

No Plastic is Fantastic!
¡Sin Plástico es Fantástico!

A winning campaign for Laredo



Ordinance effective: APRIL 30, 2015

Rio Grande International Study Center

Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC)



- Chartered by the state of Texas in 1994.
- We are Laredo's only environmental organization.
- **Mission Statement:**
 - To protect and preserve the Rio Grande and its green spaces through research, education, advocacy, and binational collaboration for the benefit of present and future generations.



Why RGISC Matters

- The Rio Grande remains one of the 10 Most Endangered Rivers in the world. (*World Wildlife Fund*)



- 1) Limited Water Supply
- 2) Pollution

- It's our only source of drinking water.
Supplies water to 6 million people & 2 million acres of farmland (IBWC)
- Vital habitat for many species of wildlife.

Laredo's Checkout Bag Reduction Ordinance



QUESTION:



**How many plastic bags
are consumed in Laredo
each year?**



ANSWER:



Laredo consumes an average of
120 MILLION
plastic bags each year.

(City of Laredo - Solid Waste Dept.)



Ordinance Facts

Laredo City Council passed the ordinance on
June 2, 2014

Vote: 6-1

Takes effect: April 30, 2015

No fees

Exemptions will apply



Ordinance Details

PLASTIC Bags:

Must be at least 4 mils thick (*for reusability*).

PAPER Bags

Must have handles and contain at least 40% recycled material.

EXEMPTIONS:

Veterinarians	Pharmacies	Dry cleaners
Florists	Newspapers	Non-profits
Frozen or prepared foods (<i>restaurants</i>)		Meat & Produce
Fundraisers (<i>steak plate sales</i>)		



Quick Facts

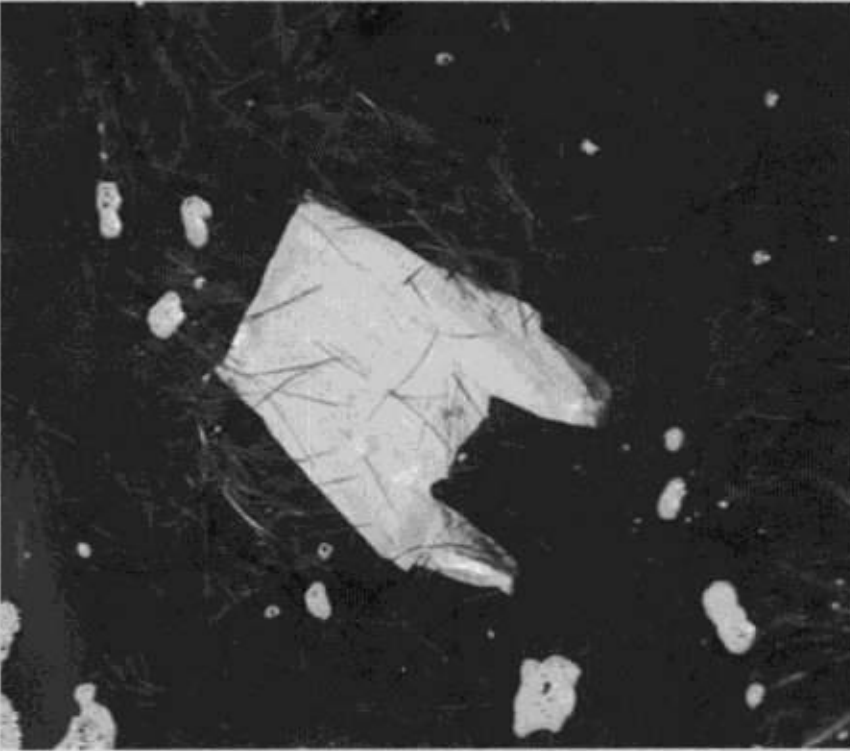
- Plastic bags are made from petroleum products, requiring millions of barrels of oil for production each year.
- Less than 5 percent of plastic grocery bags are recycled in the U.S. (*EPA*).
- In Laredo, they are not recyclable.
- Plastic bags can take hundreds of years to degrade.
- They photo-degrade with the sun and become smaller toxic particles that harm our environment, wildlife and waterways.

In the United States

Families accumulate nearly 60 plastic bags
in just four trips to the grocery store.



**In Laredo, they end up everywhere –
our trees, sidewalks, fences, creeks, river...**



*Photos courtesy:
City of Laredo Environmental Services Dept.*

Our Urban Tumbleweeds

All photos taken at local sites.

Photos courtesy: RGISC & City Environmental Services Dept.



Near Meadow & Hwy 83 South



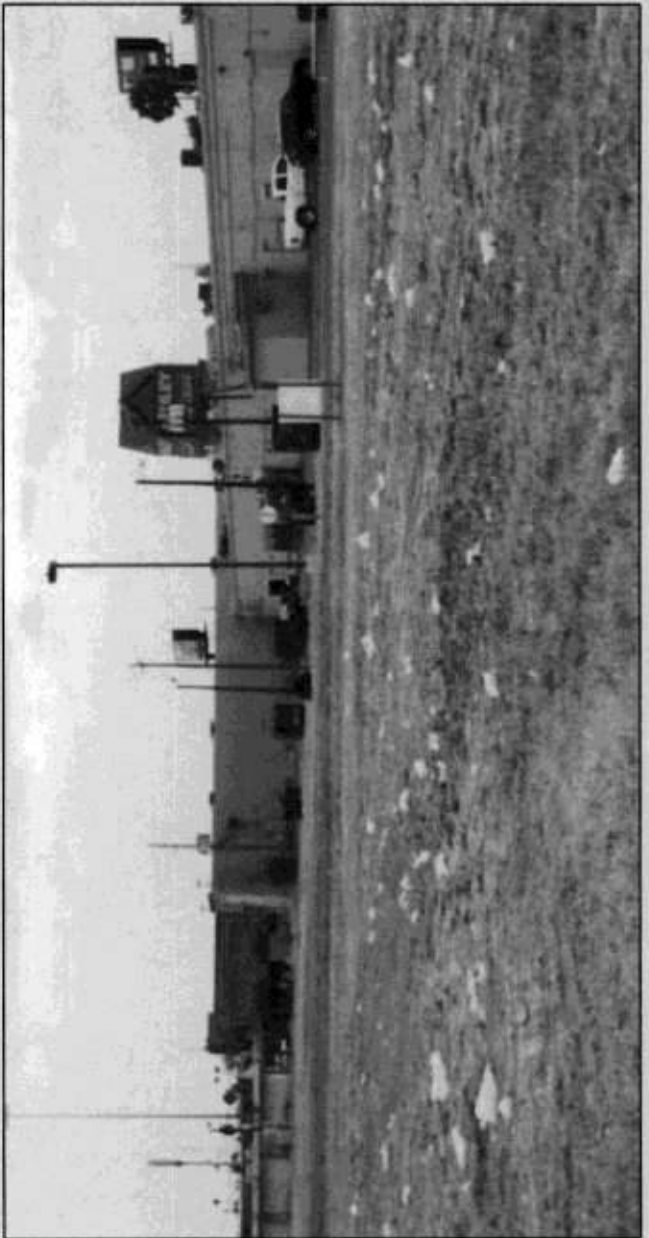
At Chacon Creek

**Plastic bags find their way into our waterways
via drains and sewage pipes, and harm animals.**

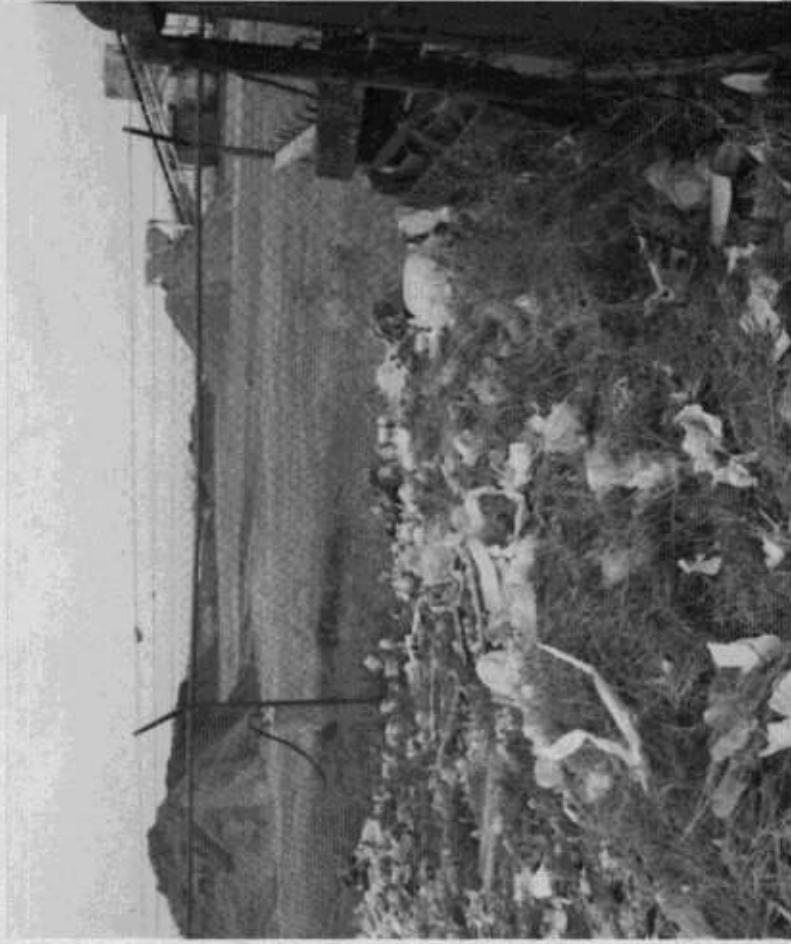


**They coat the bottom
of our creeks and riverbed.**





Hwy 83 South



Along the river bank





Laredo riverbank. Photo courtesy: RG/ISC





Zacate Creek. Photo courtesy: RG/SC



Bag Laws Across the U.S.

- Nearly 200 cities and counties in the U.S. have some type of restriction on plastic bags.
- Other Texas cities:
 - Brownsville
 - Dallas
 - Austin
 - Kermit
 - Fort Stockton
 - Freer
 - South Padre Island
 - Laguna Vista



Source: Surfrider Foundation

<http://www.surfrider.org/pages/plastic-bag-bans-fees>

PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCES - U.S.

STATE	CITY	PLASTIC BAG	PAPER BAG	NOTES
HAWAII	ALL	BAN		First state to ban bags (Jan. 2014)
	ALL	BAN		
AMERICAN SAMOA				
ALASKA	Bethel	BAN		Banned styrofoam food containers
	Homer	BAN (2.25 mil)		
	Hooper Bay	BAN		
	Western Alaska -- 30 villages/communities	BAN		
ARIZONA	Bisbee	Ban	5 cent fee	
	Alameda County	BAN	10 cent fee	
CALIFORNIA	Alameda	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Albany	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Berkeley	BAN	10 cent fee	Banned polystyrene (Styrofoam) foodware
	Dublin	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Emoryville	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Fremont	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Hayward	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Livermore	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Newark	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Oakland	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Piedmont	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Pleasanton	BAN	10 cent fee	
	San Leandro	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Union City	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Belmont	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
	Brisbane	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
	Burlingame	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
	Calabasas	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Campbell	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
	Capitola	BAN	25 cent fee	
	Carmel by the Sea	BAN		
	Carpinteria	BAN	YES	
	Chico	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Colma	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
	Culver City	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Cupertino	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Daly	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	

**CALIFORNIA
(Cont'd)**

Dana Point	BAN		
East Palo Alto	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
Fairfax	BAN		
Foster City	BAN	10 cent fee	
Fort Bragg	BAN	10 cent fee	
Glendale	BAN	10 cent fee	
Half Moon Bay	BAN	10 cent fee	
Huntington Beach	BAN	10 cent fee	
Laguna Beach	BAN	10 cent fee	Banned polystyrene (Styrofoam) foodware
Long Beach	BAN	10 cent fee	
Los Altos	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
Los Angeles County	BAN	10 cent fee	
Los Angeles	BAN	10 cent fee	
Malibu	BAN		Banned polystyrene (Styrofoam) foodware
Manhattan Beach	BAN		
Marin County	BAN		
Mendocino County	BAN	10 cent fee	
Menlo Park	BAN	10 cent fee	
Millbrae	BAN	10 cent fee	
Monterey	BAN	10 cent fee (1st year); 25 cent fee (afterward)	
Morgan Hill	BAN		
Mountain View	BAN	10 cent fee	
Ojai	BAN	10 cent fee	
Pacifica	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
Palo Alto	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
Pasadena	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
Portola Valley	BAN	10 cent fee	
Redwood City	BAN	Fee (unspecified)	
Richmond	BAN	10 cent fee	
San Bruno	BAN	10 cent fee	
San Carlos	BAN	10 cent fee	

CALIFORNIA (Cont'd)	San Francisco County	San Francisco County	BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (July 2014)	In 2008, 1st large U.S. city to ban bags
	San Francisco		BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (July 2014)	
	San Jose		BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (Jan. 2014)	
	San Mateo County		BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (Jan. 2015)	
	San Mateo		BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (Jan. 2015)	
	San Luis Obispo County		BAN	10 cent fee	
	San Luis Obispo		BAN		
	Arroyo Grande		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Atascadero		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Grover Beach		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Morro Bay		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Paso Robles		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Pismo Beach		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Santa Clara County		BAN	15 cent fee	
	Santa Cruz County		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Santa Cruz		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Santa Monica		BAN	Fee (unspecified)	Banned polystyrene (Styrofoam) foodware
	Solana Beach		BAN	10 cent fee	
	South San Francisco		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Sunnyvale		BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (unspecified date)	
	Ukiah		BAN	10 cent fee	
	Watsonville		BAN	10 cent fee; 25 cents (May 2013)	

CALIFORNIA (Cont'd)	West Hollywood	BAN	10 cents	
	Sonoma County	BAN	10 cent fee; cents (in 2014)	25
COLORADO	Aspen	BAN	20 cent fee	
	Boulder	10 cent fee	10 cent fee	Eff. July 2013
	Breckenridge	10 cent fee	10 cent fee	Eff. Oct 2013
	Carbondale	BAN	20 cent fee	
	Durango	10 cent fee	10 cent fee	Eff. March 2014
	Roaring Fork Valley	BAN 2.25 mil+	20 cent fee	
CONNECTICUT	Telluride	BAN	10 cent fee	
	Westport	BAN		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA				Eff. Jan 2010. Collects \$1.8-\$2 million per year.
	D.C.	5 cent fee	5 cent fee	Fees go toward the Anacostia River.
IOWA	Marshall County	BAN		
MARYLAND	Chestertown	BAN		
	Montgomery County	5 cent fee	5 cent fee	Eff. Jan. 2012. Collected more than \$2 million through Nov. 2012. Retailers keep 1 cent. Funds go to County's water quality protection.

MASSACHUSETTS	Brookline		BAN	
	Great Barrington		BAN	
	Manchester		BAN	
	Nantucket		BAN	
NEW MEXICO	Santa Fe		BAN	10 cent fee
	East Hampton		BAN	
NEW YORK	Larchmont		BAN	
	Mamaroneck		BAN	
	New York City		10-cent fee PENDING	
NORTH CAROLINA	Rye		BAN	
	South Hampton		BAN	
	Barrier Islands			
	OUTER BANKS - Hyde County		BAN	
	OUTER BANKS - Dare County		BAN	
	OUTER BANKS - Currituck County		BAN	
OREGON	Corvallis		BAN	10 cent fee
	Eugene		BAN	5 cent fee
	Portland		BAN	Banned polystyrene (Styrofoam) foodware
RHODE ISLAND	Barrington		BAN	

TEXAS					40% minimum recycled content	
	Austin		BAN			
	Brownsville		\$1 fee per transaction (not per bag)			
	Dallas		5 cent fee		5 cent fee	Eff Jan. 2015
	Freer		BAN			
	Fort Stockton		BAN			
	Kermit		BAN		10 cent fee	
	Laguna Vista		BAN			
	South Padre Island		BAN			
	Sunset Valley		BAN		BAN	
WASHINGTON	Bainbridge Island		BAN		5 cent fee	
	Bellingham		BAN		5 cent fee	
	Edmonds		BAN			
	Issaquah		BAN			
	Mukilteo		BAN			
	Port Townsend		BAN		5 cent fee	
	Seattle		BAN		5 cent fee	Banned polystyrene (Styrofoam) foodware
	Shoreline		BAN		5 cent fee	

Source: Clean Air Council, Surfrider Foundation; Plastic Bag Ban Report; and several retail industry Websites.

Laredo Survey Results

Results from:

RGISC-TAMIU Laredo Environmental Survey (2012)

(827 households surveyed - in person - in all 8 City Council districts)

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know (%)
a. A city ordinance to <u>ban</u> all plastic bags?	48.8	36.1	15.1
b. A city ordinance to <u>reduce</u> plastic bags?	81.0	11.0	8.0
c. A campaign to distribute reusable bags?	86.7	7.7	5.6
d. An increase in fines for littering?	78.8	13.8	7.4
e. More trash bins outside of stores?	88.5	6.6	4.9
f. A small fee for using plastics bags at check out?	43.3	48.2	8.5

Minimum annual costs to City of Laredo

City Environmental Services	
Vaccum truck labor	\$160,000
Truck diesel prices	\$10,823
Environmental SUBTOTAL	\$170,823
City Solid Waste	
Wind-blown debris pickup (landfill fence)	\$160,000
Wind-blown debris pickup (downtown)	\$8,352
Solid Waste SUBTOTAL	\$168,352
TOTAL	\$339,175

Source: Environmental Services & Solid Waste departments



Photos courtesy: Environmental Services

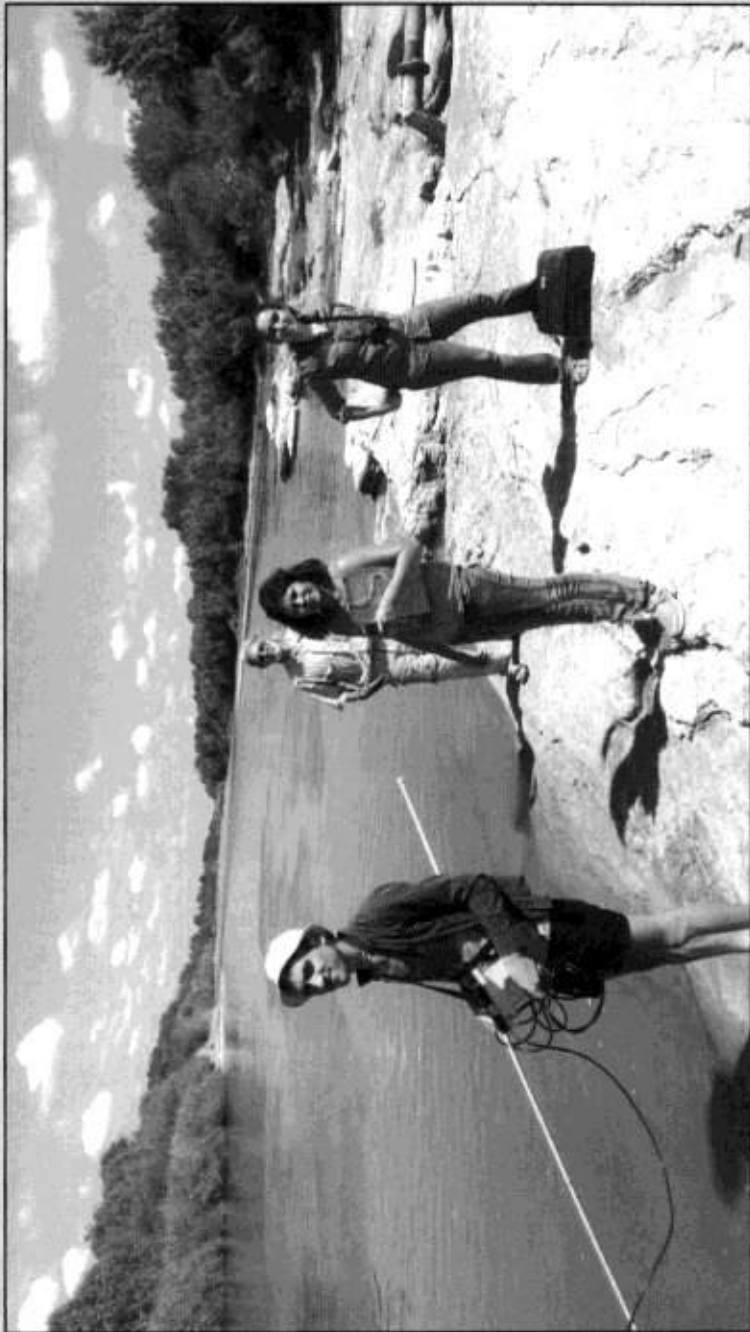


Goals:

- Make a positive change for Laredo.
- Eliminate plastic bags from our cityscape and environment.
- Have shoppers make the switch from paper & plastic to reusable bags.



Thank you!



RGISC monthly water testing for the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

Photo courtesy: RGISC

