



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP

The Murray City Municipal Council met for a workshop on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Murray City Center at 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Council Members in Attendance:

Dave Nicponski, Chair	District #1
Dale Cox	District #2
Jim Brass	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4
Brett Hales	District #5

Others in Attendance:

Blair Camp	Mayor	Jan Lopez	Council Executive Director
Pattie Johnson	Council Office	G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney
Jennifer Heaps	Comm. and PR Director	Russ Kakala	Public Works
Melinda Greenwood	Community & Econ Dev Director	Charles Turner	Power
Mark Hooyer	Trans Jordan Landfill	Pam Roberts	Wasatch Front Waste
Kathleen Riebe	State Senator	Jani Iwamoto	State Senator
Phyllis Wall	Utility Billing	Dave Davis	Retail Merchants Asso
Business Owners		Residents	

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Council Chair Nicponski called the Council Workshop to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He introduced the Murray City Council Members and Mayor Camp.

2. **DISCUSSION ON SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS**

- a. **Mark Hooyer, Executive Director, Trans Jordan Landfill**

Mr. Hooyer said the City of Murray had been a faithful member of Trans Jordan for many years. The issue of plastic bags is a littering problem, especially on windy days, when much of a load of garbage is thrust away by the wind. The landfill spends a lot of money each year cleaning up plastic bags. He has completed a survey of landfills along the Wasatch Front. He spends \$55,000 for temporary labor crews to pick up the litter, 85% of which is plastic bags. Salt Lake County Landfill spends \$74,000 per year. The North Point Transfer Station in Lindon spends \$35,000 per year. From Logan to St. George \$435,000 is spent each year in just picking up plastic bags. Who pays for that? All the residents in the associated cities.

Trans Jordan is part owner of the Bayview Landfill. Mr. Hooyer displayed some photos of Bayview's "dinosaur fence", which is a 45-foot-tall litter fence that was constructed solely for the control of litter. Eighty-five percent of the litter consists of plastic and plastic bags. These fences are very expensive – Trans Jordan has \$1.5 million on a capital fund project to erect a similar fence on three sides of the landfill to control this litter. It will take about a year to build to be a good neighbor to residents and businesses nearby.

Of the landfills surveyed, the average spent on litter control is \$54,000 per year and the average capital expense is \$512,000 per year. Each one of the eight landfills spend over \$550,000 on average to control the plastic of all kinds.

Several pictures were shown of the "dinosaur fences" used at the Bayview and Trans Jordan landfills, which are very effective. Also pictured were machinery from a materials and recovery facility (MECF) where plastic bags completely shut down processing machinery. (Attachment #1)

Single-use plastic bags have become an icon in the US, typical of our throwaway society. They are not recyclable – even though they are collected by retail stores. Many stores end up dumping those into garbage cans. They do litter the landscape and when the Jordan River Commission was cleaning up the river, much of the garbage collected was plastic. They are easily preventable sources of pollution.

At the legislature, plastic industry representatives will complain that the industry will be negatively impacted by plastic bag bans, however, studies show that only .32% of all plastic production is from plastic bags. Reusable bags can be used safely as revealed by Consumer Reports. The argument citing the cost of reusable bags for low income people assumes that they do not care about the environment. The cost of the bags is already being added to the grocery prices. One trillion single-use bags are used worldwide on an annual basis, with one billion used here in Utah. The average American family takes home about 1,500 plastic bags per year, five a day and less than 5% are recycled. At this time about the only use for recycled bags is Trex decking material.

Mr. Hooyer said that he is proud to be associated with Murray because they are a little more forward thinking. He talked about the methane gas energy project at Trans Jordan that was created by Murray City where about five MWs of electricity are put on the grid every day. That is enough to power 24 homes. This is also done at the Salt Lake Landfill, sponsored by Murray Power and these dangerous greenhouse gases are taken out of the air to create electricity. That demonstrates some visionary leadership and the plastic bag initiative is another step in the right direction.

b. Pam Roberts, Executive Director, Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District

Ms. Roberts mentioned that WFWRD expends about \$200,000 per year in education and materials to train people in responsible use of plastic bags and events to help promote recycling. There are only two recycling companies in the Salt Lake Valley where materials are delivered, and they have experienced increased costs that are passed on. When there was a revenue source for recycling, they were making quite a bit of profit on the commodities market. Plastic

bags really aren't recyclable, but when revenues were high, they didn't mind having to spend money on unclogging machines because they could recoup the cost and still make money. Ms. Roberts previewed a slide show with advertising for "no plastic bags in blue containers" campaign on the side of the WFWRD trucks. (Attachment #2)

She said there are two factors in recycling to look at, one is contamination. If there is garbage in the recycling, vendors are sorting through the load. She explained the process where materials on the conveyer belt are sorted and pickers are pulling out plastic bags and anything that is dirty and cannot be recycled. Processors must slow down their process to capture the most valuable commodities, such as metals, that had a very high price at one time. Now that is no longer true. WFWRD tries to manage those increased costs as best as they can.

The other thing that is difficult is single-stream collection, where nothing is sorted at the source. The commodities recycling market has changed tremendously where the revenue has become a huge expense instead. People are trying to manage the costs.

China was the biggest buyer of recycling commodities from the US, however, they got so overwhelmed with the thin plastics on everything that now China companies refuse to take plastics unless they are 90% pure. Because a few items slipped in anyway, the second phase of restrictions have come, called the "Green Sword". Campaigns were launched to clean up the plastics and contamination. The price per ton for recyclables received used to be \$40 and now the price for processing costs up to \$95 or \$100 as a base fee. You can reduce that fee according to what is being delivered.

Municipalities are paying as much as \$67 per ton to have recycling processed for their respective residents; landfill costs are at \$32.75 per ton. The WFWRD board decided to fund the recycling to keep it going and a big piece of that was a customer survey. There was nearly 80% support for continued recycling services and based on the increased cost of about one dollar per month per home, 70% would support the fee increase to maintain recycling services. Since the survey was taken, those costs are already increasing.

Other cities have taken steps such as increased fees, opt out services, or suspending services. She is very supportive of Murray City banning bags to help with this problem, as has been done in Park City and Moab. A US map showed by color coding what other states in the nation have done on banning plastic bags.

Senator Jani Iwamoto

Senator Iwamoto distributed some pictures, again, showing the problems with plastic bags. She said that when she first introduced state legislation to ban plastic bags, she had cities, counties and others come together to enact a statewide 10 cent fee. She dropped the bill just as it was approved in committee, however, then there was legislation to ban bills from banning plastic. She noted the idea is to change behaviors; she had considered different fee amounts, settling on 10 cents per bag. The retailers input included a preference for statewide legislation and a fee rather than a ban.

She explained her visit to Rocky Mountain Recycling and how plastic bags slow the recycling process; in more than one place the machinery had to be stopped to clean plastic from the rollers.

Senator Iwamoto has had a lot of communication with constituents over this bill and both Republicans and Democrats have voiced their support for this bill. She concluded that it was something the local authorities must decide rather than on a statewide basis.

She remarked how easily she adjusts when in other cities or states where bags are banned and voiced her support to the city on this issue. (Attachment #3)

c. Diane Turner, Murray City Council District 4

Ms. Turner stated that this discussion meeting was the first part of looking at charging for plastic bags or a ban on plastic bags. It had not been decided either way. This way we get input from citizens and the impact on residents and businesses. Then research would continue.

About five years before, Ms. Turner had been vacationing in Italy and when shopping for groceries they were asked if they wanted a bag, which would cost the equivalent of 25 cents. They did get a bag and noticed the landscape, parking lots, and trees were not littered with plastic bags. When she returned home, she talked with the city attorney who suggested she do her due diligence to research the issue and he would investigate the legal side. Now G.L. Critchfield was assisting her with the ordinance details.

Ms. Turner went through a power point presentation for background and to explain the ordinance that is being considered. (Attachment #4)

- Murray City has an obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors. The City seeks to promote policies which will preserve and conserve natural resources, and promote a cleaner, healthier environment.
- Disposable single use plastic bags pollute the environment; litter our streams, lakes, landscapes and highways; adversely impact wildlife and water quality; clog storm drains; and whirl around landfills.
- Disposable single use plastic bags pollute the environment; negatively impact recycling equipment; are a source of recycling contamination; are seldom recycled; made of nonrenewable resources – commonly petroleum and natural gas.
- The Murray City Council is considering an ordinance to prohibit distribution of single use plastic bags. (Ms. Turner expressed her desire to charge for plastic bags, rather than a complete ban.)
- Nothing in the ordinance precludes a retail store from making reusable bags available for sale to customers or from customers using their own reusable bags.

- If a retail establishment provides a checkout bag to customers, it must be reusable, recyclable paper bag, or compostable.
- A reusable bag means at least 3.0 mils with a capacity of 125 or more uses, able to carry 22 or more pounds over a distance of 175 feet, and capable of being washed so as to clean and disinfect multiple times. (Ms. Turner said this puts the responsibility on the customer, and she is confident Murray residents are up to it.)
- Recyclable paper bag means 100% recyclable, including the handles, contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled content, and displays the words “recyclable” and “made from 40% post-consumer recycled content” in a visible manner.
- Compostable plastic bag means it conforms to the current ASTM D6400 standard, is certified and labeled as above standard, and capable of undergoing biological decomposition consistent with known compostable materials.
- Single-use checkout bag does not include pharmacists’ bag for prescription drugs, newspaper bags, door hanger bags, laundry dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages; packages containing multiple bags intended for food storage, garbage, pet waste or yard waste; bags used by consumers inside retail establishments to package bulk items such as produce, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items to take to the point of sale or checkout area; bags that wrap frozen foods or meat, fish or poultry; or bags that wrap flowers, potted plants or items with moisture.
- The penalty for non-compliance for the first offense is a written warning and the second offense is an infraction with up to a \$750 fine.

Ms. Turner noted that many retailers have been contacted and they indicated their ability to comply with the ordinance, should it be approved. Smith’s Food Stores, Kroger, told us that they are beginning a program to eliminate plastic bags and that Murray would be affected in 2025 anyway.

If the ordinance is approved there would be a delay of several months before going into effect.

Dave Davis, President of the Utah Retail Merchants Association

Mr. Davis represents hundreds of retail companies across the state and thousands of retail locations. He stated his agreement on the issue, however, moving to paper bags is not really the answer because of the carbon footprint. What it means to a retailer is a 500% increase in the cost of bags. This, of course, would affect only those stores in Murray City. They must operationally do things different in Murray. Park City and Moab are very closed communities and you must drive a distance to get out from under the restrictions. Murray City is in close proximity to other cities where plastic bags are not banned. Consumers have many options here.

He asked if it will make a difference if Murray City does this alone.

What are some of the solutions? Senator Iwamoto had a solution to have a statewide ban. He suggested the cities reach out to the Utah League of Cities and Towns for statewide support. Much has been done on education, however, there could be a better partnership with retailers. We would like to reach out as retailers to be part of the solution. There are programs with credits when people bring in their own reusable bags. Citizens are usually not willing to pay an additional fee for bags. He noted that the city could pass the ordinance but not have it go into effect unless a certain number of neighboring cities passed a similar ordinance. That would give it some critical mass.

In closing, Mr. Davis said customers using reusable bags would be a positive step - for the environment, the cities, the landfills and the retailers, as well. It is always difficult to effect a major change without imposing a significant hardship on either side.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS – LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES

Scott Glauser – Murray, Utah Mr. Glauser said that the Murray Police are the nicest around. He has lived where plastic bags are totally banned and it is awful. If you stop on your way home and don't have your own bags, they go all over the car. Paper bags are not strong enough. The ban is not a good idea. If the machinery gets clogged, he doesn't care. Murray has 50,000 residents so the cost at the landfill is one dollar per person. They take up no space either when waded into a small ball. He is against the ban.

Mark Timothy – Murray, Utah Mr. Timothy remarked that both positions should be heard equally. He related that to the railroad industry and the Chinese labor. He likes to hear from the businesses, and he noted that we all agree we don't like the nuisance of plastic bags, but he feels someone will come along and invent a machine to take care of plastic bags. If they are eliminated, he is willing to drive a little farther for the convenience.

Bruce Cutler – Murray, Utah Mr. Cutler said he was in Los Angeles last summer and when shopping had to pay a quarter for a bag. He would like some alternatives. And that bag was just thrown away. One of the largest retailers in the city is Costco and he has never taken a plastic bag from Costco because they provide an alternative, boxes. He proposed an incentive, like the five or ten cent rebates for using his own bag. In South America everyone brings their own bags and it is a pattern of behavior. He likes the discount and agrees with a positive motivation rather than the ban. He stated that plastic bags are a disaster, but we got to this point because they are cheap.

Bill Strong – Murray, Utah Mr. Strong is opposed to this ordinance, he hates a law that punishes people and prefers the reward system. He noted Park City and Moab and dislikes their politics and what they do. He doesn't live in California because he opposes government that controls everything they do. He doesn't want Utah to become like this. He said he will not support Murray businesses if the council passes this ordinance.

Kat Martinez – Murray, Utah Ms. Martinez stated that she is a mother of three and works for the health department. She supports this ordinance because they are hard to recycle, they are hard on the machines, they are harmful to animals and fish in water. She walks the parkway and picks up

garbage, most being plastic bags. She is in favor of changing behavior, when it is found that something is harmful, we should change our behavior. She compared it to the food pyramid, which now has new research showing different breakdowns, so we change our behavior. At Costco there are other alternatives, and she believes in choosing better alternatives. Counties across the country are banning plastic bags. She does not want to be Park City or Moab – she wants to be Murray; to set an example for Salt Lake County. It is hard as a community, but she believes we can do hard things and set the standard for the environment.

Jeff Evans - Murray, Utah Mr. Evans told the group how proud he is of Murray City that this conversation is going on. On his own he discontinued use of plastic bags some time before and carries his totes into the store. At Smith's he gets extra fuel points per bag for using them. It could create a reverse shopping trend, where people will come to Murray to shop because they want to feel good about themselves and reduce their carbon footprint. They want to shop in a city that is forward thinking about the environment. It doesn't matter about other communities. Tonight, everyone is watching Murray to see what we do. His own poll on Face Book shows that 63 say "no ban" and 157 say "ban the bag". He is proud to be a Murrayite and thanks the council for this conversation.

Adam Thompson – Murray, Utah Mr. Thompson represents the HOA of Three Fountains, which is a complex of mostly older residents and he represents their interests. He said if people want to reduce the carbon footprint and help the environment, they should not be for a ban of plastic bags. He said the presentations were propaganda and the carbon footprint is actually much higher with alternative use bags. Nothing is meant to degrade in the landfill, it is meant to be a self-contained system. An alternative material will increase oil production, carbon footprint and waste management costs. Single use bags are a by-produce of ethane; the alternative is the carbon footprint bag. What kind of city does Murray want to be – do we want to be a community that reduces free agency and the capability to make free choices. Litter from plastic bags is less than 1% and weight is less than 4%. Weight and costs increase with other choices. It is an emotional issue. To be environmentally friendly, you would not ban plastic bags. Further, this will affect lower income residents.

Bryant Larsen - Murray, Utah Mr. Larsen said anytime a state (Murray City) enforces a fee it is called a tax not a fee. He is also offended at the term single-use because every bag that comes into his house from the grocery store is bagged for recycling; he uses them for dog poop, trash cans, etc. If these are gone, he will need to purchase bags for use in his home. He feels this is a moral issue forced on residents, like global cooling in the 1970s or global warming now. If they cannot be recycled, they can be thrown away with other trash.

Jeff Glauser – Murray, Utah Mr. Glauser is against more government regulation, more taxes, or more fees. He does not think this is a legislative issue and if people wanted to use reusable bags, they would; people do not need to be forced into it by a city council. It is also interesting that the main presenters were all in favor of a ban. If we wanted more regulation, we could move to California or Venezuela. Let the citizens choose – don't make everything government regulation. He does not agree that fees change behavior. No one wants a higher cost of living. He asked if the council had already decided to push this forward.

Mr. Hales said this was the first discussion and it was a new concept for him.

Mr. Nicponski clarified that the presenters were selected based on their involvement in waste disposal and not because they were in favor or against use of plastic bags.

Marie Christman – Murray, Utah Ms. Christman thanked the council for looking at this issue. One thing she likes about Murray is that elected officials are not afraid to consider the hard questions. She appreciates all the information. She lives in Murray because Murray really cares about its citizens. This is a grass roots issue and sometimes you must take a step forward, take the lead and others will come along. She shops at stores that do not offer plastic bags and she feels we need to continue striving forward and that we can figure out the hard issues. She thanked the city for looking at a plastic bag ban.

Mr. Nicponski thanked residents for their participation and comments and stated his appreciation for everyone's involvement.

4. ADJOURNMENT

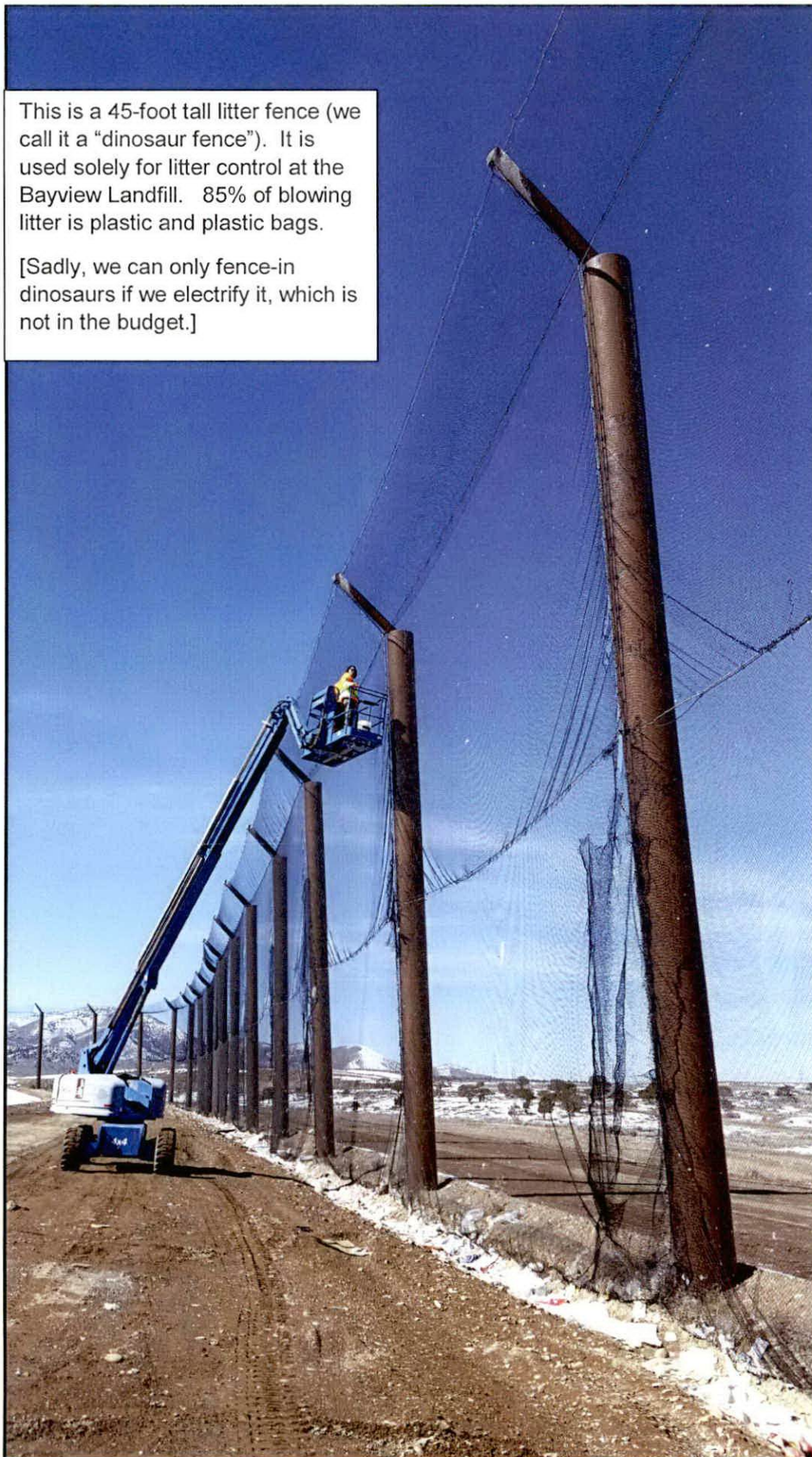
Mr. Nicponski adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Janet M. Lopez
Council Executive Director

ATTACHMENT # 1

This is a 45-foot tall litter fence (we call it a "dinosaur fence"). It is used solely for litter control at the Bayview Landfill. 85% of blowing litter is plastic and plastic bags.

[Sadly, we can only fence-in dinosaurs if we electrify it, which is not in the budget.]





Our Bayview dinosaur fence in action on a windy day.





The human scale added to show you how large and heavy this fence is. Trans-Jordan Cities (of who Murray is a member) is constructing one of these fences this summer, at a cost estimated at approximately 1.5 million dollars.



Film bags jam up machines at the MRF's. Rocky Mtn. Recycling shuts down several times per day to cut bags out of machinery. This results in high costs to contain this "litter". These costs are part of the fees that cities must pay to process their recycling.



Costs to Primary Utah Municipal Solid Waste Facilities for Litter Control (Plastic Bags) FY 2018

Facility	County	Direct Costs (Yearly)	Add'l Capital Costs (2-year period)	Notes	Respondent	Response Date
North Pointe Transfer	Utah	\$35,000		\$30k is for seasonal labor. More handled "in house".	Rodger Harper	21-Nov
Bountiful	Davis	\$15,000		\$15k includes "fencing, labor, and equipment time".	Todd Christensen	21-Nov
				\$50k for one employee and vehicle to supv. Inmates; \$50k on		
Salt Lake Valley	Salt Lake	\$74,000	\$50,000	fencing upgrades	Yianni Ioannou	20-Nov
Trans-Jordan	Salt Lake	\$55,000	\$1,500,000	\$40k/year, Litter fence: \$450k in FY19, \$1.1MM to continue fence	Mark Hooyer	22-Nov
Wasatch Integrated	Davis	\$33,000	\$150,000	\$33k/year in juve court/seasonal, \$150k for litter fencing.	Preston Lee	27-Nov
Washington County	Washington	\$42,000		Includes inmate pickups.	Neil Schwendiman	27-Nov
SUVSWD Transfer	Utah	\$40,000		Transfer Station only	Terry Ficklin	6-Dec
NUERA/ Bayview	Utah	\$121,000	\$350,000	10% of labor to pickup (71k)+50k /yr for fence maintenance	Terry Ficklin	6-Dec
Logan	Cache	\$20,000		Litter crew pick ups.	Issa Hamud	
	Total	\$435,000	\$2,050,000			
	Avg cost/ea	\$54,375	\$512,500	*Avg between four facilities that have capital expenses in next 2 years.		

Cost for one of two primary Material's Recovery Facilities (MRF's) to clean out and control plastic bags caught in equipment

Rocky Mountain Recycling	Salt Lake	\$257,802	\$773,406	Operational costs to control plastic bags (litter).	Larry Gibbons	22-Nov
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Note: Litter control fees for both landfills and MRFs are charged back to municipalities as part of facility fees.

Chart researched and prepared by Mark Hooyer, Executive Director, Trans-Jordan Cities
Updated 5-8-19



ATTACHMENT # 2



Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District

How Plastic Bags Effect the
Collection and the Processing of
Recycling



There are two important factors when it comes to recycling and the associated costs.

1. Contamination in a recycling container.

- Any material that is not recyclable, dirty materials even if they are recyclable, garbage, and green waste.
- Plastic bags are considered contamination due to the thin film plastic causing many issues in a single stream collection program.

2. The recycling commodities markets.

These are commodity markets where recycling materials are sold by the companies that process recycling.



The Increasing Costs for Processing Recycling

As of January 1, 2017, China, the biggest buyer of recycling commodities refused to take “dirty” plastics; i.e.: garbage mixed in the commodities, thin film plastics overwhelming the Country.

There was not a means to process the volumes of the commodities being delivered to China.

Plastic bags have always been costly to process. However, when the markets were paying well, vendors could off-set the costs with the revenue being generated.

- The District launched the Bring Your Own Bag (B.Y.O.B.) campaign to help promote reusable grocery bags. Efforts are taken to help reduce contamination and keep costs low.

The recycling commodity markets continue to decline and remain volatile related to the decreased values for the commodities that are being collected globally and sold on the open markets.

- Throughout the U.S., there are some vendors who are charging over \$100.00 per ton for processing.
- Depending on market pricing, municipalities are paying as much as \$67.00 per ton to have recycling processed for their respective residents.
- Nationwide, the recycling processing vendors are needing to increase their price per ton for processing to capture the commodities that still have dollar values and are easier to sell.
- Vendors needed to slow down their sort lines and the processing machines, which drives up costs.

Local Effects and Efforts to Manage the Increased Costs for Recycling

The District conducted customer surveys to find out the level of support for continued weekly collections.

Included in the survey: The increased cost per home, per month of \$1.00 to continue recycling versus landfilling that materials for \$.75 increased cost per home/month. (\$750,000 increased annual costs for landfilling versus \$980,000 increased annual cost for recycling) Survey results:

- 79.91% support continued recycling services.
- 1.54% do not recycle.
- 70.5% would support a fee increase to maintain recycling services.

The two recycling processing vendors in the Salt Lake Valley, Waste Management (WM) and Rocky Mountain Recycling's (RMR) price per ton for processing increased up to \$67.00 per ton in March and April.

Draper City has released a Request For Proposal for recycling processing due to the increased costs for recycling.

Ogden City "suspended" their recycling efforts for approximately 2 weeks in March while they negotiated with their current vendor on a price that could work for their residents while still keeping the services going.

West Valley City (WVC) is offering an "op-out" of their bi-weekly recycling services. Their residents are given a choice to op-out and reduce their monthly fee by \$2.50 per month.

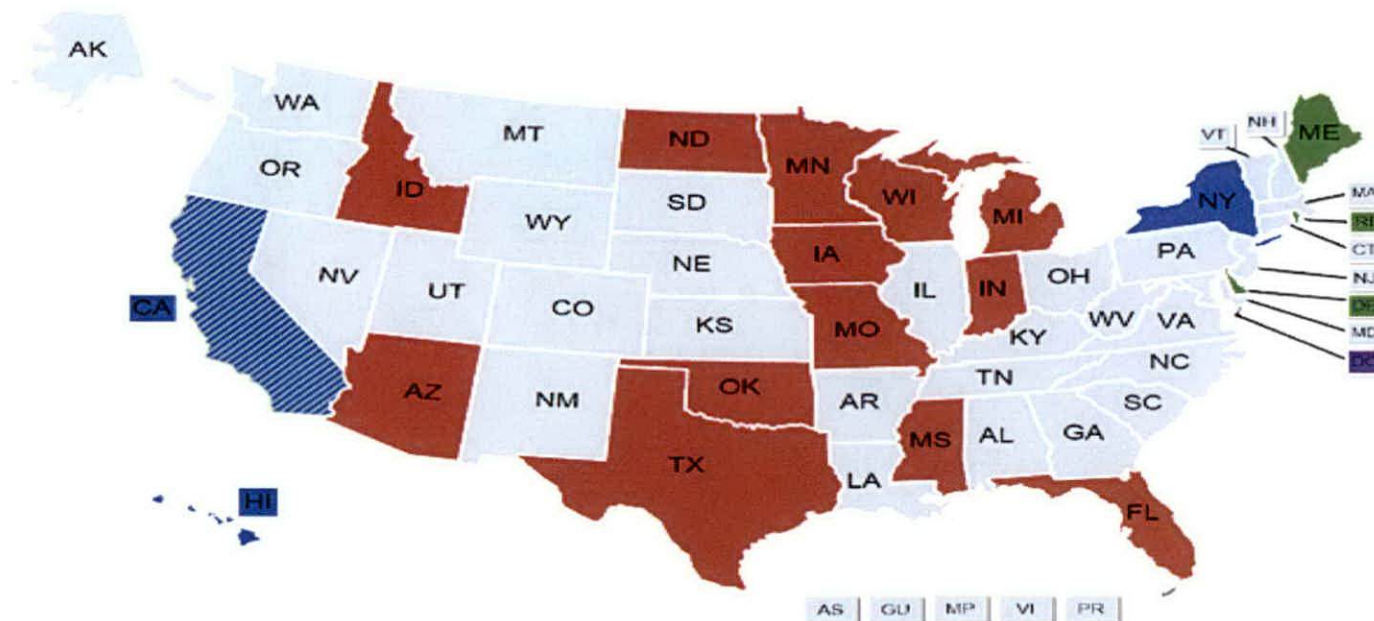
- **WVC has one of the highest contamination rates in the Valley.**
- WVC is a bi-weekly recycling collection.

Efforts in Utah to Reduce Contamination from Plastic Bags

- Kroger's plans, though last August they announced they would phase out plastic bags at their 2,800 stores by 2025. (<https://money.cnn.com/2018/08/23/news/companies/kroger-plastic-bags/index.html>)
- Park City (in 2017) and Moab (2018) have banned retailers from distributing single-use plastic bags, in an effort to reduce litter and promote the use of more durable reusable bags.
 - Park City's ban is on grocery stores exceeding 12,000 sq. ft. within city limits.
 - Moab's ban includes all plastic bags less than 2.25 mils in thickness issued at checkout.
- Spanish Fork Representative, Michael K. McKell introduced H.B. 320 in the 2019 legislative session to prohibit local gov't entities from regulating or imposing fees on containers (plastic bags). **It was not passed. Similar regulation bills failed in 2018 (SB218 & SB192).**
- Park City Council Member Tim Henney commented about the "failed attempt to prohibit Park City's plastic bag ordinance in the context of local control." (<https://www.kpcw.org/post/rep-tim-quinn-addresses-park-city-council-legislative-recap#stream/0>)
- Logan City delayed a vote on a plastic bag ordinance on March 19, 2019. Logan Councilman Jess Bradford: "All along I've been saying plastic bags are not the issue, we have a plastics problem."
(<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900061322/logan-city-council-shelves-vote-to-ban-plastic-bags.html>)

States with Enacted Plastic Bag Legislation

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/plastic-bag-legislation.aspx>.



LEGEND

	Bans *HI has a de facto statewide ban
	Fees or Taxes
	Labeling, Recycling or Reuse Programs
	CA has both a ban and labeling, recycling or reuse programs
	Preemption

ATTACHMENT # 3



Plastic Bags

Quick Facts:

- Americans throw away 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually¹
- It takes 12 million barrels of oil to produce that amount of plastic bags²
- Utahans throw away 940 million plastic shopping bags annually³
- It takes 112,800 barrels of oil to produce that amount of plastic bags⁴
 - The natural gas and oil wells in Uinta County are responsible for high levels of Ozone⁵
- The average American family takes home 1,500 plastic bags a year
- Most plastic bags used in the west are produced in Asia- transportation requires more fossil fuels than it is used to make them
- It takes approximately 1,000 years for a plastic bags to "decompose"
- Only 1-3% of plastic bags get recycled worldwide⁶
- Plastic bags are not accepted for curbside recycling^{7,8}

Plastic Bags and Curbside Recycling

Plastic bags are not accepted for curbside recycling and in fact become a problem at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). MRFs are designed to separate rigid materials like cans, bottles and paper products. Plastic bags are so thin and flexible that they get caught up and jam the sorting machinery—causing down time. Our local MRF suggests taking plastic bags back to the grocery store.

Plastic Bags at Landfills

Plastic bags become a nuisance at landfills. Being so lightweight, they are easily blown away. The Salt Lake Valley Landfill has a 20 foot fence surrounding the landfill with the purpose of catching any garbage that may be blown away from the tipping face (the area where garbage is unloaded). The number one item collected from these fences are plastic bags.

Degradation of Plastics in Landfills

Plastic bags and other plastic materials do not "decompose," instead they break down into smaller pieces. When exposed to the elements, this degradation occurs slightly faster. At a landfill, no sunlight,

¹ <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5565>

² <http://www.livestrong.com/article/159961-plastic-bag-pollution-facts/>

³ US Pop x .92% (UT pop % to US pop) = 2,951,600
(100 billion/ 314 million) (bag per person) x 2,951,600 = 940 million

⁴ 12 million/100 billion = .00012 (barrels per bag)
.00012 x 940 million = 112,800

⁵ <https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2018/01/04/feds-say-utah-has-another-serious-air-quality-problem-ozone/>

⁶ http://www.westminstercollege.edu/pdf/environmental_center/Plastic%20Bag%20Facts%20.pdf

⁷ <http://rockymountainrecycling.com/what-we-recycle/>

⁸ <http://www.wm.com/thinkgreen/what-can-i-recycle.jsp>

oxygen or water is reaching the garbage to aid in its degradation. Daily, the Salt Lake Valley Landfill receives three million pounds (1,500 tons) of garbage a day. At the end of each day, the garbage is covered with six inches of dirt. The deeper the garbage is, the harder it is for the elements to reach the garbage, if at all. It takes thousands of years for plastic to completely decompose—we have yet to see that happen.

Paper Bags

Facts about paper bags and their role in greenhouse gas production. These gases include both methane and CO₂.

- Americans use 10 billion paper bags a year
- The largest component of a landfill is paper (26%)
- While paper will decompose within weeks in the natural environment, it can take centuries for it to decompose in a landfill.
- The paper grocery bags in landfills that do decompose release methane gas
 - Methane is a greenhouse gas that has to be managed per EPA standards at a landfill
- About 14 million trees are cut down annually for the production of paper bags.
- The production of paper bags generates 70% more air pollutants than plastic bags
- The production of paper bags generates 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags
- Degradation in landfills produces methane a greenhouse gas with 25 times the heat trapping capacity of carbon dioxide.
- Landfills are the source of **34% of methane releases**—the single largest source in the U.S.⁹
- The pulp and paper industry is the **4th largest emitter** of greenhouse gases among U.S. manufacturing industries.
- The paper industry contributes **9% of total carbon dioxide emissions** from manufacturing.¹⁰

The gases generated by paper in the two SL County landfills is equal to the carbon generated by driving a passenger car **117,915,098.08 miles**.¹¹

⁹ <http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/impacts/climateimpacts.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.greenpressinitiative.org/impacts/climateimpacts.htm>

¹¹ The methane generated from our Salt Lake Valley landfill is equivalent to a passenger car being driven 293,252,451 miles. The emissions from the Trans-Jordan landfill is equivalent to 160,267,157 miles driven.

Retail Bag Impact Reduction Bill

Landfill Litter Costs – Wasatch Front & Washington County

Facility	County	Direct Costs (Yearly)	Capital Costs (2-3 year period)	Respondent
North Pointe	Utah	\$35,000		Rodger Harper
Bountiful	Davis	\$15,000		Todd Christensen
Salt Lake Valley	Salt Lake	\$74,000	\$50,000	Y. Ioannou/Ashlee Y.
Trans-Jordan	Salt Lake	\$50,000	\$300,000	Mark Hoyer
Wasatch	Davis	\$33,000	\$150,000	Preston Lee
Integrated				
Washington	Washington	\$42,000		Neil
County				Schwendiman
SUVSWD	Utah	\$40,000		Terry Ficklin
NUERA / Bayview	Utah	\$121,000	\$350,000	Terry Ficklin
	Total	\$410,000	\$850,000	
	Avg cost/ea	\$51,250	\$212,500	*Avg between 4 that have capital expenses in next 2-3 years

Trans-Jordan Landfill is in support of this bill. We are looking for other solid waste entities to join the support.

Recycling Costs – Wasatch Front Region

Rocky Mountain Recycling	Salt Lake	\$257,802	\$773,406	Larry Gibbons
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ATTACHMENT # 4

Murray City Council Single-Use Plastic Bag Discussion







Murray City has an obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors. The City seeks to promote policies which will preserve and conserve natural resources, and promote a cleaner, healthier environment.

Disposable Single Use Plastic Bags

-  Pollute the environment
-  Litter our streams, lakes, landscapes and highways
-  Adversely impact wildlife and water quality
-  Clog storm drains
-  Whirl around landfills



Disposable Single Use Plastic Bags

-  Negatively impact recycling equipment
-  Are a source of recycling contamination
-  Are seldom recycled
-  Made of nonrenewable resources – commonly petroleum and natural gas



The Murray City Council is considering an ordinance to prohibit distribution of single use plastic bags.

Ordinance Details





Approved Carryout Bags

Nothing in the ordinance precludes a retail store from making reusable bags available for sale to customers or from customers using their own reusable bags.

If a retail establishment provides a checkout bag to customers, it must be:

- Reusable



- Recyclable Paper Bag



- Compostable



Reusable Bag means:

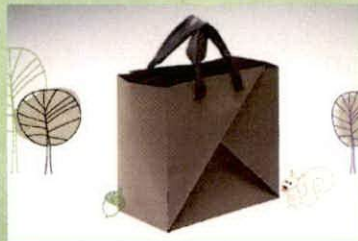
- At least 3.0 mils with a capacity of 125 or more uses
- Able to carry 22 or more pounds over a distance of 175 feet
- Capable of being washed so as to clean and disinfect multiple times





Recyclable Paper Bag means:

- 100% recyclable, including the handles
- Contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled content
- Displays the words "Recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled content" in a visible manner



Compostable Plastic Bag means:

- Conforms to the current ASTM D6400 standard
- Certified and labeled as above standard
- Capable of undergoing biological decomposition consistent with known compostable materials





Single use checkout bag does not include:

- Pharmacists bag for prescription drugs
- Newspaper bags
- Door hanger bags
- Laundry dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in packages



Single use checkout bag does not include:

- Packages containing multiple bags intended for food storage, garbage, pet waste or yard waste
- Bags used by consumers inside retail establishments to package bulk items such as produce, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items to take to the point of sale or checkout area
- Bags that wrap frozen foods or meat, fish or poultry
- Bags that wrap flowers, potted plants or items with moisture



Penalty for Non Compliance

First Offense:

- Written Warning

Second Offense:

- Infraction
- Up to a \$750 fine



Questions?