

B.1

MOTION ON NOTICE

1. Eliminating Plastic Grocery Bags

MOVED by Councillor Tim Stevenson

SECONDED by Councillor Heather Deal

WHEREAS:

1. the City of Vancouver has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens;
2. plastic grocery bags cannot be composted and are not accepted in Vancouver's curb side recycling program;
3. plastic bags don't biodegrade - breaking down into smaller toxic bits that contaminate soil and waterways;
4. plastic bags can take between 15 - 1000 years to break down in the environment;
5. in the Mayor's State of the City address, he stated that one of his five goals for a better Vancouver was "Becoming a world leader in environmental practices and sustainable transportation";
6. the expansive usage of plastic grocery bags and their typical disposal creates an impediment to Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge;
7. Metro Vancouver will be working with local business associations to discourage the use of disposable shopping bags;
8. Metro Vancouver will be pursuing alternative educational strategies to reduce plastic shopping bags; and
9. Metro Vancouver urges member Municipalities to ask the Provincial Government for the right to ban plastic grocery bags with their jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. THAT staff provide a report on ways of pursuing educational strategies to help reduce the use of all disposable plastic shopping bags within the City of Vancouver using the "Rossland Model" as a guide.
2. THAT staff explore ways with Metro Vancouver to work with Vancouver business associations to discourage the use of disposable shopping bags.
3. THAT staff review all legal means whereby the City of Vancouver might ban plastic shopping bags.
4. THAT staff immediately request the Provincial Government to change the Vancouver Charter to allow the City of Vancouver to ban the use of plastic shopping bags.
5. THAT staff provide a report early in the new year with options of phasing out plastic grocery bags until a ban can be implemented.

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