

# Plastic Bag Initiative

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Environmental Studies 401: Environmental Problem Solving

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# Project Objective



Tamaracktalk.com



Reuters /STR New/

# Why are plastic bags a problem?

## Environmental

- Pollution
  - Animal Impacts
  - Human Impacts

## Economic

- Costly

## Social

- Awareness



World Wildlife Fund

# Part of the Solution

## Raising Awareness

- Informational Posters
- Newsletters
- Educating Cashiers

## Offering alternatives during transition period & after implementation of ban

- Reusable Bags
- Tax on Plastic Bags

## Did you know...?



C-STORE BAGS  
ARE  
COMPOSTABLE!

Fill it up at home!

Dispose it on campus!

Food waste (excluding  
meat, bones, and dairy)  
Napkins  
Pizza boxes  
Tea bags and coffee  
grounds



Help reduce waste in landfills!

IF YOU DON'T NEED ONE, DON'T TAKE ONE!

# Our Journey

## Original Objective

- Large scale

## Community Partners & Meetings

- Student Environmental Coalition
- GVSU Office of Sustainability Practices
- University Bookstore

## Roadblocks

- Communication
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# Impacts for GVSU

## Cost & Savings

- Bookstore & Admissions

## Prestige

- Rankings

## Conscientious Student Body

- Awareness & Responsibility



# What's Next?

- Recognize problem
- Follow up with bookstore
- Campus awareness



# QUESTIONS?



## WHAT GOES IN THE OCEAN GOES IN YOU.

RECENT STUDIES ESTIMATE THAT FISH OFF THE WEST COAST INGEST OVER 12,000 TONS OF PLASTIC A YEAR. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP TURN THE TIDE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AT [WWW.SURFRIDER.ORG/RAP](http://WWW.SURFRIDER.ORG/RAP)

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