

- Compose
- Inbox 12
- Starred
- Snoozed
- Important
- Sent
- Drafts 5
- Categories
- Social 794
- Updates 16,673
- Forums
- Promotions 37,256
- More
- Labels +

I'm writing to ask you to support Clean Water Action's initiative to end the plastic bag preemption.

Minnesotans throw away more than 500 tons of plastic bags and packaging every day. The MPCA states that in Minnesota plastic bag recycling is less than 10%. It is estimated that 22 million pounds of plastic pollution enter the Great Lakes annually.

The need to end the use of single use plastic bags is vital to the long term health of our water and planet. Plastics are made up of roughly 13,000 different chemicals, with 3,200 of those being listed as chemicals of concern. Health impacts from the chemicals in plastic include cardiovascular disease and stroke, infertility, cancer, thyroid problems, obesity, diabetes, and more.

One study calculated the cost of 50 million plastic bags in a community of about 815,000 people. They found that contamination of the recycling stream costs \$1.09 million/year or 2.2 cents per bag. Collection and disposal of bags costs \$3.6 million/year or 7.2 cents per bag. Removing bags from the streets cost \$2.6 million/year or 5.2 cents per bag. The processing of bags in landfills costs \$1.2 million/year or 2.4 cents per bag. Overall, the total cost per bag in this study was \$8.49 million/year or 17 cents per bag. This totals around \$10 per person per year to collect, process, and dispose of plastic bag waste.

Finally, municipalities should have the right to local control and have the autonomy to make decisions that are best for their particular community. City Council members and mayors are elected by the