

bring me back

return or reuse your bags



Every year, Ohioans throw away millions of plastic bags which end up in landfills. In central Ohio, those bags end up in the landfill operated by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

To increase plastic bag recycling, SWACO has launched “Bring Me Back” — a program to encourage residents to return their plastic bags to collection bins at local retailers and use reusable shopping bags. The program also reminds residents not to curbside recycle their bags, as many recyclers don’t accept them.

How to Recycle Plastic Bags



DON'T put plastic bags of any kind into curbside recycling bins.

Plastic bags can become stuck in—and even damage—recycling sorting equipment. Consider reusing plastic bags instead. About 65% of Americans reuse their bags for trash disposal¹. Other common uses include:

- Lunch bags
- Packing material
- Protecting plants from frost
- Paint brush covers
- Shoe covers
- Plarn (plastic yarn)
- Covering side mirrors and wiper blades during icy weather



DO return plastic bags to local retailers with collection bins.

- More than 60 retail locations across Franklin County provide collection bins for plastic bags.
- More than 90% of the U.S. population has access to plastic bag recycling².
- These recycling locations can accept other clean, dry and empty plastic bags including newspaper and produce bags, cereal box liners, plastic wrap from paper towels, toilet paper and bottled water packaging and food storage bags.



ALTERNATIVE to plastic and paper bags: Reusable canvas or cloth bags.

The average reusable bag has a lifespan of more than 700 plastic bags³!

Myth vs. Fact

MYTH: Throwing away plastic bags and other materials is a cheaper alternative to recycling.

FACT: Recycling creates more economic opportunities in our communities.

- Franklin County residents and businesses generate more than one million tons of waste each year which is sent to the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill (FCSL)
- 70% of that waste could have been recycled and has a value of \$41 million
- Recycling supports 10 jobs for every one job at the landfill, and creates new value-added products⁴

MYTH: Our planet has unlimited natural resources.

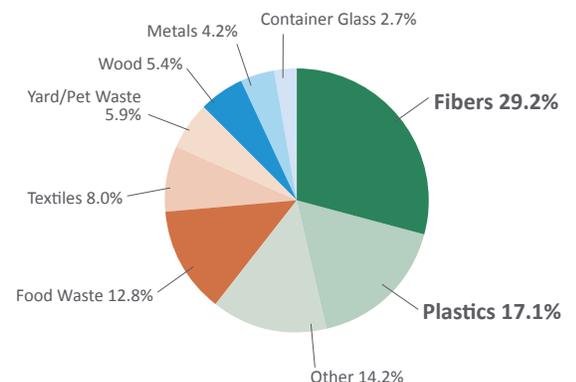
FACT: If we don't take measures today to preserve and protect precious natural resources, we will eventually run out of them.

- Plastic bags are made from a finite natural resource (oil) which can be conserved through reuse and recycling
- Billions of pounds of plastic can be found in the world's oceans polluting our life-sustaining water and wildlife⁵
- Landfilling waste, including plastic bags, requires the use of natural resources such as dirt for a daily cover

MYTH: Landfills last forever.

FACT: Recycling, composting and other diversion methods can help to extend the life of a landfill however they do not last forever.

- The FCSL is a sophisticated engineering marvel that costs millions to properly and safely operate
- Landfills have limited space. In Franklin County, the current life of the landfill is estimated to be 24 years
- It takes hundreds of years for plastic bags to decompose in a landfill, in the water and on our Earth⁶



Franklin County Municipal Solid Waste Generation

