

Plastic from A1

on other types. The legislation was passed in a bid to reduce Oregon's single-use bags, particularly plastic bags which cause contamination in the recycling stream and add to the growing amount of plastic debris in the ocean.

"Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues facing Oregon's rivers, oceans and wildlife," said State Director of Environment Oregon Celeste Meiffren-Swango in a statement in response to the bill's passing in June. "Single-use plastics inevitably end up in our waterways and on our beaches and this pollution is damaging our ecosystems and endangering public health."

The house bill defines checkout bags under four categories: reusable plastic, reusable fabric, recycled paper and single-use.

Reusable plastic bags are defined as having handles, are designed to be used multiple times and are made of a durable plastic which is at least 4 mils thick (the equivalent of .1016 millimeters).

Reusable fabric bags have handles, are designed to be used multiple times and made of cloth or other machine-washable fabric.

Recycled paper bags must be made of at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled fiber.

Single-use includes bags made of paper, plastic and other material which do not meet the definition of the other three.

Certain exceptions to the provisions exist, such as bags designed to hold bulk items, specialty garment



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Businesses throughout Oregon, including grocery stores, will no longer supply plastic bags starting Jan. 1.

bags and bags sold in a package used for purposes of food storage, garbage or pet waste.

Customers with a WIC (Women, Infants and Children) voucher or electronic benefits transfer card may also be eligible to receive recycled paper and reusable plastic bags for free.

Several Oregon cities like Ashland, Portland, Corvallis and Eugene have already instituted their own plastic bans.

In 2017, the American Chemistry Council reported U.S. plastics generation at 35.4 million tons with a recycling rate of 8.4 percent. A 2015 published study by Science reported that more than 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into oceans each year worldwide.

In November, Environment Oregon released a report using data from the Oregon Department

of Environmental Quality (DEQ) stating that Oregon has been generating more waste and recycling less of it, with the exception of containers covered by the state's bottle bill. Data from 2017 showed that Oregonians recycled 27.1 percent of their waste and composted 9.5 percent, a drop of nearly 5 percent since 2014.

Meanwhile, 5 percent more waste was generated in the short span between 2016 and 2017.

The Sustainable Shopping Initiative is intended to incentivize less plastic use as consumers who do not bring reusable bags may be expected to pay an extra fee at the register.

Across the state, the price may vary by store, city and county. The fee is kept by the businesses, which is meant to offset the cost of purchasing more sustainable bags.

The house bill requires a charge of at least five cents for "fee-required" bags, but leaves it to local governments to decide whether higher fees will be levied, though there are currently no plans to do so in Cottage Grove.

"We're not going to change the state fee at all," said City Manager Richard Meyers.

Local store owner of Cottage Market Ishwer Singh welcomed the move.

"It's good for the environment," he said through an interpreter. "And it's going to be good for the coming generations."

While retail stores are not required to charge a fee if reusable fabric bags are offered as a promotion (limited to 12 days a year),

a charge must apply to all other recycled and reusable bags at the register.

For restaurants, recycled paper bags may be offered at no extra charge, though a fee is required for reusable plastic bags.

As a Class D violation, stores in violation of the house bill provisions are subject to a maximum fine of \$250. Each day the retailer commits the violation is considered a new offense. Enforcement of the law is left to local authorities.

Stores must also provide the DEQ with information on bag fees and customers usage of recycled and reusable bags by Sept. 15, 2024, which the DEQ will report to the state legislature the following year.

In adapting to the changeover, Meyers recommended that consumers remain mindful of their bag use and wash accordingly.

"People need to think about how they use their bags," said Meyers. "It has happened in places where people use their bags to haul meat and then the next time they use it they bring their fresh vegetables home in it and they get sick."

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Worship Directory

<p>COTTAGE GROVE: 6th & Gibbs Church of Christ 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822 10:00am Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th www.6thandgibbs.com</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p> <p>Church of Christ 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p> <p>Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship 11am Sunday School: 9:45am AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org</p> <p>Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett www.cg4.tv Full Children's Ministry available Services: 9:00am & 10:45am</p> <p>Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p> <p>First Baptist Church 301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242 Pastor: David Chhangle Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Youth Wednesday 6:30pm cgfirstbaptist.com</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 3rd and Adams St 541-942-4479 Rev.: Karen Hill Worship: 10:00am Sunday School: 10:00am fpcgrove.com</p> <p>Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshipupc.com "FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"</p> <p>Living Faith Assembly 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome) Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)</p> <p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave 541-942-8928 Preacher: Tony Martin Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravecoc.com</p> <p>Old Time Gospel Fellowship 103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999 Pastor: Jim Edwards Sunday Service: 10:00am Join in Traditional Christian Worship</p> <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches 1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 Father John J. Boyle Holy Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM Sunday - 10:30 PM For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment</p>	<p>St. Philip Benizi, Creswell 552 Holbrook Lane Sunday 8:30 AM</p> <p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Church with the flags." Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome</p> <p>Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: Kevin Miller Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups tlccg.com</p> <p>United Methodist Church 334 Washington 541-942-3033 New Pastor Craig Pesti- Strobel Worship 10:30am umcgrove.org</p> <p>"VICTORY" Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p> <p>CRESWELL: Creswell Presbyterian Church 75 S 4th S • 541-942-3419 Rev. Seth Wheeler Adult Sunday School 9:15am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am website www.creswellpres.org</p>
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Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in this newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

Cottage Grove
Sentinel

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