

---

# Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

SB 313

---

# In Maryland: Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

- Prohibits retailers from providing plastic carryout bags\* at the point of sale
- Requires retailers to charge at least 10 cents for paper or other carryout bags
- Establishes a **Single-Use Products Working Group** to recommend further actions to reduce plastic and single-use container waste in Maryland

*\*Defined as plastic carryout bags less than 4 mils thick.*

# What's being done

- Six counties and cities in Maryland have plastic bag legislation, with more in the works...
- Eight states currently have hybrid bans (ban on plastic, charge for paper or reusable alternatives)...
- Globally, 76 countries have bag bans across five continents

# What about exemptions?

- Package bulk items, including fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items
- Contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or **fish**, whether prepackaged or not
- Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other **damp items**
- Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods
- Contain a newspaper
- Contain garments or dry-cleaned clothes, including suits, jackets, and dresses
- A bag provided by a pharmacist that contains prescription drugs; or
- Plastic bags sold in **packages containing multiple plastic bags**.

# Why a Price Floor versus Fee?

- **Behavior Change**
  - **Throw away culture**
- **Transparency**
- **Lower overhead costs for businesses – less single use bags**
- **Not a tax**
- **Never about the money – about our environment and quality of life**

# Win for State & Local Governments



# Low Income Impact

- **SNAP/WIC**
  - **No exemptions in Maryland others have done so**
- **Agencies and Localities distribute reusable bags**
- **Work Group priority to address prior to next legislative session**
- **Environmental Justice**

# Why a State Wide Standard?

- **State Wide Problem**
  - Beaches, waterways, agriculture, tourism
- **Silent Pre Emption**
  - Patchwork
- **Level Playing Field for Retailers big and small**
- **Predictability**



# Why price on paper?

- Massive increase in paper usage
- Paper bags still litter neighborhoods
- Upstream environmental cost of paper production
- Paper bags are far more expensive for stores
- Increasing paper bags = increase in timber use and deforestation
- Analysis of bans show that a min.10 cent charge is needed to effectively change behavior

# A Plastic Planet & A Plastic State

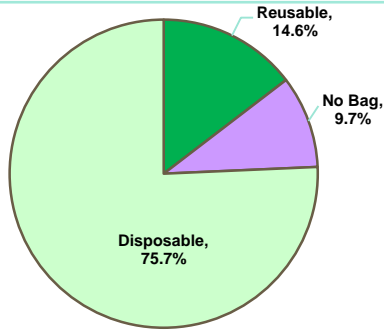
- **The world is facing a plastic pollution crisis:** *Oceans take in 5-13 million tons of plastic from land-based sources annually. By 2050, more plastic than fish by weight in the ocean*
  - Americans throw away [100 billion plastic bags](#) annually
  - 8 million tons of plastic waste enter our waterways **each year**
- **Plastic shopping bags are a major contributor:** *Worldwide, estimated 1 trillion plastic shopping bags annually. They're among the top 5 plastic products collected in beach cleanups in the US. At major grocery chains in MD, 75%-88% of shoppers use single-use bags, 98+% are plastic.*
- **Plastic bags pollute our waterways, threaten wildlife and human health.**

**Fortunately – there  
is a solution...**

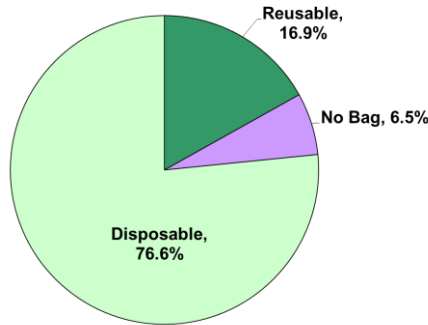
- Plastic bag bans & requiring stores to charge for paper bags has proven effective in states, cities, and countries where they have been implemented...
-

# Bag bans and fees work!

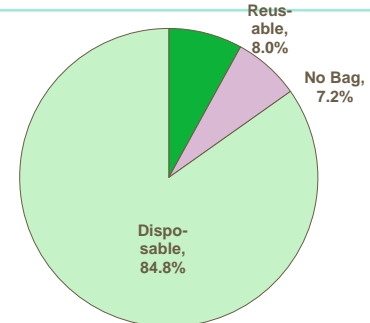
When bags are provided “free”,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or more of shoppers choose them  
≥ 98% of single-use bags are plastic



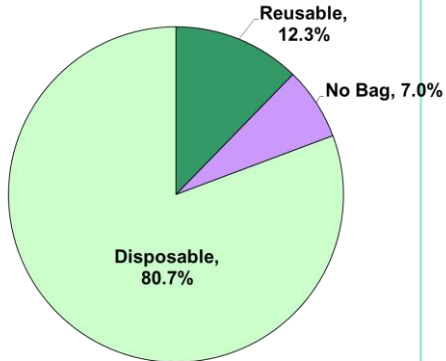
City of Baltimore, 2019  
(15 stores; 2,487 shoppers)



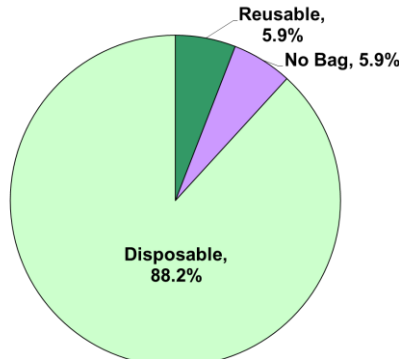
Howard County, 2019  
(19 stores, 3,185 shoppers)



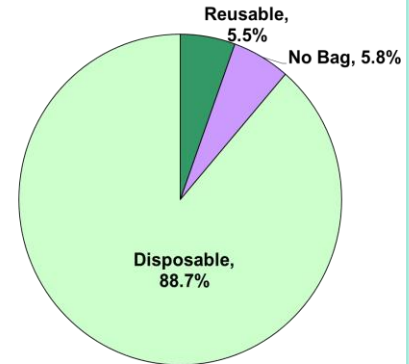
Queen Anne's County  
(4 stores, 1,271 shoppers)



Frederick County, 2019  
(20 stores, 2,588 shoppers)

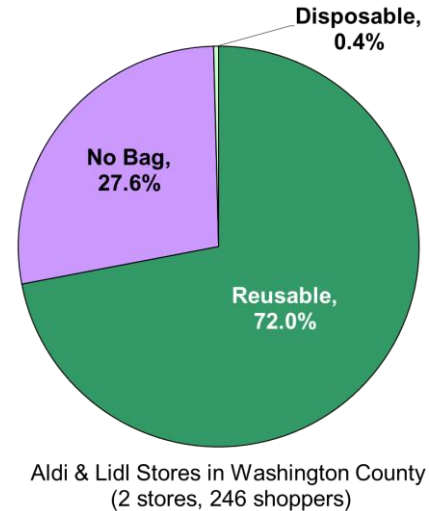
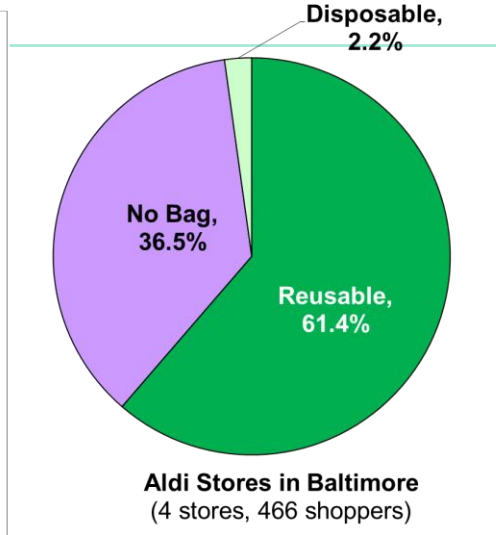
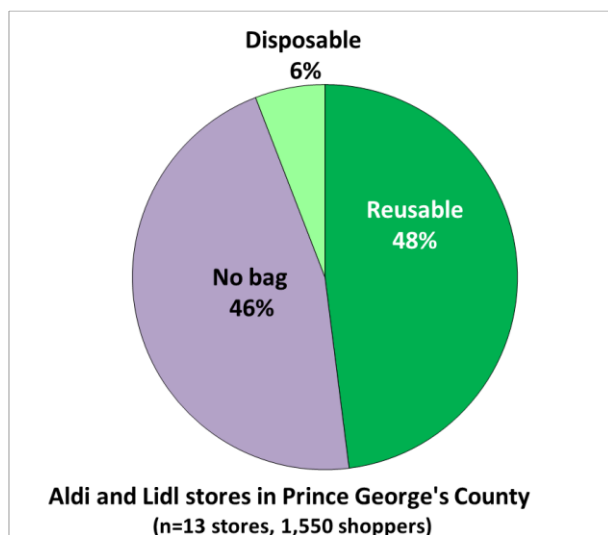


Prince George's County, 2019  
(48 stores, 7,694 shoppers)



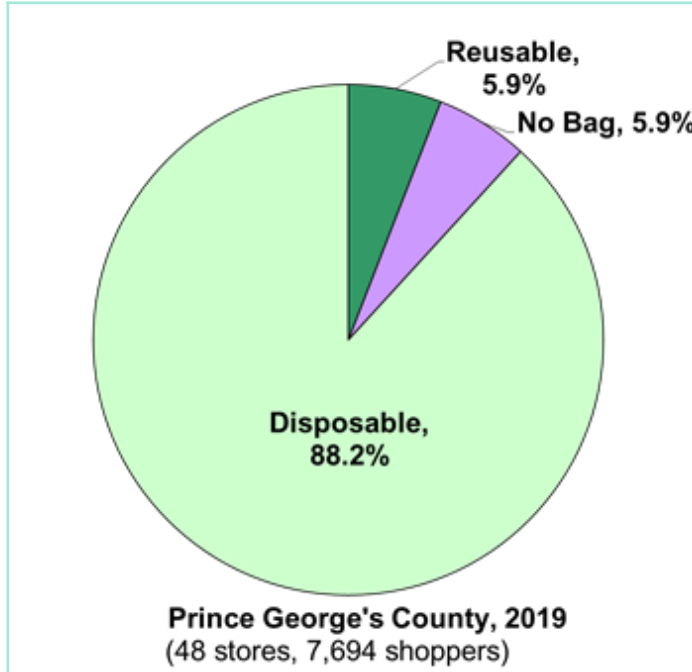
Washington County, 2019  
(10 stores, 2,337 shoppers)

# When plastic bags aren't available and other bags cost, almost everyone brings a bag or takes no bag at all

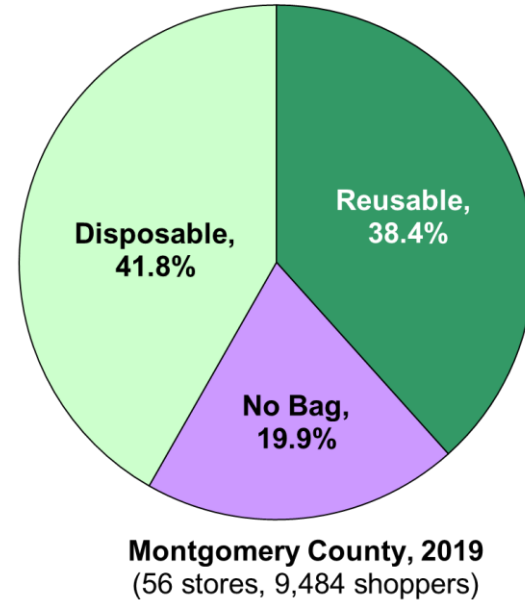


*From the Aldi website: "...one of the ways we help our customers save money is by encouraging them to bring their own shopping bags.... The end result is that we do not only save our customers money – by not adding the cost of the bag to our prices – but also precious resources."*

## Montgomery County's 5-cent bag fee incentivizes shoppers to use reusable bags or no bag

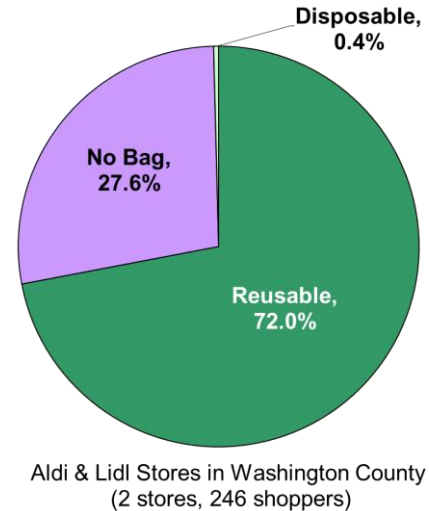
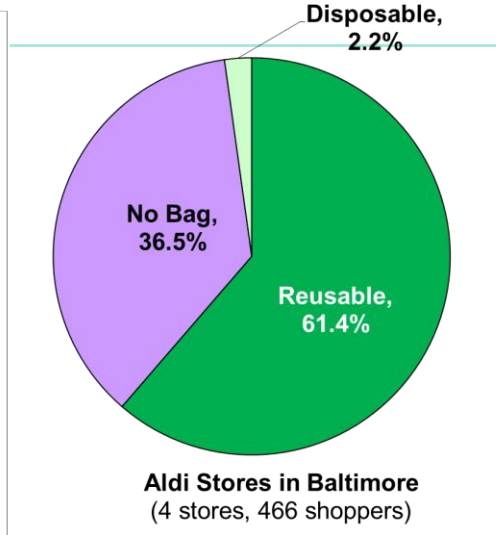
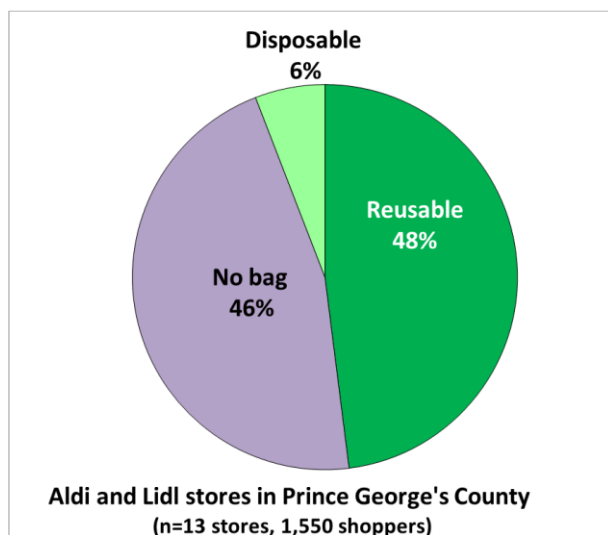


**No Fee**



**5-Cent Fee**

# When plastic bags aren't available and other bags cost, almost everyone brings a bag or takes no bag at all



*From the Aldi website: "...one of the ways we help our customers save money is by encouraging them to bring their own shopping bags.... The end result is that we do not only save our customers money – by not adding the cost of the bag to our prices – but also precious resources."*

# Single use bags are a lose/lose/lose

- Pollutes our neighborhoods, our water, our air, and our soil
- Threatens our public health and our wildlife
- Drives climate change
- Recycling is not an effective solution
- Litters our neighborhoods





# This legislation is a win/win/win/win

- Win for Marylanders
- Win for the State/Local Governments
- Win for retailers and small business
- Win for our neighborhoods, our air, our water and our wildlife

