



**Choose to refuse  
plastic bags  
and single-use plastics  
to protect  
Cuyahoga County's  
environment, waterways  
and our great Lake Erie.**

**BYOBags,  
Cuyahoga County.**



## Benefits of Reusable Bags

- Healthier ecosystems and wildlife. Our area's valuable waterways, wildlife, beaches and parks will be better protected from harmful plastic bag litter.
- Reduces carbon footprint by substituting plastic bags with durable and long-lasting reusable bags and paper bags made from recycled materials.
- Cleaner water supply by reducing the amount of microplastics that leach from plastic bags.
- More efficient public utility operations. Water and sewer systems run more smoothly without plastic bags clogging storm drains and other equipment.
- Cleaner neighborhoods. Plastic bags (also known as urban tumbleweeds) are often seen littering our yards, roadways, trees and playgrounds.
- Lower costs for communities and their residents due to reduced labor force for litter collection and fewer landfill fees. Additionally, recycling processing costs are reduced when contaminants such as plastic bags do not have to be removed.

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## Plastic Bag Statistics

- The average plastic bag is used 12 minutes.
- The average person uses 500 plastic bags per year.
- It could take up to 1,000 years for a plastic bag to decompose.
- More than 319 million plastic bags become waste in Cuyahoga County each year.
- Recycling is not the answer. Only 1% of all plastic bags get recycled in retail drop-offs.

*The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District encourages Cuyahoga County residents, communities and organizations to reduce plastic pollution.*

**Learn more at  
[www.cuyahogarecycles.org/reduce\\_plastic\\_waste](http://www.cuyahogarecycles.org/reduce_plastic_waste)**