

## Appendix C: Comparison of Options to Reduce Plastic Checkout Bags

Option	Description	Pros	Cons	Notes
<b>Status Quo</b>	<p>The Township would not implement any changes to current requirements. Retailers would continue to implement their own processes, which may include voluntary fees, voluntary bans, asking customers if they need a bag etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses retain the choice of voluntarily (or not) reducing plastic bag use.</li> <li>Consumers retain the choice of whether or not to accept a bag.</li> <li>No staff or resource implications for the Township.</li> <li>Could favor Esquimalt businesses over Saanich and Victoria.</li> <li>Less inconvenience and no additional cost to consumers.</li> <li>Plastic bags, use less resources to produce than the alternatives, unless the alternative is used the appropriate number of times.</li> <li>Treats plastic bags the same as other single use plastic items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not noticeably reduce plastic bag use.</li> <li>Smaller stores unlikely to introduce voluntary fees as they experience 'pushback'.</li> <li>Township does not appear to address public concern for the environment.</li> <li>Confusion for businesses and consumers as to which stores will provide bags.</li> <li>Inequity in standards across municipal borders.</li> <li>Could undermine efforts of other municipalities, by shoppers switching locations.</li> </ul>	<p>Several motions regarding plastic bags were carried at the September 2018 UBCM meeting to encourage the province to develop a provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy as part of a zero waste strategy.<sup>i</sup> If this should occur, status quo will be impacted regardless of the Township's choice.</p>
<b>Status Quo plus public education campaign</b>	<p>The Township collaborates with non profits, businesses and industry to conduct an extensive public education campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses retain the choice of voluntarily (or not) reducing plastic bag use.</li> <li>Consumers retain the choice of whether or not to accept a bag.</li> <li>Could favor Esquimalt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant cost and time implications for the municipality.</li> <li>This option has already been done on a more regional/global level and has not been</li> </ul>	

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	<p>businesses over Saanich and Victoria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less inconvenience and no additional cost to consumers.</li> <li>• Could be used to address more than just plastic checkout bags.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is not aligned with other CRD municipal programs.</li> <li>• Inequity in standards across municipal borders.</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory Plastic Bag Fees</b>	<p>The Township introduces a fee for plastic and paper checkout bags that is collected by retailers at the point of sale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant change in consumer behaviour has been shown as a result of these programs.<sup>ii</sup></li> <li>• Consumers retain their choice.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will require a new bylaw be drafted with fees and penalties.</li> <li>• Does not align with other CRD municipal programs.</li> <li>• Small retailers may be at competitive disadvantage.</li> <li>• More difficult to enforce.</li> <li>• Does not address all single use plastic items equally.</li> </ul>
<b>Checkout bag ban</b>	<p>The Township adopts a bylaw based on the City of Victoria's to implement a ban on the retail supply of plastic checkout bags.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results in real behavioural change.</li> <li>• Will significantly reduce or eliminate plastic checkout bag use.</li> <li>• Aligns with the regulations in large portion of CRD, once Saanich passes bylaw.</li> <li>• Decrease in overall plastic waste, litter</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not provide consumers with a lot of choice, more inconvenience.</li> <li>• Will result in increase in use of paper checkout bags.</li> <li>• Some inequity in charging fees for alternatives for low-income consumers.</li> <li>• Does not address all single use plastic</li> </ul> <p>A <u>combination</u> of public education and a bylaw is recommended.</p>

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	<p>and landfill from the Township.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less confusion for businesses and consumers.</li><li>• If Victoria's bylaw is chosen as the model, legal fees and engagement can be reduced.</li><li>• Township is seen to address public concern for the issue of plastic waste.</li></ul>	<p>items equally. May be strong arguments about singling out one particular plastic item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will require significant resources and staff time to implement.</li></ul>
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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions-and-Policy/Resolutions/2018%20UBCM%20Resolutions%20Book.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> London Drugs self reporting (Oct 2017) for bag fees in their stores shows a 60% reduction in use of plastic bags. The City of Toronto introduced mandatory \$0.05 plastic bag fee in 2009. The program showed a 53% reduction in plastic bag use over the three years of the program. The fee was dropped in 2012. <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pw/bgrd/backgroundfile-59290.pdf>.