

Plastic Bags

Quantifying the Impact of Chicago's Bag Fee

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2009 Plastic Bag Recycling Ordinance

- Effective date January 2009 for stores > 5,000 sq. ft.; April 2009 for small stores
- Exempted food service establishments
- Required:
 - “Please Reuse or Recycle” on the plastic bag
 - Store operators to provide in-store collection bins for consumers and to collect and recycle plastic
 - Manufacturers to offer collection, transportation, and recycling of plastic to store operators
 - Annual reporting by store operators, manufacturers



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2009 Ordinance Results

- Large amount of feedback from small businesses that the ordinance was overly burdensome
- Jewel accounted for 47% of recycled plastic by weight in 2010
- 90% of recycled plastic was from 5 companies: Dominick's, Jewel, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, and GM Warehouse

Sections of the Ordinance requiring store operators to collect and recycle plastic and manufacturers to collect, transport and recycle plastic are still in effect today.

