



**We've now helped pass the 40th local plastic bag ban in Pennsylvania!**

Plastic bags have long been the poster child of our waste crisis. They litter our streets, clog storm drains, wrap around trees, and are almost impossible to recycle. All of this harm is completely unnecessary when we have better alternatives like reusable bags.



*Zero Waste Advocate Faran Savitz speaks at Philadelphia City Hall.*

**Shockingly, more than 4.7 billion plastic bags are used in Pennsylvania every year.**

That's 26,000 tons of plastic waste that we can avoid by switching to better alternatives.<sup>1</sup>

We use these bags for just a couple of minutes and then throw them away, but with plastic there is no "away." Whether they're headed to a Pennsylvania landfill, a nearby

incinerator, or worse yet, end up littered in our environment, single-use plastic bags cause harm to our wildlife, our waterways and our health.

**That's why it's so exciting that more and more communities in Pennsylvania are stepping up and taking action to ban single-use plastic bags.**

PennEnvironment's work on this campaign began back in 2018 when we worked with officials in Narberth in Montgomery County and West Chester in Chester County to pass the first laws tackling plastic pollution in the state. Since then, our staff, volunteers and interns have assisted dozens of cities, townships and boroughs to follow suit.



Since PennEnvironment helped topple the Pennsylvania Legislature's effort to strip the authority from municipalities to pass laws tackling plastic waste in 2021, we've worked with more than three dozen municipalities to write and pass plastic bag bans of their own.

These laws include Pennsylvania's two largest cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, as well as places like Upper Merion Township (home to the King of Prussia Mall) and Lancaster Township in Central PA.

In total, more than 20% of the state's residents now live in a municipality that has a plastic bag ban in place. **By PennEnvironment's estimates, these laws could eliminate over 950 million plastic bags from being used in Pennsylvania each and every year.**

We couldn't have done this without your help and support, and the engagement of PennEnvironment members and volunteers like you all across the state. In each municipality that's taken action, it's been driven by Pennsylvanians speaking up, making their voices heard and calling on their elected officials to take action.

PennEnvironment has had teams of canvassers going out and knocking on doors to help build this grassroots movement -- talking with at least 7,000 Pennsylvanians about plastic pollution and delivering more than 2,000 petitions calling on local officials to pass laws banning plastic bags.



*PennEnvironment Canvass Director Belle Sherwood and her team out knocking on doors to talk about plastic pollution with the public.*

PennEnvironment members and volunteers testifying at public meetings in their towns, making phone calls and signing petitions, and giving their support at the door shows our local leaders that Pennsylvanians want to make a change and move beyond plastic pollution. This support is crucial for all the work that we do, but especially on this campaign.

There's still plenty more to do to tackle plastic pollution in Pennsylvania and across the country. But together, we can keep moving away from the single-use plastics that plague our environment and that we don't need in the first place.

After all, nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute our environment for lifetimes to come.

Thank you,

David Masur  
Executive Director

**[P.S. There's still more to do to tackle plastic pollution across the country. Will you donate to help support a Zero Waste Pennsylvania?](#)**

1. Faran Savitz, "[Putting wildlife over waste: momentum is building for plastic bag bans in Pennsylvania](#)," PennEnvironment, September 23, 2024.

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Your donation will be used to support all of our campaigns to protect the environment, from saving the bees and protecting public lands, to standing up for clean water and fighting climate change. None of our work would be possible without supporters like you.

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