

Report calls for bag ban - paper and plastic

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FORT MYERS: You hear the question every time you go to the market: Paper or plastic? But both of those options might soon be against the law in Florida.

A [new report](#) from Florida's Department of Environmental Protection calls for retail bag regulation. Citing environmental concerns, their goal is to get more people to bring reusable bags when they go shopping.

The DEP's draft report calls for a gradual phase-out of single-use bags like paper and plastic. A public education campaign would start next year.

By July of 2011, each paper or plastic bag would cost a nickel.

By 2012, the charge doubles to a dime.

In July of 2013, it goes to 15-cents and then to 25-cents in 2014.

By 2015, the report calls for a statewide ban on single-use bags.

One Whole Foods in Naples isn't waiting for a government regulation. Last year, they enacted a company-wide policy to stop giving out plastic bags.

"It's a huge waste to use all the plastic bags they use. When you go through the grocery lines, they put one thing in the plastic bag and then the next bag so you end up having like 50 plastic bags," said Naples resident Victoria Watts.

Surveys show fewer than five-percent of plastic bags are ever recycled.

This proposal is not unique to Florida. Already, 28 states have regulations enacted or proposals at the local or state level.

And the ban on bags is in no way final. The DEP has until February to present their report to Florida lawmakers.

Until then, they want to hear what you have to say about this issue.

By [Chad Oliver](#)



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