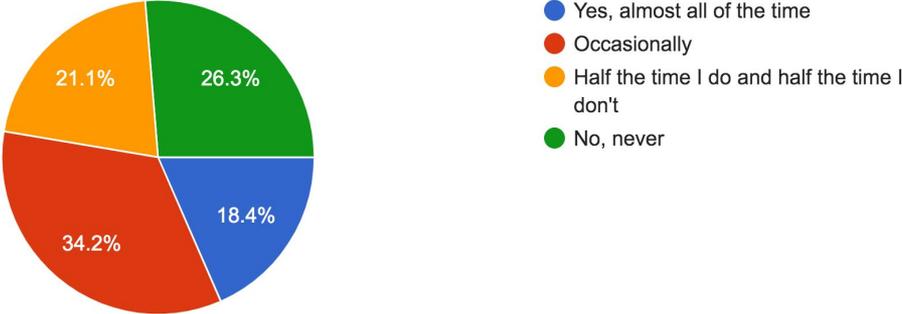




Findings

Do you refuse a plastic bag when going to on campus dining locations? (ABP, Chick-Fil-A etc.)

38 responses

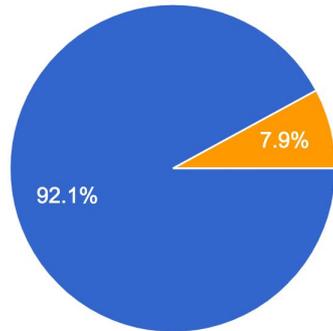




Findings

What do you do with the majority of your plastic bags after you use them once?

38 responses

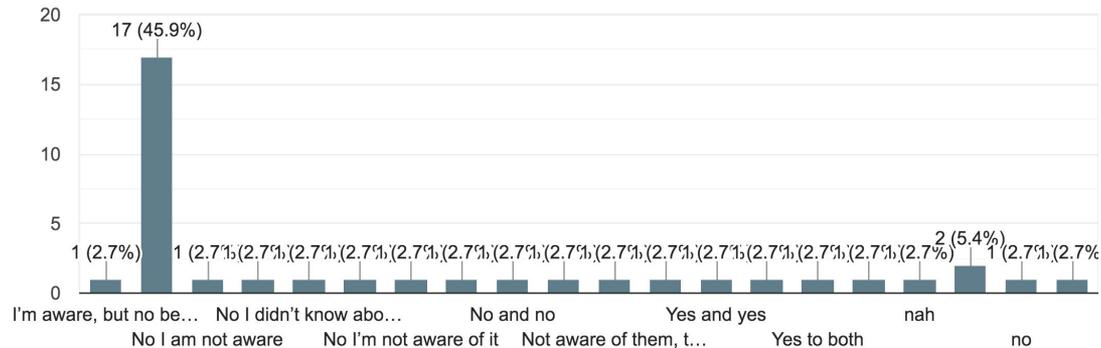


- Reuse them one more time (animal waste, trash can liner, etc.)
- Take them someplace to be recycled
- Throw them in the garbage

Findings

Are you aware of the "Bags to Benches" campaign on campus? If so, have you donated to the campaign?

37 responses



Findings



Are you aware of the "Bags to Benches" campaign on campus? If so, have you donated to the campaign?

Yes. I keep a drawer full of bags to use for trash cans, and whatever I have left over at the end of the semester, I take to the Bags yo Benches bin.

Are you aware of the "Bags to Benches" campaign on campus? If so, have you donated to the campaign?

Not aware of them, they need to raise more awareness about their organization

Are you aware of the "Bags to Benches" campaign on campus? If so, have you donated to the campaign?

I'm aware, but no because I live off campus

Are you aware of the "Bags to Benches" campaign on campus? If so, have you donated to the campaign?

No I didn't know about this campaign

Bags to Benches Education



- Program has existed for three years
- 500lbs produces one bench
- This year 88lbs has been collected
- 500lbs is equivalent to 40,000 plastic bags

A blue poster with white and yellow text and graphics. It features the Radford University logo, a plastic bag labeled 'PLASTIC BAGS', and decorative elements like white dots and yellow and pink circles. The text explains the program and lists drop-off locations.

BAGS TO BENCHES

Plastic bags cannot normally be recycled -- The Bags to Benches program gives us a unique opportunity to recycle plastic bags so they don't end up in our landfills. In addition, every 40,000 bags collected constructs a bench for the university.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:
McConnell Library (3rd Floor)
| Heth 157 (CDI Office) |
Bonnie (Main Floor) | Dalton

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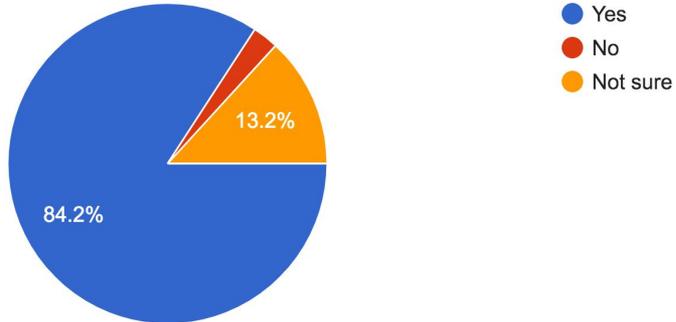
PLASTIC BAGS



Findings

Do you think that an incentive program (getting free items) in exchange for not using a single use bag on campus would be an effective way to reduce the use of single use bags on Radford's campus?

38 responses



Solution

Customers who check out at the bookstore will have the option to take a plastic bag or receive an EcoCoin. Customers can then place that EcoCoin into one of three boxes, each one representing a student philanthropy organization engaged in social impact for sustainable development. Each EcoCoin represents a 5-cent donation made by the Penn State Bookstore. On top of the total amount collected through EcoCoins, the Penn State Bookstore will contribute \$500 per semester to each organization.





Solution

Incentive Program:

Competitions within food service to promote recycling.

Win prizes for recycling bags.





Limitations

- Campus dining options belong to corporations
- Dining services do not have full autonomy
- Companies use plastic bags for marketing
- Americans like convenience
- Amount of money available to seek alternatives



Most of our plastic ends up in landfills, our oceans and waterways, and the environment. If we continue at our current rate, plastics could outweigh fish in our oceans by 2050. The toxic chemicals used to manufacture plastic gets transferred to animal tissue, eventually entering the human food chain.

STOP SINGLE USE PLASTIC

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References

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