

THE DISTRICT'S BAG LAW

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MOTIVATION FOR THE DISTRICT'S LEGISLATION

THE ANACOSTIA RIVER



MOTIVATION FOR THE DISTRICT'S 5 CENT BAG FEE

Figure 3.2.3
Anacostia River Trash Composition

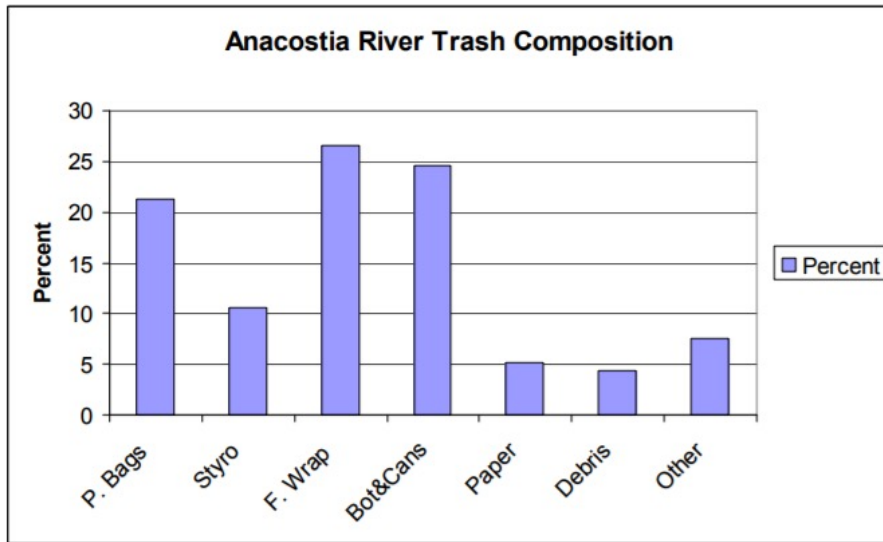
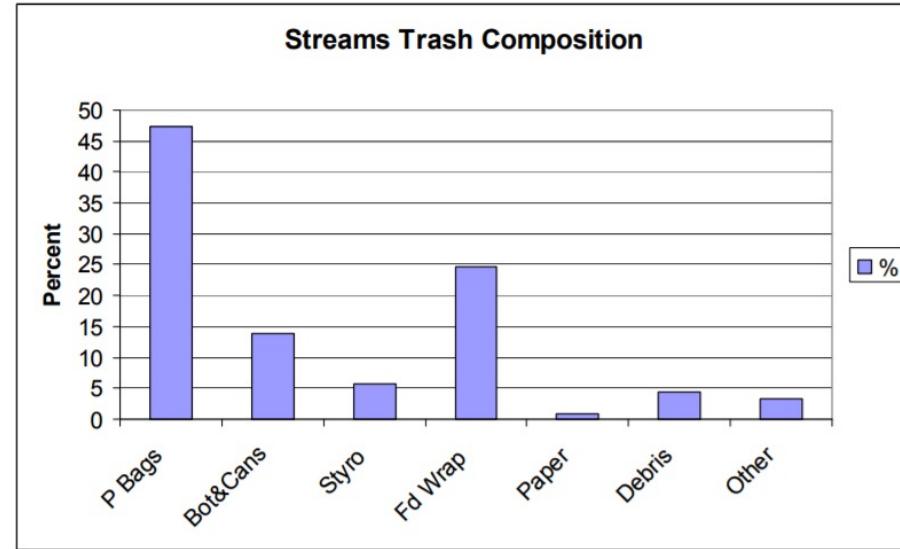


Figure 3.2.59
Stream Trash – Composition



Study: *Anacostia Trash Reduction Plan*. DOEE and Anacostia Watershed Society, 2008.

ANACOSTIA RIVER CLEAN UP & PROTECTION ACT

("BAG LAW")

Effective January 1, 2010, all District retailers that sell food or alcohol must charge a 5¢ fee for each paper or plastic disposable bag provided to customers at the point of sale.



INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION

First 11 months focused on outreach and compliance assistance

- Reusable bags distributed to thousands of low-income and senior residents
- Mailers sent to all regulated businesses
- Advertisements through radio, newspapers, online media, bus shelters
- Educational materials



5¢ Bag Fee

It's the law and it's working to reduce pollution.

Over 75% of District residents have reduced their use of disposable bags.

District businesses that sell food or alcohol must charge 5 cents for each disposable paper or plastic bag.

For information on how the Bag Law funds are utilized to protect the District's waters, please go to doee.dc.gov/bags



WHERE DOES THE NICKEL GO?

The Anacostia Clean Up and Protection Fund (“the Fund”)

- Businesses retain \$.01 and submit \$.04 to OTR
- Carry-out Bag Credit Program allows businesses to keep \$.02 of the \$.05 collected
- Fees deposited into special purpose fund (the Fund), administered by DOEE
- Roughly, an average of \$200,000 remitted per month in FY17

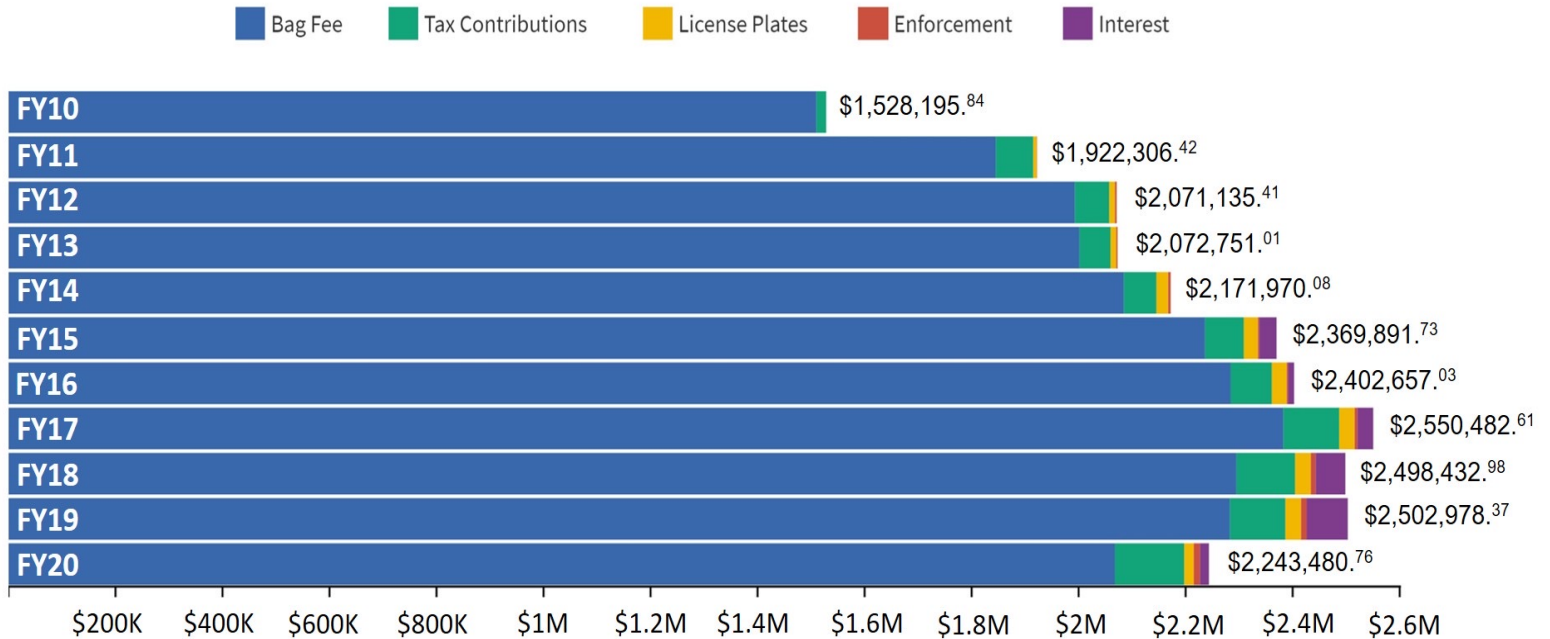


WHERE DOES THE NICKEL GO?

Approximately \$2 million in bag fees remitted per year

Fiscal Year	Fees
FY10	\$1,510,088.35
FY11	\$1,845,313.25
FY12	\$1,993,183.22
FY13	\$2,001,575.50
FY14	\$2,084,613.59
FY15	\$2,236,275.44
FY16	\$2,284,104.15
FY17	\$2,382,747.11
FY18	\$2,294,977.50
FY19	\$2,282,879.44
FY20	\$2,068,208.73
TOTALS by SOURCE :	\$22,983,966.28

Bag Law Revenue By Source, FY10 to FY20



*Partial fiscal year from January to October

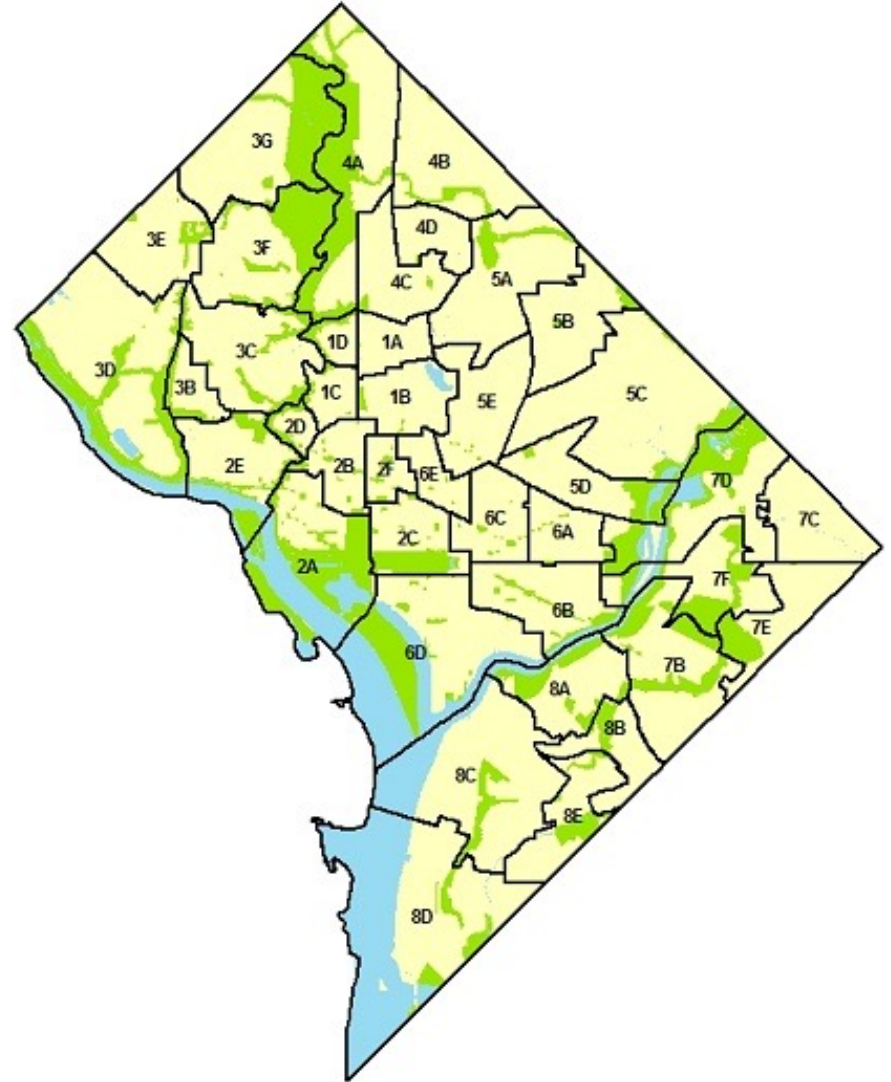
PROJECTS FUNDED BY BAG LAW FEES



BAG LAW ENFORCEMENT

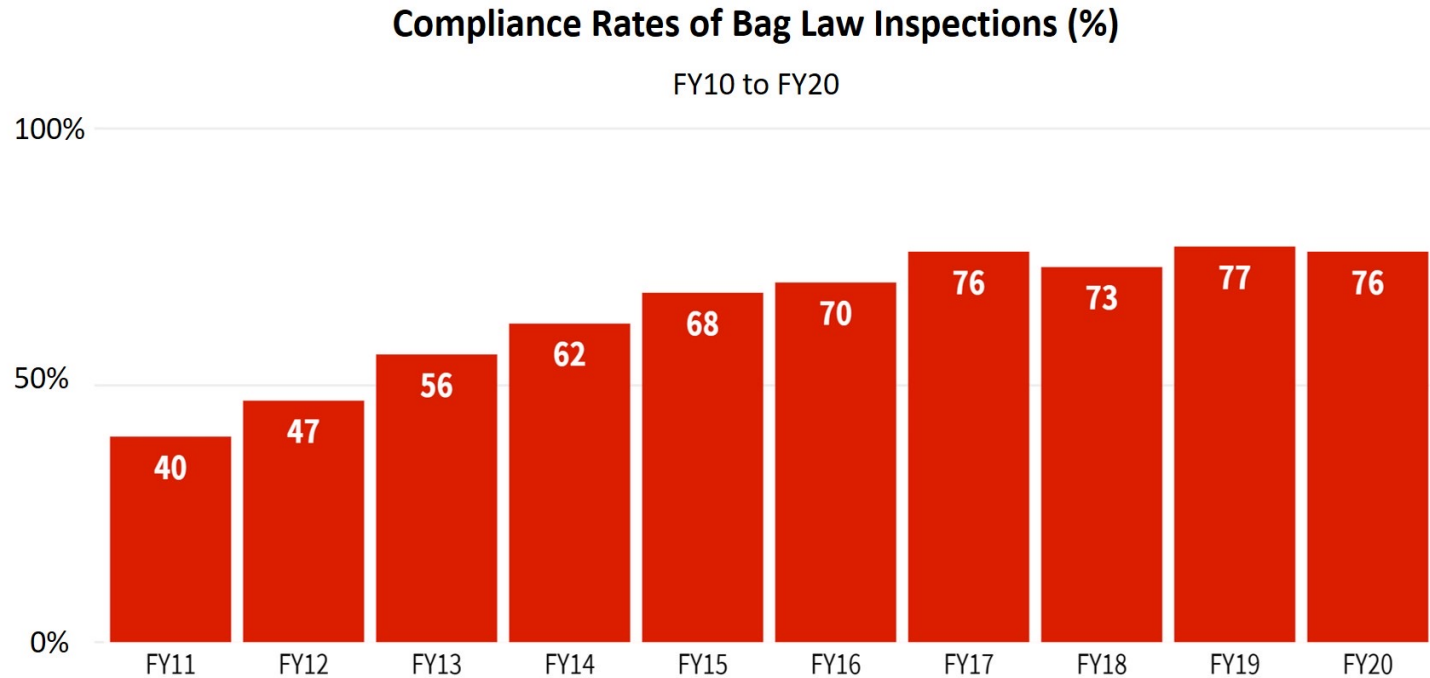
DOEE

1. Inspects at least 550 businesses per year (except to 2020-2021)
2. regularly solicits tips from the public from:
 - 311 app
 - Website: doee.dc.gov/bags
 - Calls/emails
 - In person



BAG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Compliance rate stabilizing over time



Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. No inspections were conducted for FY10, the first fiscal year the Bag Law was in effect.

* FY11 incomplete inspection year

IMPACT OF THE LAW

5¢ BAG FEE BY THE NUMBERS

Celebrating **10 years** of reducing single-use **plastic pollution, improving water quality,** and creating **educational experiences** on the **Anacostia River**

Since 2010, the Bag Law has generated more than **\$19 million in revenue** to use in the District

70,000 lbs of **trash & debris** removed through installation of **7 trash traps** in District waters

More than **3,000 trees** planted and installation of over **2,300 rain barrels** to capture stormwater

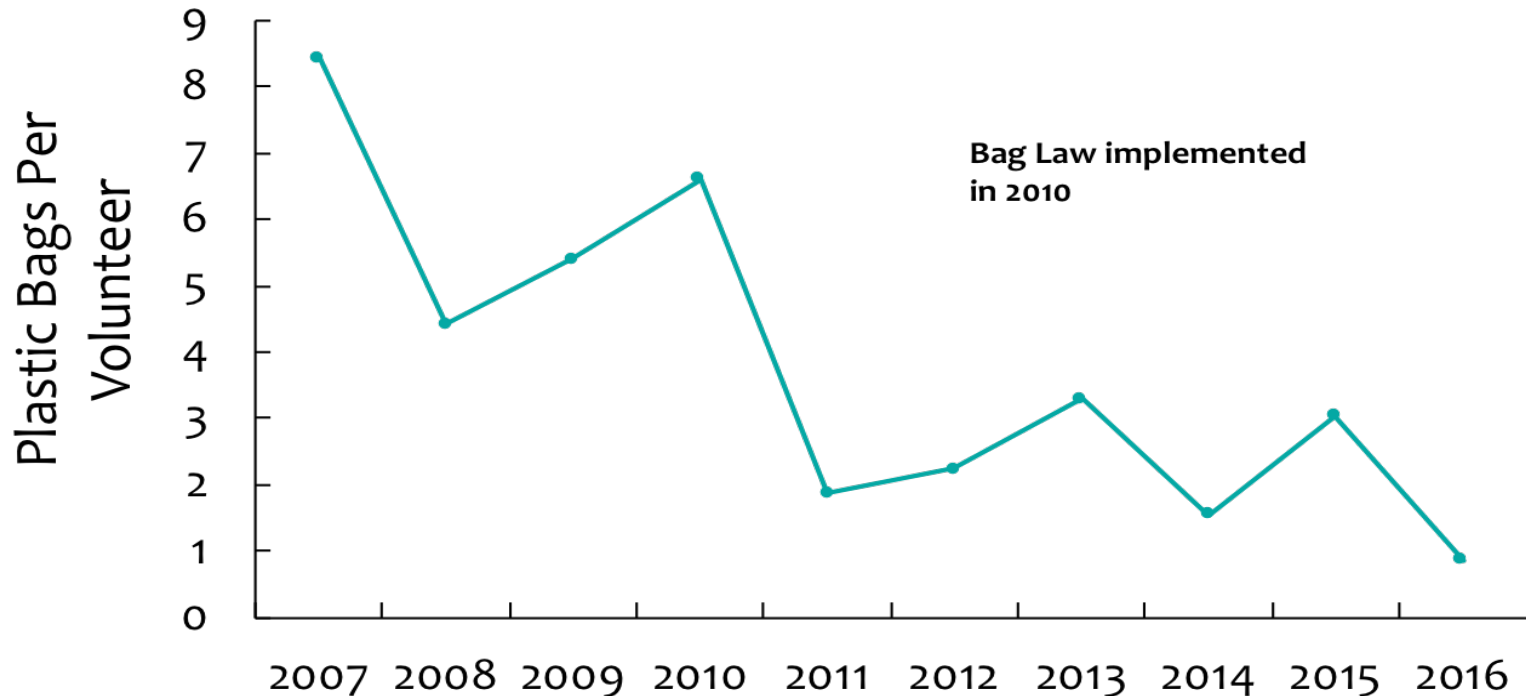
More than **9,700 students** participating in overnight field trips to learn about watersheds & natural environment

Boat tours allowing over **7,500 people** to experience the Anacostia River

Over **29,000 linear feet** of restored streams

IMPACT OF THE LAW

Fewer plastic bags reported at trash clean ups

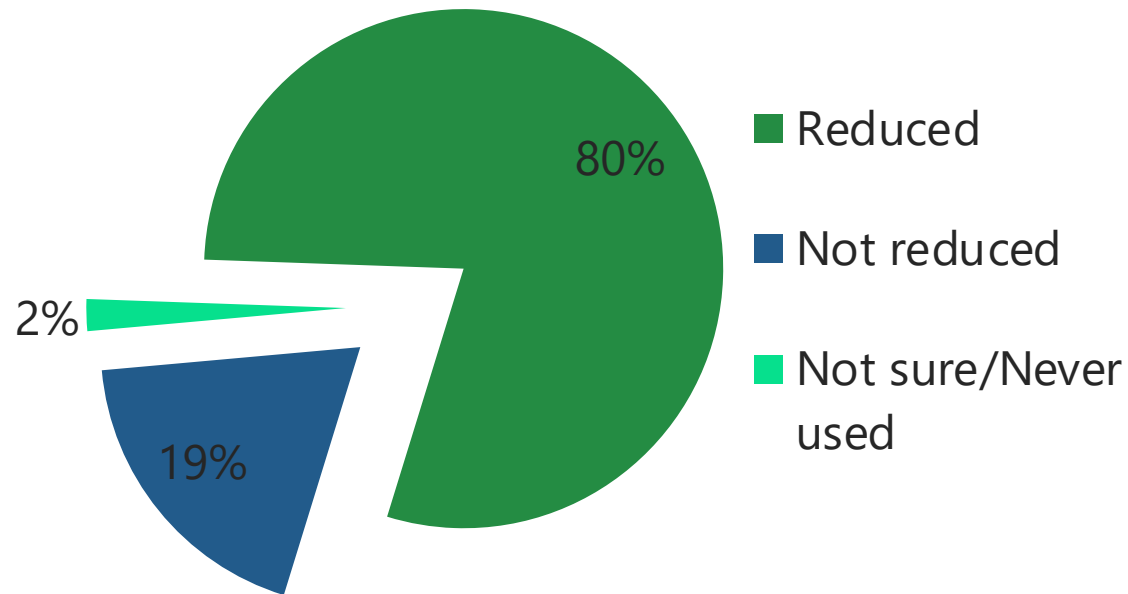


Number of plastic retail bags seen per volunteer at trash cleanups in DC since before and after passage of the Bag Law – Data courtesy of Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2017

IMPACT OF THE LAW

Residents are using 80% fewer bags

In 2013, DOEE commissioned a survey to measure the impact of the Bag Law on disposable bag usage rates in the District



“As you may recall, in 2010 D.C. introduced a new 5-cent fee on disposable bags at stores and carry-outs. Have you reduced your usage of disposable bags since the 5-cent bag fee was introduced in 2010?”

IMPACT OF THE LAW

Businesses report a 50% reduction in the number of bags purchased by businesses

CALCULATED CHANGE	% OF BUSINESSES
81 – 100% reduction	4%
61 – 80% reduction	20%
41 – 60% reduction	44%
21 – 40% reduction	23%
1 – 20% reduction	2%
No change	6%
Increase	2%
Median	50% reduction

“How many disposable bags are you buying for your business in a typical month today, whether that is the total number of bags, the number of cases of bags you order, or the amount your business spends on disposable bags?”

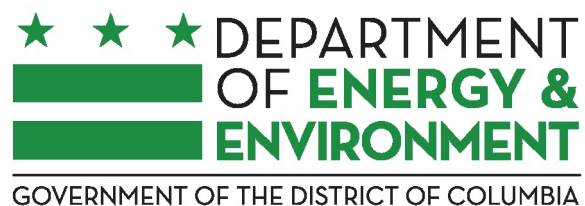
“Using the same type of measurement, in other words (fill in appropriate measure based on prior question): {number of bags/cases of bags/dollars spent on bags}, how many disposable bags were you buying for your business in a typical month before the bag law went into effect three years ago?”

LESSONS LEARNED

- Tailored outreach plan key to success
 - Ample time for businesses to transition (1 yr min.)
 - Allow opportunities for feedback, adapt campaign to suit needs
 - Clear messaging
 - What do you need to do
 - When do you need to do it by
 - Accessibility- direct contact information, translated materials
- Plan for enforcement/ implementation over long term
 - Fee laws are behavior based for business and customer, need routine reminders
- How will you measure impact?



QUESTIONS?



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