

Canvas Bags: Eco🌍Canvas

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What is this program?:

Eco Canvas is a program where we aim to reach the **community of Flagstaff**, and educate them on the importance of reusable bags, and how plastic can negatively affect our Earth. Our focus as a group is waste and energy.

Plastic Bags



When plastic is piled up in landfills, under certain conditions, it lets off methane and ethylene, two powerful gases that contribute to the the greenhouse effect. Also, plastic bags often harm sea life, which can harm humans as well.

Even if you are using a reusable bag, you probably have a few plastic bags laying around from that quick trip to the grocery store or the last time you got take out. But don't worry! There are places you can take these plastic bags to be recycled:

- Bashas Grocery Store
- Safeway Grocery Store
- Fry's Grocery Store
- Sprouts Grocery Store

Community's needs:

America produces over 100 *billion* plastic bags a year. That takes 12 million barrels of oil to produce. In Flagstaff, a person uses 300 plastic bags a year, and if you times that number by 70,000, the number of people who live in Flagstaff, you get the sad truth of how many plastic bags Flagstaff uses a year: 21,000,000



The solution to the needs:



Reusable bags can be used a maximum of 700 times before they wear out. Also, the average American family uses 1,500 plastic bags in one year.

Using that logic, if that family used only 1 reusable bag, not only could they use one bag for around 2 years, but they could also eliminate the waste of over 3,000 plastic bags!

Main Goal:

Our main goal is to eliminate the waste of 500,000 plastic bags by educating 100 people on the importance of reusable bags.



How you can help:

To implement, we will be handing out 100 Natural Grocers canvas bags on Earth Day. While Eco Canvas' main focus is educating people, we also will provide a small population of people with the information and tools they need to see how they can help. And one of these people can be you. On Earth Day celebration at Bushmaster Park, 100 people will go home with a bag with information on how to reduce plastic usage in other ways, #OneBagAtATime information, and a sticker. And at this celebration, we will try to find people who don't already use reusable bags.



Future:

#onebagatatime is a hashtag is a way for you to show us how you use your bag. Just take a picture of you using your bag, use the hashtag, and if you are feeling extra, calculate how many plastic. bags you've saved (information to do math is included the bag). This will help spread the message and encourage more people to use their own reusable bags

#ONEBAGATATIME



Challenges:

Originally, our idea for Eco Canvas was to personalize the bags. However, Natural Grocers gave us bags that we could not personalize. So basically, we had to change our whole project.



Work Cited:

“Find a Drop Off Location.” *Plastic Film Recycling*, www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/find-drop-off-location/

“New Study Shows Plastics Release Greenhouse Gases, Contributing to Climate Change.” *Surfrider Foundation*, www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/new-study-shows-plastic-as-source-of-greenhouse-gases-potentially-contribut

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