

a. According to the article, what are some of the potential benefits of charging fees for and/or banning plastic bags? Underline or circle all of the potential benefits mentioned as you read. (These will include generating revenues for the government as well as reducing waste, litter, pollution and carbon emissions.)

It will reduce pollution by making an incentive for people to use reusable bags, and by reducing the number of bags manufactured, it will reduce carbon emissions. In Connecticut, putting a fee of \$5 on plastic bags could potentially raise as much as \$10 million a year for the depleted budget of the Environmental Protection Department.

b. According to the article, what are some of the potential drawbacks of such programs? Underline or circle all of the potential downsides mentioned as you read. (These will include economic burden on consumers, political backlash, burden on retail stores, damage to the plastic bag industry and reduced emphasis on reuse/recycling.)

It could put an economic strain on people when the economy needs boosting. It may hurt the small businesses by forcing them to use alternatives or lose money. In the township of Manhattan Beach, a Superior Court judge ruled on Friday in favor of bag makers, saying the city should have determined whether a ban on plastic bags would have caused environmental damage by increasing the use of paper bags. Plastic bag makers also say that they are working to educate people about recycling.

c. Which benefits and drawbacks seem the most compelling? Why?

I think that the most compelling thing for me would be to reduce carbon emissions, in which case I am in favor of less plastic bags being made. Also, plastic bags spoil our landscapes, kill animals, and don't disintegrate until thousands of years have gone past! I don't think I would be supporting the bag sellers at this stage. However, I do understand the argument that this may hurt small businesses.

d. Would you support a local law charging fees for (or banning) plastic bags? Why or why not?

I definitely would, because of the reasons listed above. Also, maybe this would encourage people to use the trashcan, instead of putting trash in plastic bags and chucking it out the window of their car. Speaking as one who has had to clean up his road many a time, I would say that this is a big problem. On a side note, if Coca-Cola cans and McDonalds containers could be banned too, I wouldn't be complaining.