Learn about the City's current recycling program and about the newly proposed Clean & Green Retail Ordinance

KIMO THEATER
423 Central Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

SUN MAR 31 3PM

Don't Forget Your Reusable Bag!

Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance
Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
In The United States

- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps are consumed in the U.S. each year.
- Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture.
- Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes.
- About 355 per person/year (6.8/wk.)

We also use a LOT of plastic straws

- 1.6 straws per-person per-day.
- Based on national averages, this equates to each person in the U.S. using about 38,000 straws between the ages of 5 and 65.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS & STRAWS

POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

also known as EPS Foam or Styrofoam

Touted as lightweight but also takes up lots of room

Takes 100’s, maybe 1000’s of years to “breakdown”

Easily scattered by wind or water, resulting in pollution and consumption by animals

https://blog.epa.gov/tag/plastic-bags/

Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance
Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
WHO ARE THESE BAGS COMING FROM?

WHERE DO ALL THESE PLASTIC BAGS COME FROM?

Who is pushing these bags? “Big Plastic,” of course

*In the United States, the plastics industry has launched a concerted campaign to derail and defeat anti-bag measures nationwide. The effort includes well-placed political donations, intensive lobbying at both the state and national levels, and a pervasive PR campaign designed to shift the focus away from plastic bags to the supposed threat of canvas and paper bags — including misleading claims that reusable bags “could” contain bacteria and unsafe levels of lead.*

*With 125 employees and more than $120 million in annual revenues, the ACC and its members are using their deep pockets and extensive political connections to overturn bans on plastic bags, cast doubt on legitimate scientific studies and even file lawsuits against anti-bag activists.* - *Rolling Stone, July 2011*

**American Chemical Council is a donor/member of ALEC (so is/was the National Restaurant Assoc.)**

One of the few pieces of model legislation adopted by the American City County Exchange (ACCE), the ALEC offshoot targeting local elected officials, is a resolution titled "Regulating Containers to Protect Business and Consumer Choice."

A group calling itself the "American Progressive Bag Alliance" (ABPA), a trade group that has been funded by plastics manufacturers like Novolex, the Superbag Corporation, and Advanced Polybag.
**Plastic bags are banned in over 200 cities, 2 states, and 32 countries**

**22 new laws proposed in 2018**

**Polystyrene: 100+ cities**

**Statewide bans in Hawaii, California**

**Citywide bans in NYC and 24+ other cities**

**Major Companies Dumping Plastic Straws**

- Starbucks (2020)
- Hyatt (2018)
- Marriott (2018)
- Alaska Airlines
- American Airlines
- McDonalds (UK/EU 2018 - US tests now)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Ordinance Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
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CASE STUDY: AUSTIN, TX

Enacted 2:00 am March 2, 2013 - in effect in March 2014
2017: Overturned by TX Court, compliance is now voluntary

- Banned 1-mil thick single-use bags
- No “per bag fee” for alternatives at the register
- Reduced plastic bag use by 75%
- Plastic bags now make up 0.03% of trash stream

Responses
Retailers began offering thicker 4 mil-thick bags as “reusable”.
  - Made of virgin plastic
  - Must be used 100+ times to offset carbon footprint
  - Added 23 tons of new plastic to waste stream

After the court decision, 5 largest grocery stores still comply

https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=232679
## CASE STUDY: AUSTIN, TX

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<th></th>
<th>AUSTIN</th>
<th>FT WORTH</th>
<th>ABQ</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>786,386</td>
<td>727,577</td>
<td>558,545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bags Per Person Per Day</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Single Use</td>
<td>263,801,371</td>
<td>246,648,603</td>
<td>187,112,575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic Bags Used in City</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bags Reduced (75%)</td>
<td>197,079,454</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>140,334,431</td>
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</table>

Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance

Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
OUR BILL

BANS PLASTIC BAGS

13-17-2 (A) “shall not provide a single-use plastic bag”

STRAWS: “PAPER FIRST”

13-17-2 (D) “shall not provide a single-use plastic straw”
- Retailers may provide biodegradable or paper straws as default
- To address ADA concerns, retailers must make plastic straws available upon request to accommodate medical and disability needs.

BANS POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

13-17-2 (A) “shall not provide a single-use polystyrene (Styrofoam) container”

Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance
Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
OUR BILL

+ Effective January 1, 2020

+ Creates “Clean & Green Business Designation” for businesses who comply and go beyond
  - Join CABQ commercial recycling
WHAT DOES IT COST?

Single Use Plastic
$12.49/ case
Qty: 1,000
Cost-per-Unit:
$0.01249

Biodegradable Film Bag
$16.49/ case
Qty: 500
Cost-per-Unit:
$0.03298

Paper Bag
$32.58/ case
Qty: 500
Cost-per-Unit:
$0.065

webstaurantstore.com

Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance
Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
WHAT DOES IT COST?

7 3/4" Jumbo Clear Wrapped Straw
$28.66/ case
Qty: 12,000
Cost-per-Unit: $0.0024

7 3/4" White Jumbo Wrapped Compostable Paper Straw
$50.53/case
Qty: 3200
Cost-per-Unit: $0.0158

HAY! Straws
Cost-per-Unit: $0.06
*currently in use in ABQ @Tractor Brewing

No Straw
$0/case
Qty: 0
Cost-per-Unit: Free!
9" x 9" x 3" White Foam Square Take Out Container
$16.25/ case
Qty:200
Cost-per-Unit: $0.08

9" x 9" x 3" Biodegradable, Compostable Sugarcane / Bagasse
$35.85/case
Qty: 200
Cost-per-Unit: $0.18

9" Round Foil Take-Out Pan with Board Lid
$26.05/case
Qty: 200
Cost-per-Unit: $0.13
What happened in other cities?

Tacoma Park, MD

Economical! The total unit cost increase when purchasing four alternative material items as opposed to polystyrene from one supplier was only $0.04.

Cost-effective! One of the most widely used containers, a 9" one-compartment clamshell, was available at a cheaper cost produced from plant fiber than one composed of polystyrene foam.

Budget-friendly! Switching from polystyrene to the cheapest alternative material product resulted in an average increase of $2.04 per 100 units purchased, across seven different food-service ware products.

City of Tacoma Park, MD

Implemented Polystyrene ban in 2015, Plastics ban in 2016

What about my enchiladas?!

Yep. It will cost more to keep your chile in tact for take out.

Current Cost: 0.08 cents

Sam’s Club ABQ
200 pk, $25 (0.125-cents/unit)

Would you pay 12-cents more for biodegradable enchilada takeout?
To convert from plastic bags to a biodegradable option it would cost about $0.02 per bag.

To convert from plastic straws to a biodegradable option it would cost about $0.01 per drink.

To convert from foam cups to a recyclable option it would cost about $0.01 per drink.

To convert from foam containers to a recyclable option for enchilada take out it would cost about $0.12-.20 per item.

To prevent pollution, save our wildlife, and protect the planet it will cost us all a little bit.

Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance
Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
# Case Study: ABQ Bio Park

## Eco Friendly Disposables vs Plastic Disposables Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Case Cost</th>
<th>Units / Case</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Regular Product Description</th>
<th>Case Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plate, Bagasse 6.25” Ivory Bare Square</td>
<td>$37.74</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>$0.08</td>
<td>Plate, Plastic 9” Black 1 CMPT ROUND</td>
<td>$40.26</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
<td>(0.03)</td>
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<td>Plate, Bagasse 10” Ivory Bare Square</td>
<td>$45.85</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>$0.11</td>
<td>Plate, Foam 10.25” 1 CMPT Black Laminated Round</td>
<td>$56.19</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<td>Fork, Mediumweight Beige Plant-Starch-Material Bull Plastic</td>
<td>$31.48</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>$0.03</td>
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<td>$36.99</td>
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<td>Spoon, Tea Heavyweight Beige Plant-Starch-Material Bull Plastic</td>
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<td>Kit, Cutlery K-F-S Nap Mediumweight Beige Plant-Starch-Material Plastic</td>
<td>$35.71</td>
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<td>Kit, Cutlery K-F-S Nap Mediumweight White Polypropylene Plastic</td>
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<td>Cup, PLA Plastic 12 oz Cold Clear Green Stripe Stock Print</td>
<td>$21.11</td>
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<td>Cup, Polystyrene 12 oz Cold Translucent Plastic</td>
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<td>Cup, Paper Board 12 oz Single PLA Plastic Coated Hot World Art Stock Print</td>
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<td>Cup, Polystyrene 12 oz Hot Translucent Plastic</td>
<td>$23.91</td>
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## Family of Four

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<tr>
<th>Item #1</th>
<th>Item #2</th>
<th>Item #3</th>
<th>EF</th>
<th>TD</th>
<th>Item #1</th>
<th>Item #2</th>
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EF = Eco Friendly  
TD = Traditional Disposable  

Totals: $1.01, $0.75, $0.27

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**Albuquerque's Clean & Green Retail Ordinance**  
**Sponsors:** Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
How have restaurants adapted elsewhere?

“When people come in for takeout orders, they get a paper bag with a handle, or, if it’s a large order, a cardboard box. “It’s OK,” said Tracy Dong.
- New China Restaurant, Hastings, NY

Instead of Styrofoam containers for takeout, he switched to aluminum ones.
- Milton Theodoropulos, owner of the Center Restaurant, Hudson, NY

Jung has been charging customers who only buy a few items 99 cents for the logo bags, but “when they shop $20, $30, I give them free,”
- Cathy Jung, Carryout owner, Hastings, NY
Reusing bags carry germs.
If you don’t wash them, they do. Solution: Wash them.

Complaints about lack of “reuse” for lunch bags, pet waste
True.
Austin’s study: cost to replace “free” plastic bags with purchased alternatives was $0.80 per person, per year (p26)

Paper bags have a higher [enviro impact/carbon footprint]
Uses required to offset enviro impact:

- Paper Bags: 3-9 times
- Plastic Bags: 4-12 times
  - Are you really reusing each plastic bag 12 times?


https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=232479

Albuquerque’s Clean & Green Retail Ordinance
Sponsors: Davis, Benton, Gibson, Borrego
Phasing in straw and Styrofoam bans?
Right now, straw companies are having a hard time keeping up with bans - especially with big states like California recently coming online.
- *Aardvark Straws (US largest): 5000% increase last year, 12 week delay*

Exempting restaurants?
The Restaurant Association pushed for exemptions to minimum wage and sick leave in the past.

They have effectively pushed for exemptions in Santa Fe, Los Angeles, and others. Exemptions are being rejected in new bans, including in Boston, San Diego, & Charleston.

Their argument: it is too expensive.
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

Political Process

- Next hearing will be on April 15th at 5:00 PM in the basement of 1 Civic Plaza NW
- There is a pending fiscal impact analysis

What Can You Do To Help?

- Call your Councilor and tell her/him why you support O-18-48
- Support restaurants and businesses that are already taking action and ask others to get on board
- Don’t forget your reusable bags when shopping and refuse plastic straws and other unnecessary single use plastics!