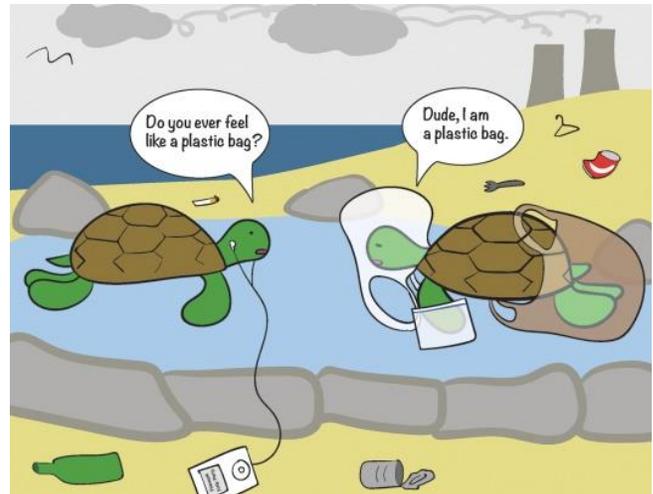




BE PART OF THE  
**SOLUTION**  
NOT THE PROBLEM.



**Use reusable cloth bags whenever possible instead of plastic bags.**

Most stores sell cloth reusable bags at very reasonable prices.

**Keep on using the reusable bags as long as possible.**

When your reusable cloth bag wears out, recycle it!!!

**Do not throw away plastic bags after single use. Try to reuse them as much as possible.**

Reuse them as grocery bags, garbage can liner (use a smaller garbage can that fits the grocery bags), pet waste pickup, carrying wet materials like swimming costumes, packing material, etc.

**If you use plastic bags, recycle them properly!!!**

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Americans go through hundreds of billions of plastic bags each year. Less than 10% of these bags are recycled. When not recycled properly, these bags create “plastic pollution” with stray bags gathering in the streets, the oceans and landfills, where they endanger wildlife and never biodegrade. Most of the plastic bags can be recycled but usually aren’t.

**It is easy to recycle the plastic bags!!!**

Several local stores like Target, Schnucks, Dierbergs, and Trader Joe's have collection bins for recycling of plastic bags. Drop your extra plastic bags there for proper disposal through recycling.

**NEVER dispose plastic bags in Trash Cans or Recycle Bins.**

Recycling plastic bags can be difficult. They often fly out of bins or cling to machinery. For these reasons, plastic bags are not accepted in the Citywide single stream recycling system.

**In the end, your actions will make the greatest difference — not the bag itself.**

## DECOMPOSITION RATES IN THE LANDFILLS

Paper Towel 2–4 weeks

Newspaper 6 weeks

Apple Core 2 months

Cardboard Box 2 months

Cotton Shirt 2–5 months

Waxed Carton 3 months

Plywood 1–3 years

Wool Sock 1–5 years

Foam Cup 50 years\*

Tin Can 50 years

Aluminum Cans 200 years

Fishing Line 600 years\*

Plastic Grocery Bag 10–20 years

Plastic Beverage Bottle 450 years