

ISRI Position on Plastic Bags¹

Overview

The position was developed in response to several high profile municipalities either banning or placing fees on plastic or paper bags. As this is a controversial topic and municipalities are debating whether to ban this material, this position gives ISRI staff guidance on how to navigate this issue. It also provides stakeholders information on where ISRI stands on the issue.

Plastic film is a highly recyclable resource which has viable, sustainable markets which is highly sought after and used in the manufacture of many types of products. Banning or placing uneconomic fees on this material reduces the ability of it to be recovered.

It is the position of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI) that:

- Opposes the ban of plastic bags that are being manufactured into useful commodity grade materials.
- Supports legislation that mandates the inclusion of recyclable content in the manufacture of plastic bags.
- Supports the exemption from any bans of reusable plastic film bags with at least 20% recycled content that are designed to be used multiple times.
- Supports policies that describe the efficient collection of plastic bags with the goal of optimizing the material's value and increasing its recycling rate.
- Encourage retailers to provide convenient collection points in their stores for the recycling of plastic bags, in place of collection through curbside programs. ISRI encourages outreach and education regarding the recycling of plastic bags.

¹ As adopted by the ISRI Board of Directors on February 21, 2020.