

## Creedon, Paul

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**From:** Lopez, Donna  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2014 4:25 PM  
**To:** Creedon, Paul  
**Subject:** FW: [350ma-discuss] Fwd: Please act now on Banning Plastic Carryout Bags -- and please pass Decker version!

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**From:** Denise Ward [mailto:denisemward@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 13, 2014 3:23 AM  
**To:** active@ureach.com  
**Cc:** City Council; Lopez, Donna; 350  
**Subject:** Re: [350ma-discuss] Fwd: Please act now on Banning Plastic Carryout Bags -- and please pass Decker version!

As much as I'm against petroleum-based plastics (hemp plastics are bio-degradable) I don't agree they should be banned. We should avoid banning as much as humanly possible, it's getting ridiculous. We need to charge for bags. And make the charge a reflection of their damage to the environment. And the money amassed from these charges to go to cleaning it up.

It is quite exasperating that people are still using these bags every time they shop. I can't believe people are actually waiting for laws before they do the proper thing. I'm the laziest person I know yet I manage to always take non-disposable bags and at my supermarket, that's a rarity. What is wrong with people always waiting for a law to come in before doing the right thing. Also, don't buy from restaurants that use Styrofoam take out, nor buy packaged fruit and vegetables or overpackaged anything! Don't buy paper products as much as possible - use material handkerchiefs, and use tea towels to dry your hands on not paper towels - how indulgent! We need to take our money out of this vile system and buy used stuff, buy local and buy organic. We can do without the convenience for a while, until we find the used thing we're looking for. I know what it's like to want instant gratification but we need to put some effort into this. There is no need to be anal about it; sometimes we'll forget but we have to live by what we believe and that means a low carbon footprint! If we climate activists were more principled about the way we live, I am sure we would affect change.

Namaste!

On Fri, Dec 12, 2014 at 6:20 PM, Martha Older <[active@ureach.com](mailto:active@ureach.com)> wrote:  
Below is an email I got from the Mass. Sierra Club, which explains how inferior the City administration bill is. Please pass the Decker bill. Alas, we/Mother Earth need this bill. Plastic bag are contributing to the Climate Crisis, and not so indirectly.

Why "alas"? I should add that I myself will mourn their loss. I can tie them so that their contents don't spin in my car; I can use them for carrying things, and I have a bad back. I have other uses for them that paper bags just don't work for. I'll really miss them! But plastic degrades into little bits that don't go away, and affect the entire land and sea food chain -- including us and our babies. Cambridge must do its part for this crisis.

Thank you,

/Martha Older

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PS My activism at this point is centered on divestment of institutions from fossil fuels, and on stopping the pipelines (Keystone XL and the Northeast Pipeline), because **solving the climate crisis is literally the sine qua non**. I'm working with 350MA.org.

-- And notice: so far, over 95,000 people have signed Credo's pledge of civil disobedience alone (there are other pledges) in connection with the pipeline., and there were over 400,000 people at the New York City climate march on Sept. 21. Finally, finally, this movement is taking off -- in fact, it's exploding. Better late than never!

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---- forwarded message attached ----

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Massachusetts Sierra Club <[scan@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:scan@sierraclubmass.org)>

To: [active@ureach.com](mailto:active@ureach.com)

Cc:

Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2014 15:07:22 -0500 (EST)

Subject: Tell the City Council to Act on Banning Plastic Carryout Bags

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Dear Friend,

Over a year ago, former City Councillor (and now State Rep.) Marjorie Decker introduced a draft local ordinance to ban plastic carryout bags in Cambridge. With the growing evidence of the irreversible damage that these bags are creating, and the growing list of cities and towns in Massachusetts have banned carryout bags, she believed that we would act quickly.

**ATTEND THE CITY COUNCIL HEARING**  
*Cambridge City Councillor Dennis Carlone, who is co-chair of the council's Ordinance Committee, has indicated that he intends to bring the "Decker Bill" to a vote.*  
**Monday Dec 15, 5:30pm**

Her draft bill was carefully researched and finalized by the city's administration, the end result being a well-written ordinance. At a public hearing, the "Decker" bill was acclaimed as being well written and a positive step.

Cambridge City  
Hall  
795  
Massachusetts  
Ave Cambridge

Based on the overwhelming and growing evidence, this would have placed Cambridge at the forefront nationwide. But it's now a full year later, and this bill remains in limbo.

Meanwhile, for reasons that are unknown, a competing bill was introduced. This version appears to have been influenced by the plastics industry. It allows unlimited exemptions, a vague definition of what's reusable, allowing just about anything to be classified as such - and exempted. And just in case this draft wasn't weak enough, this so-called 'ban' would even allow oxo-degradable (photo-fragmentable) bags, which pose an enormous environmental threat. *If passed, this so-called ban could likely be the weakest, most pro-plastics-industry ban in the United States.*

**CLICK HERE**  
Take Action!

**Tell the city council that you want the "Decker Bill" to be passed NOW, without further**

**delay.** This issue has been studied and re-studied since 2007. It's had public hearings, and is ready for a vote. Tell the Council that it's time to take this historic step, joining the many hundreds of communities across the United States that are banning single use plastic bags.

#### **More information about plastic bags:**

- Plastic bags never biodegrade, they break into smaller and smaller bits called "microplastics." Once washed into our oceans, they stay there forever, displacing food supplies, and pushing many species into extinction. Cambridge's storm drains lead to the Charles River and then into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Only 5% of plastic bags are recycled. Even if the rate was doubled or tripled, it would still represent an inadequate fraction of what's needed to fix this problem. We cannot recycle our way out of this problem.
- Plastic bags are convenient and cheap, so it makes sense that retailers provide them for their customers. However, plastic bags cost society a lot more than the price retailers are currently paying to provide them. There is no need for this environmental expense. Simple inexpensive alternatives are already used in many stores throughout Cambridge.

- Plastic bags are easily transported by wind and water. They are so aerodynamic that even when disposed of properly, they often blow away and become litter.
- Most carryout bags are made from polyethylene, which is derived from fracked natural gas.



Click here to read the Decker bill:  
<http://sierraclubmass.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/PB-Decker.pdf>

Click here to read the alternate proposal:  
<http://sierraclubmass.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/PB-V2a.pdf>

Sincerely,

Phillip Segó  
[phil@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:phil@sierraclubmass.org) - 617-807-0311  
 Coordinator, Plastic Bags Campaign  
 Massachusetts Sierra Club  
*and Cambridge Resident*

The Sierra Club is the nation's oldest and largest non-profit, non-partisan grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club has over 22,000 members and supporters throughout Massachusetts and more than two million nationwide dedicated to clean air, clean water, healthy vibrant communities, and the preservation of the Commonwealth's most precious natural spaces.

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*"Man is the most insane species. He worships an invisible God and destroys a visible Nature. Unaware that this Nature he's destroying is this God he's worshipping" ~ Hubert Reeves*

[www.sociophiles.org/blog](http://www.sociophiles.org/blog)