

Plastic Bags vs. Paper Bags

Econ 2505ID: Environmental Economics

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Plastic or Paper: Which is a healthier option for the environment?



Thank You White T Shirt Bag [Digital image],(2017).



Duro Paper Bags [Digital image], (2017).

Plastic Bans / Restrictions

- Portugal imposed a tax on plastic bags
- California placed a plastic bag but reduced their ban after researching the environmental effects that are caused by paper bags
- USVI established ACT-7938 also known as the Plastic Bag Ban in January 2017

Plastic Bags

Pros

- Lasts longer than paper bags- longer lifespan
- Lightweight
- Uses less natural resource in the production process than that of paper bags

Cons

- Harmful to wildlife and environment
- Depletes natural resources
- Contaminates water and soil

Paper Bags

Pros

- Does not harm wildlife in the way in which plastic products do
- It breaks down as it is plant based

Cons

- Leads to deforestation
- Pulping process results in contaminated water and the overuse of already scarce resources
- Uses more energy in the production than plastic bags
- Heavier than plastic products

Reusable Plastic Bags

- “Green” alternative to regular bag options
- Reduces one’s carbon footprint
- California has certain stipulations on reusable plastic bags

Awareness of One's Carbon Footprint

- Reduce the use of disposable bags
- Remember to carry reusable bags



Thank You

Citation

- Duro Paper Bags [Digital image]. (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.amazon.com/Duro-Paper-Lunch-Brown-Count/dp/B01N0AS7QO>
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Citation

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