

California County Plastic Grocery Bag Litter Data Summary: 2008-2017

Source: www.coastalcleanupdata.org

Alameda County										
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Total items	7575	5077	4357	7781	7190	381	2106	796	1476	433
percentage	9.55%	11.34%	5.59%	10.90%	9.87%	4.19%	1.76%	1.50%	1.40%	1.36%
Ranking	4th	4th	4th	4th	4th	6th	13th	15th	12th	15th

- “I have noticed a difference, and it’s awesome!” said **Mira Manickam-Shirley, Executive Director of Brown Girl Surf**. Mira Manickam-Shirley, Email: mira@browngirlsurf.com

Los Angeles County										
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Total items	9016	14831	11922	10518	6282	334	310	71	126	941
Percentage	6.03%	7.32%	9.26%	8.60%	9.47%	0.86%	1.65%	0.70%	0.99%	0.54%
Ranking	4th	4th	3rd	4th	3rd	20th	12th	19th	15th	21st

- “At our regular Calabasas creek clean-up events we’ve seen a dramatic decline in the number of shredded plastic bags caught in branches; in the past, plastic bags made up 25% of the waste stream and the fact that we’ve been able to demonstrably reduce that figure encourages us to do even more.” Said **Mary Sue Maurer, Mayor of the City of Calabasas**. City staff contacts- Alex Farassati afarassati@cityofcalabasas.com
- “We’ve seen a lot fewer plastic bags in the Pico Kenter storm drain, in fact I didn’t see a single one on coastal cleanup day in the storm drain. We did however find oodles of Styrofoam pieces,” said **Benjamin Kay, adjunct professor of life and environmental sciences at Santa Monica College**. benjaminwkay@gmail.com)
- “My city [Santa Clarita] is very conservative and people who used to use a lot of plastic bags now refuse to pay the 10 cent charge and finally bring their own reusable bags.” said **Lynne Plambeck with the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment**. lynne@scope.org

Monterey County										
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Total items	2201	1581	2494	1464	1248	271	463	216	181	43
Percentage	5.41%	3.60%	7.89%	4.25%	4.71%	1.65%	1.65%	0.86%	1.21%	1.62%
Ranking	4th	4th	3rd	4th	4th	14th	10th	16th	18th	12th

- “California’s statewide plastic bag ban has elevated public awareness about the broader problem of ocean plastic pollution – and sparked public interest in taking action to reduce demand for many other kinds of single-use plastic,” said **Aimee David, director of ocean conservation policy strategies for the Monterey Bay Aquarium**.
- “Since the ban was enacted, 19 public aquariums across the United States have [stopped using plastic bags and plastic straws](#). Monterey Bay Aquarium, as a founder of the Aquarium Conservation Partnership, [has gone further](#), We’ve eliminated all single-use plastic in our café and restaurant, and worked with vendors to cut back on plastic packaging on gift store items. Now, many local jurisdictions, like [Carmel-by-the-Sea](#), are adopting their own bans on single-use plastic straws, cutlery and take-out foodservice containers. Steps like these demonstrate the far-reaching impact of California’s action to ban single-use plastic grocery bags.” **Aimee David**, email: adavid@mbayaq.org Ph: 831-647-6867

Napa County										
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Total items	NA	NA	NA	100	11	NA	178	NA	149	0
Percentage				5.80%	1.87%		0.98%		1.67%	0.00%
Ranking				6th	9th		11th		16th	

- “At our facility, overall we saw an immediate 50% decrease in single-use plastic grocery bags once the Napa ordinance was in effect.” Said **Tim Dewey-Mattia** Tim@NapaRecycling.com Ph: (707) 256-3500 ext 1204
- “We’ve seen dramatically fewer plastic bags in the Napa River where we host river cleanups and do trash audits with every cleanup. We used to find mountains of plastic bags, now we find less than 3 per cleanup.” Said **Shari Gardner, Executive Director at Friends of the Napa River.** Email: gardner.sheri@gmail.com

Sacramento County										
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Total items	209	186	600	64	NA	NA	7	NA	4	4
Percentage	2.33%	3.59%	7.51%	5.63%			1.35%		1.06%	0.97%
Ranking	8th	7th	3rd	4th			17th		10th	11th

- “It’s great to go to the grocery store and see so many people using reusable bags. I spend a lot of time on the American River and over the years plastic bags have been an eyesore, and I’ve noticed that there are now much fewer plastic bags.” Said **Tony DeRiggi, volunteer with the American River Parkway Foundation.** Email: tderiggi50@yahoo.com

San Diego County									
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Total items	9185	8816	3843	2576	3711	2339	2207	245	
Total percentage	5.73%	5.34%	5.06%	2.25%	2.62%	2.55%	1.65%	1.46%	
Ranking	4th	4th	4th	7th	7th	7th	12th	11th	

- “Overnight shoppers were bringing their reusable bags, or simply packing their carts back up at the checkout stand to avoid paying a fee for a thicker plastic or paper bag,” said **Colleen Foster, Senior Management Analyst for the City of Oceanside,** “Our regular community volunteer clean-up events have also reported a significant reduction in the collection of single use bags after the State ban became effective.” Email: CFoster@ci.oceanside.ca.us Ph: (760) 435-5021

San Luis Obispo County										
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Total items	1605	1476	1200	1029	1261	533	NA	NA	13	292
Percentage	4.33%	3.44%	4.60%	3.06%	4.66%	1.48%			3.04%	0.54%
Ranking	4th	4th	4th	4th	4th	12th			7th	23rd

- “There’s been significant reduction in the amount of bags we’ve seen at beaches and in the environment” said **Bill Worrell, manager of the Integrated Waste Management Authority in San Luis Obispo County.** Email: bworrell@iwma.com Ph: (805) 782-8530

For complete global, California and regional cleanup data, go to <http://www.coastalcleanupdata.org/> for 2016-present, and for 2008-2015 data go to <http://archive.coastalcleanupdata.org/datacollection/>.