

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

Option	Description	Pros	Cons	Notes
Status Quo	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.	<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>	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.
Status Quo plus public education campaign	The Township collaborates with non profits, businesses and industry to conduct an extensive public education campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags.	<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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Mandatory Plastic Bag Fees		businesses over Saanich and Victoria.	shown to significantly reduce plastic bag use.
		<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>
	The Township introduces a fee for plastic and paper checkout bags that is collected by retailers at the point of sale.	<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>
Checkout bag ban	The Township adopts a bylaw based on the City of Victoria's to implement a ban on the retail supply of plastic checkout bags.	<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>.