



Village of Northbrook

COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

NORTHBROOK VILLAGE HALL, 1225 CEDAR LANE
January 24, 2023, 6:00 P.M., TERRACE ROOM

The Community and Sustainability Committee of the Village of Northbrook Board of Trustees will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, Illinois. The following will be discussed.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Hear From The Audience
3. Climate Action Plan Priorities
4. Single-Use Bag Tax
5. Adjourn

Trustee Ross, Chair
Community and Sustainability Committee

Members: Trustee Israel
Trustee Collison

Village of Northbrook
Cook County, Illinois
January 24, 2023

The Village of Northbrook is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Debbie Ford (847-664-4013) promptly to allow the Village of Northbrook to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. Hearing impaired individuals may call the TDD number, 564-8645, for more information.



MEMORANDUM
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TO: **CARA PAVLICEK, VILLAGE MANAGER**
FROM: **TESSA MURRAY, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR**
DATE: **JANUARY 24, 2023**
SUBJECT: **NORTHBROOK CLIMATE ACTION PRIORITY AND BUDGET REVIEW**

Introduction

At the January 24, 2023 Community and Sustainability Committee meeting, members will discuss ongoing and upcoming Climate Action Plan (CAP) Priority Items. There are over 100 action items recommended within the CAP. The below table lists the top ten action items prioritized by the Board in September 2021, alongside a short progress update for each item. While these items have been addressed to the extent detailed below, they are all a part of ongoing projects and programs; therefore, resources and staff hours are still required to ensure successful implementation.

The Committee shall review Priority Action Items from the past year of CAP implementation, the proposed Priority Action Items for the upcoming year, and proposed expenses to support ongoing and new programs.

Table 1: CAP Top Ten Priority Action Items (2021-2022)

ITEM #	TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE	PROGRESS UPDATE
TL 5-3	Proactively encourage the safe use of non-cars such as bikes, e-bikes and scooters on Village rights of way. Collaborate with the library for bike and e-bike safety education.	The Village promotes bikes and bike safety through events such as the Northbrook Grand Prix Bike Race and educational workshops led by the Pedestrian and Bike Commission. The Sustainability Commission endorsed the Shermer Road multi-use side path plan.
TL 6-1	Amend the zoning ordinance to allow and encourage higher density development within the downtown district and within 3/4 mile radius of transit center. These amendments should include increasing building heights, allowing projects to build out to approved densities, and should consider opportunities for mixed land use. Increased density can minimize vehicle miles travelled.	The Zoning Code update is planned to begin in 2023; Village staff selected a consultant with experience integrating community's sustainability goals with zoning updates. This action item, as well as numerous other CAP items relating to zoning, will be considered in conjunction with the code update. This action item has also been referenced in development proposals located in proximity to public transportation to encourage residential density in the downtown.
BUILDINGS AND ENERGY		
BE 5-1	Convert municipal streetlights to LEDs. Explore other opportunities for smart lights that can further save energy through conservation with features like motion sensors. Achieve 100% LED conversion by 2030.	In progress with expected completion by 2030.
WASTE MANAGEMENT		
WM 1-1	Phase out single-use products by 2026 by implementing an opt-in fee for such products. This would apply to (but not limited to) bags (both paper and plastic). Applies to businesses of	A draft ordinance establishing a tax on retail carryout single-use bags was recommended by the Sustainability Commission and will be discussed as an item on the Committee's 1/24 meeting agenda.

	any size. Encourage restaurants to allow customers to bring their own take-out containers.	
WM 2-1	Conduct a waste audit to determine waste diversion opportunities. Establish a Village Facility Zero Waste goal to eliminate landfill stream from office operations. Encourage other public agencies (schools, park district, library etc) and businesses.	Several Village projects are addressing this item: 1) A waste audit was conducted in Northbrook in December 2021 and helped inform the Commission recommendation for the proposed single-use bag ordinance. Planning for a follow-up waste audit is in progress. 2) A long-term implementation guide to establish the Village Facility Zero Waste goal is in progress. 3) Collaborative educational initiatives providing waste diversion and recycling tips are in progress with multiple stakeholder groups.
Water and Wastewater		
WW 2-1	Prioritize managing stormwater before it enters the sewer system through a combination of overland flow, detention, and infiltration strategies (for example, permeable surfaces). Establish and effectively manage native-habitat corridors along sidewalks, trails and utility easement areas to restore and maintain landscape connectivity.	Several Village projects are addressing this item: 1) Village staff worked with a consultant to establish a list of suitable species for planting natives on parkways, which is now hosted on our website and shared during Northbrook Garden Club events. 2) Using grant funds, the Village gave away 250 plants of the aforementioned recommended species at the Farmers Market. 3) Native plant installment is included with the Cedar Lane Roadway Improvement Project. 4) Public Works is drafting a Standard Operating Procedure that will provide an opportunity for neighboring residents to plant and maintain native plantings in the cul-de-sacs adjacent to their homes.
Local Food and Agriculture		
LF 2-1	Establish "Grow Northbrook" central community food plot/garden, a visionary project supported by the Village that trains kids and residents from the community in local food growth. Village designs program with local business, Organic Gardener. Bring in students, community volunteers. Link it with Library and Park district.	Project completed with ongoing workshops being held by the Village and Library. Several other community groups have taken advantage of the space for educational programming. Garden expected to yield 600 pounds of produce for pantry donation each year. Programming will continue annually.
Health and Safety		
HS 1-1	Provide up-to-date information to residents about the health effects of climate change and the heat and Cooling Center locations throughout the County.	Village will work with the county during upcoming updates to Local Emergency Operating Plan to help address the lack of centers located in close proximity to Northbrook.
Greenspace and Ecosystem Health		
GS 3-3	Establish a policy committing to Integrated Pest Management practices and non-petrochemical fertilizer use on Village owned property. Promote reduced use community-wide through community education. Explore establishing "demonstration yards" on Village owned property.	Several Village projects are addressing this item: 1) Expansion of community education and demonstration plots at Village Hall. 2) An Integrated Pest Management plan was included as an alternate proposal during the Landscape Maintenance Bid Opening in January 2023.
Climate Economy		

CE 1-1	Continue the Green Leadership Awards program to promote Northbrook as an environmentally friendly destination by highlighting the businesses and residents that are taking steps to reduce resource consumption.	Several Village projects are addressing this item: 1) Green Steward Recognition program launched for residents. 2) Green Business Certification program in pilot stages with 6 businesses currently completed as test candidates for assessing the program. Official launch of program expected in Spring 2023.
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Table 2: Proposed CAP Top Ten Priority Action Items (FY 2023-2024)

At the November 8, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting, the first annual Northbrook Climate Action Progress Report was presented to the Board of Trustees. This report includes a recommendation from consultant paleBLUEDot for the next set of priorities to be considered by the Village in FY 2023-2024.

ITEM #	TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
TL 4-1	Conduct a municipal fleet inventory and EV transition Implementation plan. Effort to identify opportunities for electrifying, right-sizing, and improving overall efficiency of vehicles to meet CAP Goals. Include implementation recommendations to incorporate EV's through right-timing purchases with a planned vehicle-replacement schedule.	Item may be addressed through partnership with Northwestern University's Masters of Science in Energy and Sustainability program, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) EV Readiness program. The Village was selected to join cohort 2 of the MMC EV Readiness program which is expected to begin in Summer 2023.
TL 5-5	Create an Electric Vehicle (EV) Action Plan to guide access to chargers on Village property and village wide, explore alternative technologies like Smart cable technology and streetlight/EV charger integration, address barriers to charging for garage-free homes and rental properties, assess options to lower EV and EV charger implementation costs, and recommend EV charging station requirement amendments to zoning ordinances to support EV plan.	Item may be addressed through coordination among Village staff and participation in the MMC EV Readiness program. The Village was selected to join cohort 2 of the MMC EV Readiness program which is expected to begin in Summer 2023.
Buildings and Energy		
BE 1-1	Conduct a renewable energy Master Plan for achieving 50% renewable energy for all Village facilities and operations by 2030, and a pathway to achieve 100% by 2040. Master Plan should include exploration of on-site renewable options, community/shared renewable options, Renewable Energy Credit (REC) options, and opportunities for hosting community solar projects on Village buildings/properties.	Item may be addressed using consultant services and assessment of Village facilities.
BE 1-5	Provide solar assessment reports to 50 properties annually. Conduct informational workshop to assist building owners and businesses in understanding potential clean energy generation. Include economic performance and return on investment estimates, information on financing and ownership models, next step resources.	Item is in progress with residents receiving free property assessments through the Grow Solar Chicagoland program, and developments in need of zoning relief undergo feasibility and cost assessments for property rooftop solar installation.
Waste Management		
WM 4-1	Increase waste diversion opportunities by increasing recycling and organics collection bins in	Item is in progress with new recycling bins to be added to public spaces.

	public places. Work with other public agencies, including the school district, to advance recycling and organics collection.	
	Water and Wastewater	
WW 3-1	Conduct a stormwater management study exploring full range of methods of stormwater management including permeable pavements, bioswales, rain gardens, biochar amendments in soils with high clay content, and flood-tolerant plantings. Establish a recommended percentage goal of stormwater from Village-controlled impervious surfaces with sustainable stormwater strategies by 2030. Findings of study to be integrated into updated Village Master Stormwater Management Plan with recommended implementation projects.	Item may be addressed concurrently with updates to the Master Stormwater Management Plan.
	Local Food and Agriculture	
LF 4-2	Offer low price compost bins similar to rain barrels the Village currently offers; potentially work with businesses as well and Village could then sell or give compost to residents.	Item may be addressed with opt-out compost program piloted with 100 households receiving free 1-year subscription to Waste Management's organic waste collection and/or bins to be provided at discount rates to residents for sale at Village Hall.
	Health and Safety	
HS 3-4	Develop a debris management plan to support response to severe storm events and flooding.	Item may be addressed in-house through updating storm event aftermath procedure and increasing community education on how to prepare for major storm events (tree pruning, etc.)
	Greenspace and Ecosystem Health	
GS 1-4	Conduct a Solar and Tree Compatibility study to actively identify the best sites in the Village for tree canopy expansion as well as the best locations for solar PV installations. Following study, work to direct and encourage tree planting and solar PV development in areas identified.	Item may be addressed in-house through collaboration between Village staff and Municipal GIS Partners staff to create list of targeted site areas and tree planting recommendations.
	Climate Economy	
CE 4-1	Add a Carbon Impact Fee to all new development as a percentage of the building permit fee. Additional funds raised to be used for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation implementation. Projects may apply for a refund if they install on-site renewable energy system and provide documentation that demonstrates the system will offset a minimum of 40% of the site's energy consumption, with sliding scale refunds provided for projects offsetting over 40%.	Item may be addressed by exploring options for how to further promote sustainable buildings in Northbrook in a way that does not discourage development. An example of potential item implementation is a recommendation to reduce permitting costs for developments that achieve 100% of CAP recommendations provided to them during review phase.

Table 3: Proposed Budget Expenses for Sustainability Items

Staff compiled the below list of potential program expenses pertaining to sustainability in consideration of ongoing CAP Priority Actions from FY 2021-2022, plus the proposed new projects from the CAP Priority Actions for FY 2023-2024, and several additional items. The Committee will want to consider which, if any or all, of the items listed as “**NEW**” under program type are recommended for the Village and sustainability budgeting.

Expense Description	Amount/yr	Program Type	Detailed Description
Greenhouse Gas Inventory	\$3,800	Existing annual expense; Continuing program	Cost of carbon footprint and sustainability reporting annual update (paleBLUEdot).
Fall and Spring Giveaway Plants (GS 1-2)	\$5,000	Existing annual expense; Continuing program	Cost of 500 tree saplings/yr incl. delivery.
Organic Gardener Service (LF 2-1)	\$15,196	Existing annual expense; 21-22 Climate Action Plan Priority	Cost of site preparation, materials, planting, labor, plus service costs of 2/mo garden maintenance, 2/mo delivery to food pantry, 1/mo educational workshop services (Organic Gardener).
Recycle Cart Tagging Deliverables (WM 2-1)	\$500	NEW ; 21-22 Climate Action Plan Priority	Estimate cost of 2,000 pamphlet recycling guidelines and "oops" tag for recycling bin audits incl. shipping.
Green Business Window Decal (CE 1-1)	\$1,000	NEW ; 21-22 Climate Action Plan Priority	Estimate cost of 25 window decals incl. shipping.
Village Hall Waste Bins (WM 2-1)	\$1,800	NEW ; 21-22 Climate Action Plan Priority	Estimate cost of 5 indoor waste stations each with two compartments for landfill and recycling plus signage to facilitate sorting (incl. delivery). To be placed in Village Hall lobby, Board Room, lunch room, Shermer Study, and Terrace Room.
Single-Use Bag Tax Program (WM 1-1)	\$28,200	NEW ; 21-22 Climate Action Plan Priority	Estimate cost of reusable bags and 60 signs (one for each participating business that state tax is in effect) incl. shipping.
Discount Compost Bins (WM 4-1)	\$2,500	NEW ; 22-23 Climate Action Plan Priority	Estimate cost of outdoor compost bins at \$30/bin incl. shipping. These could then be purchased by residents at the Village Hall for use in their homes.
Opt-out Compost Program (WM 4-1)	\$12,485	NEW ; 22-23 Climate Action Plan Priority	Cost of providing 100 households with a free subscription to 35-gallon compost bin curbside pickup (Waste Management).
Renewable Energy Master Plan (BE 1-1)	\$10,000	NEW ; 22-23 Climate Action Plan Priority	Estimate cost of consultant services based on similar projects for other communities.
Recycling Education Program (WM 5-2)	\$1,800	NEW ; Block of Cheese Board Request	Cost of online game service.
Membership: IGA	\$45	NEW ; Membership	Illinois Green Alliance provides tools to advance green building practices and school programs.
Membership: MCC	\$1,000	NEW ; Membership	Midwest Climate Collaborative membership allows municipalities to become eligible for joint grant application opportunities.
Summer Intern	\$6,000	NEW ; Staff	Cost of \$15/hr full-time seasonal intern.

Ongoing Dedicated Staff Time List

The following list details the ongoing tasks in which the Village Sustainability Coordinator is responsible. While CAP Priority Item facilitation is a major component of the Sustainability Coordinator's workload, there are existing environmental programs managed by staff throughout the year.

- Staff liaison to Sustainability Commission and facilitation of Climate Action Plan initiatives
- Answer customer questions on waste, recycling, compost, landscaping, electric programs (Aggregation and Community Solar), and collect public input on sustainability-related items
- Provide sustainability addendums and reviews for relevant development projects in need of zoning relief
- Facilitate voluntary public outreach programs including Green Steward Awards for residents, Green Business Checklist, No Mow May, Lights Out Northbrook, and Pollinator Habitat program
- Maintain tracking of data for emissions, waste, recycling, solar permits, and community solar subscriptions and maps for tree inventory, pollinator habitat locations, and solar permits
- Provide input on Village plans, projects, Requests for Proposals, contracts, and policy updates across multiple departments (DPS, VMO, PW)
- Draft communications materials for Village social media, e-news, print newsletter, and Village website
- Plan and attend Village-hosted events including annual Pumpkin Smash, Earth Month activities, and Chicago River Day litter cleanup
- Maintain sustainability webpages and "How Do I Recycle This" resource directory on Village website
- Coordinate outreach with local community groups (co-host events and webinars, provide promotional materials, etc.)
- Facilitate educational opportunities and interviews for students, scout troops, and community groups
- Participate in regional Leaf Blower working group and North Shore Electric Aggregation Consortium
- Facilitate giveaways and vendors for rain barrels, garden signs, tree and plant giveaways
- Participate in monthly meetings with fellow local government sustainability staff members and groups such as the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee and Energy Efficiency subcommittee, Active Transportation Alliance suburban advocacy working group, and the Illinois Green Alliance
- Host quarterly intergovernmental meetings with School Districts, Library and Park District
- Coordinate partnerships with Northwestern University's Masters of Science in Energy and Sustainability program, the Organic Gardener, Food Pantry, and Library for workshops in the new garden, and Aargus Plastics for plastic recycling
- Respond to property maintenance complaints regarding invasive plant species
- Promote incentive programs like ComEd, Nicor, Grow Solar Chicagoland, MWRD, County, IDNR state and federal rebates/ tax credits to residents, businesses, and developers
- Maintain list of eligible grant opportunities and their deadlines, and coordinate with staff for applications
- Maintain Village involvement in Mayors Monarch Pledge for pollinator conservation and Wyland Challenge for water conservation
- Attend relevant webinars, training events, and conferences, and conduct research to stay up-to-date on best practices and sustainability policy updates at the federal, state, and local level
- Maintain Village Hall demonstration Rain Garden

Summary

The following are items for the Committee to consider when assessing the ongoing and potential upcoming sustainability projects for the Village:

1. Does the Committee find the Proposed CAP Top Ten Priority Action Items (FY 2023-2024) recommended by paleBLUEdot in Table 2 of this report acceptable?
2. Does the Committee have recommendations for which of the Proposed CAP Top Ten Action Items (FY 2023-2024) listed in Table 2 should be prioritized first for implementation, and a subsequent ranking of other items?
3. The Committee will want to consider which, if any or all, of the listed Proposed Budget Expenses for Sustainability Items are recommended to be included in the draft FY 2023-2024 Budget. Note: Table 3 includes expenses for existing ongoing items, items from last year's Top Ten list, new items affiliated with the Proposed CAP Top Ten Action Items for FY 2023-2024, as well as other projects.

Staff will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions the Committee may have.



MEMORANDUM

VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TO: CARA PAVLICEK, VILLAGE MANAGER
FROM: TESSA MURRAY, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR
DATE: JANUARY 24, 2023
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A SINGLE-USE BAG TAX ORDINANCE

INTRODUCTION

In September 2021, the Board of Trustees listed item WM 1-1 as their top priority in the Waste Management sector of the Climate Action Plan (CAP): this item states the Village shall begin phasing out single-use items through the creation of a tax for such products. The Board directed the Sustainability Commission to make a recommendation in alignment with WM 1-1.

The CAP item WM 1-1 calls out several single-use products to phase out, including bags, utensils, and take-out containers. In following along with nearby communities that have adopted single-use bag taxes, the Commission decided to focus on bag products first as an initial step.

Batavia, Edwardsville, Evanston, Oak Park, and Woodstock are communities in Illinois with single-use bag ordinances in place that staff consulted with during the review process. There is a general consensus supported by research that taxation is an effective approach to decreasing consumption of single-use bags in communities.

Anticipated results of a single-use bag tax ordinance would be to:

- a. Reduce stray litter in the community and ecosystem at large;
- b. Reduce life-cycle environmental impacts due to single-use bags;
- c. Reduce costs to recycling streams due to plastic bag contamination;
- d. Increase zero waste education in Northbrook and promote a culture of environmental consciousness by reducing single-use products in favor of reusable alternatives.

The Sustainability Commission began crafting their recommendation for implementation of this item in January of 2022 and held a total of four discussions on the topic. The Commission agreed on specifications of a potential ordinance: the draft ordinance (see attached Appendix A) is tailored to the Commission's input and developed using model ordinance language which has been reviewed by the Village Attorney.

In summary, the Commission recommends imposing a ten-cent tax for each single-use paper or plastic bag that is provided to a customer by a retail store whose square footage is 3,000 square feet or greater. The ordinance exempts several use-case scenarios in which a tax should not be collected, such as at restaurants, pharmacies, farmers markets, or for perishable items like frozen foods. As well, businesses may provide single-use bags at no charge to customers that participate in SNAP, WIC, or similar assistance programs.

ORDINANCE SPECIFICATIONS CONSIDERED AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Inclusion of plastic, paper, or both in tax?

The Commission recommends inclusion of both paper and plastic in the tax program because both materials have negative environmental impacts. This determination is informed by research studies that assess the entire life cycle analyses of different bag types, accounting for emissions and water use from the production, reuse, and end-of-life disposal of the products.

2. Inclusion of retail stores, restaurants, or both?

The Commission proposes only retail stores to be included in the ordinance, with the intention to consider regulating single-use items associated with restaurants (such as bags, utensils, and take-out containers) altogether through an additional policy in the future.

3. Inclusion of small businesses?

The Commission recommends the single-use bag tax ordinance to include retail stores whose square footage is 3,000 or greater. There are 55 businesses in Northbrook in which the single-use bag tax is applicable as recommended (see full list under Appendix B). The Commission's intention with this distinction is to avoid posing a disproportionate burden on small businesses that are more likely to lack the capacity to administer the program.

4. Amount taxed and remittance distribution

The Commission proposes a tax of \$0.10 per single-use bag provided, which is consistent with nearby communities. Each covered business may retain \$0.05 from each \$0.10 tax that the business collects, to cover the administrative expense of collecting and remitting the tax to the Village. The Commission recommends funds received by the Village should be deposited into a Sustainability Fund, which shall need to be created in concert with this program, for the procurement of reusable bags for distribution to the community, plus expanded communications and outreach on the topic of waste reduction.

PUBLIC INPUT RESPONSES

The Sustainability Commission directed staff to begin soliciting input from the public in April 2022. Since the start of the public input period, 28 submissions expressed support of the proposed ordinance, and 21 were opposed. See the full list of comments attached (Appendix C).

In April 2022, two virtual listening sessions were held by staff: one geared towards Northbrook residents and another geared towards the business community. The Village worked with the Chamber to garner input from applicable businesses on the proposed ordinance.

12 individuals attended the meeting held for residents, and the majority of attendees expressed their support for a tax at this meeting. A summary of input provided by attendees at this meeting is attached (Appendix D).

At the meeting to solicit input from Northbrook businesses, a representative from one grocer attended alongside members of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA). IRMA stated concerns that the tax may exacerbate challenges related to current events (inflation, supply chains, and staffing issues). The grocer in attendance echoed these concerns, but stated they plan to comply if adopted.

Given the lack of attendance at the virtual meeting for businesses, Village staff attempted to gather additional feedback from businesses covered under the proposed ordinance. At this time, many of the businesses who responded asked not to be identified in the recording of their responses. 12 businesses provided responses: 7

were opposed, 2 supported the idea, and 3 stated no preference. Detailed summaries of responses from businesses are included under Appendix E.

ORDINANCE NOTIFICATION

The Sustainability Commission emphasizes the importance of preparing the community in advance of the ordinance to ensure successful implementation. Should the Board decide to move forward with the single-use bag tax, the Commission recommends a six-month timeframe between Board approval and effective date so covered businesses and Village staff may adequately prepare for implementation.

Village staff will disseminate materials to covered businesses in advance of the effective date. Materials may include signage to be displayed informing customers of the ordinance, and one-page fact sheets for use at each cash register. This fact sheet is to provide contact information for the Village Sustainability Coordinator to direct customer questions and/or concerns.

Village staff will ramp up communications to increase awareness of the detrimental impacts of single-use bags and promote free reusable bags to be provided by the Village. Infographics are to be created in accordance with the new brand standard that is being launched. Upon adoption of a single use bag tax, materials will be developed for retailers to display and reusable bags provided for distribution.

SUMMARY

The following are items for the Committee to consider when assessing the draft ordinance for a single-use bag tax:

1. Does the Committee still find a single use bag tax appropriate?
2. If so, should it be applicable to both paper and plastic as recommended?
3. Are the proposed exemptions appropriate?
4. Is a square footage threshold of 3,000 square feet appropriate in terms of which businesses the tax would apply to?
5. Is a tax of \$0.10 appropriate with businesses retaining half, and the Village receiving half?
6. Is a six month period for implementation adequate?

Staff will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions the Committee may have.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-__

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 23
OF THE NORTHBROOK MUNICIPAL CODE, AS AMENDED,
TO ESTABLISH A CARRYOUT SINGLE-USE BAG TAX

Passed by the Board of Trustees, _____, 2023
Printed and Published, _____, 2023

Printed and Published in Pamphlet Form
by Authority of the
President and Board of Trustees
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I hereby certify that this document
was properly published on the date
stated above.

Village Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-

BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Northbrook, County of Cook and State of Illinois THAT:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 23
OF THE NORTHBROOK MUNICIPAL CODE, AS AMENDED,
TO ESTABLISH A CARRYOUT SINGLE-USE BAG TAX

shall be, and is hereby, adopted as follows:

Section 1. BACKGROUND.

Chapter 23, entitled “Taxation,” of the Northbrook Village Code, as amended (“*Village Code*”) establishes certain taxes within the Village. Many businesses within the Village provide customers with carryout single-use bags, which leads to increased paper and plastic waste within the Village. Single-use bags are less environmentally friendly than re-usable bags. Village staff recommends creating a new Article within Chapter 23 in order to impose a tax upon customers who request and receive carryout single-use bags at certain businesses in the Village. The purpose of this tax is to encourage the use of reusable bags and to raise revenue for the Village’s Sustainability Fund.

The President and Board of Trustees have determined that it will serve and be in the best interest of the Village and its residents to amend the Village Code in the manner set forth in this Ordinance.

Section 2. AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 23 OF THE VILLAGE CODE.

Chapter 23, entitled “Taxation,” of the Northbrook Village Code, is hereby amended to reserve Sections 23-183 through 23-189 for future use and to include a new Article X, titled “Carryout Single-Use Bag Tax,” as set forth in **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 3: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

PASSED: This ____ day of _____, 2022.

AYES: ()

NAYS: ()

ABSENT: ()

ABSTAIN: ()

Village President

ATTEST:

Village Clerk

Article XXX. – CARRYOUT SINGLE-USE BAG TAX

Sec. 23-190. – Definitions.

The words and phrases set forth below are hereby defined as follows for purposes of this article:

CARRYOUT SINGLE-USE BAG: Any paper or plastic shopping bag provided by a covered business to a customer at the point of sale, pickup, or delivery to carry purchased items. The term carryout single-use bag includes compostable and biodegradable bags.

A carryout single-use bag does not include:

1. A bag provided by a pharmacist that contains a prescription drug;
2. Any newspaper bag or bag intended for initial use as a dry cleaning, garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bag;
3. A bag provided at the point of sale at a seasonal event, such as a farmers market, street fair, or yard sale, or by an occasional retailer;
4. A bag used to package a bulk item or to contain or wrap a perishable item; or
5. A bag used to package carryout food for off-site consumption of a perishable item from a food service establishment.

CUSTOMER(S): Any person purchasing goods from a covered business.

FINANCE DIRECTOR: The Village's chief financial officer.

COVERED BUSINESS: Any retail sales establishment, as defined within this chapter, whose square footage is three thousand feet (3,000') or greater.

FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT: In this article "food service establishment" means any restaurant, carryout restaurant, delicatessen, coffee shop, cafeteria, short order café, luncheonette, grill, tearoom, sandwich shop, soda fountain, tavern, bar, cocktail lounge, nightclub, industrial feeding establishment serving food, mobile food service establishment, kitchen or any construction of the foregoing or any other eating or drinking establishment or operation where fixed, moveable or mobile where food or drink is served or provided for direct human consumption either on the premises or elsewhere with or without charge.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT: In this article "retail sales establishment" means a retail store not licensed as a food business, but whose activities may consist of buying, selling, storing, handling or dealing in one or more of a variety of goods including, but not limited to, packaged food, tobacco, paint, wallpaper, hardware, furniture, dry goods, clothing, shoes, fabrics, floor coverings, flowers and plants, toys, pottery, gifts, pictures, electrical goods, jewelry, automobile parts, bicycles, books, and newspapers.

REUSABLE BAG: A bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple re-use and is made of cloth, fiber, or other machine washable fabric.

SUSTAINABILITY FUND: A fund established to advance the implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to foster environmental sustainability and reduce carbon emissions community-wide.

Sec. 23-191. – Carryout Single-Use Bag Tax.

- (a) A tax in the amount of ten cents (\$0.10) is levied and imposed on each customer for each carryout single-use bag that a covered business provides to a customer.
- (b) Each covered business must collect the amount of the tax imposed pursuant to this section when the customer makes any payment for goods in person, through the internet, by telephone, by facsimile, or by any other means. The covered business must hold the taxes required to be collected under this section in trust for the village until remitted as required by this article.
- (c) Each covered business may retain five cents (\$0.05) from each ten cent (\$0.10) tax that the covered business collects to cover the administrative expense of collecting and remitting the tax to the village.
- (d) A covered business must indicate on the customer's transaction receipt the number of carryout bags that the covered business provided to the customer and the total amount of tax levied under this section.
- (e) Every covered business subject to the collection of the carryout single-use bag tax shall display a sign in a location outside or inside of the business, viewable by customers, alerting customers to the village's carryout single-use bag tax.

Sec. 23-192. – Remittance.

- (a) On or before the fifteenth day of each calendar month, each covered business must remit to the village the full amount of the tax collected for all carryout bags provided to a customer during the previous month, less the amount retained under section 23-191 of this article.
- (b) Each remittance must be accompanied by a report of all transactions subject to the tax. The report must be on a form supplied by the finance director and must contain the number of bags supplied or provided to customers, the amount of tax required by this section to be collected and any other information the finance director requires to assure that the required tax has been remitted to the village.
- (c) If the covered business does not file a required report and remit the required funds within the time required by this section, the finance director may estimate the amount of tax due. The finance director may base the estimate on a reasonable projection of bags supplied or provided and may consider taxes reported by other covered businesses.
- (d) The finance director may send a notice of the estimated taxes due, including penalties pursuant to Section 23-199 of this Article, to the covered business's last known address. The covered business must remit the estimated tax, including any interest and penalty assessed by the finance director, within ten (10) days after the notice is sent.
- (e) Funds received by the village pursuant to this article shall be deposited into the village's sustainability fund.

Sec. 23-193. – Exemptions.

A covered business may provide a carryout single-use bag to a customer at no charge to that customer if the customer provides evidence that they are a participant in a federal food assistance program (e.g. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] and Women, Infants, and Children [WIC]) or an Illinois food assistance program.

Sec. 23-194. – Failure to Pay Tax.

If for any reason any tax is not remitted by a covered business when due, a penalty at the rate of two percent (2%) per month on the amount of tax which remains unremitted shall be due and owing by the covered business in addition to other penalties authorized by this article.

Sec. 23-195. – Reusable Bags.

A covered business may provide reusable bags to its customers for the purpose of enabling the customer to carry away goods from the point of sale without paying the carryout single-use bag tax. The tax imposed pursuant to Section 23-191 of this Article shall not apply to reusable bags.

Sec. 23-196. – Permitted Bags.

Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit a customer from (i) using bags of any type, whether single-use or reusable, that the customer brings to the covered business for the customer's own use or (ii) from carrying away goods from the covered business that are not placed in a bag provided by the covered business.

Sec. 23-197. – Prohibited Conduct.

A covered business may not:

- (a) Neglect or refuse to collect from a customer or to remit to the village the tax levied under this article;
- (b) File an incomplete, false, or fraudulent report to the finance director;
- (c) Neglect or refuse to keep complete and accurate records regarding its collection and remittance of the carryout single-use bag tax; or
- (d) Refuse to allow the finance director to inspect and audit the covered business's records regarding its collection and remittance of the carryout single-use bag tax.

Sec. 23-198. – Books and Records.

Every covered business required to collect the tax imposed pursuant to this article and shall keep accurate books and records of its business, including original source documents and books of entry denoting the transaction that gave rise, or may have given rise, to the tax being imposed. Each covered business must preserve for three years all records necessary to determine the amount of the tax due under this section. All such books and records shall be subject to and available for inspection by the finance director during regular business hours.

Sec. 23-199. – Penalties.

Any person or covered business that violates any provision of this article shall be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for each partial or complete failure to collect or remit the carryout single-use bag tax. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct failure to remit. In addition, the Village Manager may revoke or suspend a covered business's business license if the Village Manager determines the covered business has failed to comply with the duties imposed

under this article after notice and hearing. The suspension or revocation of a license shall not release or discharge the covered business from its liability to pay the tax or from any other penalties authorized by this article.

10,000+ SQ FT
Lowes
Nieman Marcus (Northbrook Court)
Dania Furniture
Whole Foods
Lewis Floor & Home
Sunset Foods
Dicks
Nordstrom Rack
DSW
Best Buy
HomeGoods
TJ Maxx
REI
PetSmart
Container Store
Goodwill
Bloomingdales Outlet
Saks Fifth off 5th
Arhaus (Northbrook Court)
Old Navy
Ace Hardware
Akbik (Northbrook Court)
Party City
Ulta
Hi- Five (Northbrook Court)
Gap (Northbrook Court)
Walgreens
Forever 21 (Northbrook Court)
Curaleaf
Trader Joes
7,000-8,000 SQ FT
Dollar Tree

Vogue Furniture
Apple (Northbrook Court)
Crate & Barrel (Northbrook Court)
6,000-7,000 SQ FT
Seven Eleven
5,000-6,000 SQ FT
Galt Toys Galt Baby (Northbrook Court)
George Garner Cyclery
Reds Garden Center
4,000-5,000 SQ FT
JC Licht Benjamin Moore Paint
American Mattress
Louis Vuitton (Northbrook Court)
Chico's (Northbrook Court)
Mobil
Sephora (Northbrook Court)
Three Bags Full Knitting Studio
Leonard's Men & Boys Wear Ltd.
Philip's Shoe Clinic
Athleta (Northbrook Court)
3,000-4,000 SQ FT
Peyton Rose
Finish Line (Northbrook Court)
Tiffany & Co. (Northbrook Court)
Wake and Bakery
Tommy Bahama (Northbrook Court)
Moon Shot Smoke Shop
Lululemon (Northbrook Court)
Soma (Northbrook Court)
J. Jill (Northbrook Court)

RESIDENT FEEDBACK	
support x 17	<p>I urge the Village of Northbrook to adopt a plastic bag fee, which as the Sustainability Commission has noted, will reduce stray litter in the community and ecosystem at large, reduce life-cycle environmental impacts due to single-use bags, reduce costs to recycling streams due to plastic bag contamination, increase zero waste education in Northbrook, promote a culture of environmental consciousness, and provide more funding to fight the looming existential danger of climate change.</p> <p>Despite what the plastics industry might claim, it is easy to develop a habit of bringing (and washing) reusable bags. Please be a green leader on the North Shore and adopt the proposed ordinance. (Note: This comment was shared by 17 individuals)</p>
support	<p>I'm pleased to hear the commission is moving forward with assessing the plastic bag ban/fee. I've seen a few public posts expressing fear and opposition to the proposed policy. I hope the opposition is acknowledged, but that the commission moves forward with the CAP goals. I was shocked at how many plastic bags this community uses, coming from a region that has banned them for years. Speaking from experience, the transition to a plastic bag ban takes about 6 months to get in the habit of bringing your own bags, and then it just becomes the new normal. People will get over it. It doesn't hurt any retailers.</p>
support	<p>I do not mind paying a bag fee, but if the purpose is to promote reusable bags in grocery stores, I think that is a bad idea. I have seen many people take their dirty reusable bags from the trunk of their car and place them in their shopping cart. They will then lay them on top of fresh fruits and vegetables. Thus bringing dirt and germs into the store. Reusable bags are a health issue .</p>
support	<p>I urge the Village of Northbrook to adopt a plastic bag fee. However, there should not be a fee on paper bags. They are easily recyclable</p>
support	<p>As we have discussed in person I support the 10c tax on single use plastic bags across retailers in Northbrook. A greater part of the world has moved away from single use plastic bags all or in part.</p> <p>As we are aware plastic can take upto a 1000 years to decompose in a landfill and there are upto 5 billion of them being manufactured in the United States alone. Additionally there is an extensive use of chemicals and resources to create every bag manufactured and any plastic bag while decomposing would add toxic chemicals into our soil and drinking water. When we look at the environmental impact this is a very small price levied.</p> <p>I understand that this tax may be burdensome to some and that there will be hygiene considerations to work out such as the baggers may need work gloves. However I do believe that this is a small price to pay for the larger societal and environmental good.</p> <p>Additionally reusable bags are easily available and easy to maintain/use.</p> <p>As we have discussed in person I support the 10c tax on single use plastic bags across retailers in Northbrook. A greater part of the world has moved away from single use plastic bags all or in part.</p> <p>As we are aware plastic can take upto a 1000 years to decompose in a landfill and there are upto 5 billion of them being manufactured in the United States alone. Additionally there is an extensive use of chemicals and resources to create every bag manufactured and any plastic bag while decomposing would add toxic chemicals into our soil and drinking water. When we look at the environmental impact this is a very small price levied.</p> <p>I understand that this tax may be burdensome to some and that there will be hygiene considerations to work out such as the baggers may need work gloves. However I do</p>

	believe that this is a small price to pay for the larger societal and environmental good. Additionally reusable bags are easily available and easy to maintain/use.
support	I'm 100% in support of promoting reusable bags vs single use ones, like the ones given out at the grocery store, regardless of their paper or plastic. I would support a \$.25 fee for any bag any retailer had to provide.
oppose	We are opposed to the adoption of this Ordinance. We, in fact, reuse both the plastic and paper bags we bring home from stores and do not consider either type single use. Charging extra for these places a burden on the shopper and, in turn, the retailer. This program has failed in other places where it has been rolled out and we do not support the attempt to adopt it here.
oppose	No thank you, that's my input. When the ones proposing this tax start riding their bikes instead of driving their cars, and stop taking vacations around the world, then I'll be more inclined to consider this "sustainability" ordinance. Enough already!
oppose	i use the paper bags to put in my garbage can under the sink and then they go to the garbage dump. i also use the plastic bags and recycle them at the grocery store. i think your intent is to get people to be more environmentally conscious. i don't think the 10 cent fee will change peoples habits and i think the fee is a bad idea.
oppose	In the current climate of drastic inflation and businesses fighting to stay open WHY would you do this now? It's ridiculous that the village is even considering this when it will only impact a handful of business and give them even MORE reasons to leave Northbrook. Not to mention driving residents to shop outside of town for the convenience and cost savings from this ridiculous tax. Families/residents and businesses are already struggling with inflation and the soaring costs of everything. We do not need to add this extra tax to our residents. I do NOT support this tax.
support	I am very strongly in favor of a plastic bag tax.

support	I thank the Village for considering a 10 cent bag fee as a way to reduce waste. I believe it is imperative to work as a community together for sustainability.
support	<p>I support the idea of the 10 cent bag charge....tho I will say for elderly or physically challenged people, there could be a waiver established. Some in those categories require more bags due to difficulty lifting and carrying bags. And as an aside, The Family Dollar store gives out too many bags for a simple greeting card or a lightweight purchase — to perfectly physically abled patrons. I see it all the time. It's a bad habit that could easily become better with mindful practices on the parts of their workers.</p> <p>I also think that there should be a 10 cent bag "credit" due to us that bring our own bags to Sunset, Trader Joes, etc. I tried to convince the store managers of this years ago without luck; maybe now there is more interest. So please work on this. And Whole Foods offers 10 cent credit for reusable bags, so why not the other grocery stores?</p> <p>I think there could be article in the Village flyer on "tips" for how to become more reusable-bag conscience - both patron and store owner. It's not that hard to remember BYOBag or to suggest "Would you not like a bag today?" or something similar.</p>
oppose	<p>While I strongly agree with the Sustainability Commissions goal of reducing the number of Single-use bags consumed I believe that that the proposed ordinance is not currently in the best interests of Northbrook residents.</p> <p>Simply put, the proposed ordinance seems to be nothing other than a significant new tax designed to fund the Sustainability Committee. Without abandoning the use of plastic bags and assuming that national averages (use of 1,500 bags per family, per year) applying, the ordinance's "fee" would cost Northbrook families about \$150.00 per year. Also, As there are about 13,500 families residing in Northbrook the Committee could expect to receive \$101,250 annually. Considering the impact of our current economic situation this would not be welcomed. This is particularly true considering that a large percentage of Northbrook residents are retired and living on fixed incomes.</p> <p>There is a cost in avoiding the "fee". Currently many residents utilized the bags for household functions such as lining waste baskets to enclose contaminated waste, picking up and disposing of animal waste, accumulating recyclables to keep those items separate from garbage. Replacing these single-use bags with biodegradable plastic bags cost on average \$.14 cents each. Four cents more than the proposed fee. Additionally just getting started with suitable reuseable tote bags (10) usually costs about \$30.00.</p> <p>While Waste Management is unable to meet the Commissions goal by recycling plastic bags the Village and every large store in the community has a contract with a waste contractor that does recycle plastic bags deposited at its in store collection point. This capability is probably the best answer to reducing the impact of plastic bags on our environment. It is also a capability that has not been aggressively promoted by the large retailers or the Village.</p>
support	As a Northbrook resident my husband Tom Tebbe and I are in favor of the proposed single use bag ordinance. We are members of several environmental organizations who share data re: the damage and environmental impact of single use bags. Thank you for your consideration of this valuable proposal,

support	I am writing to share my views on single-use plastic bags. I believe them to be extremely detrimental to our environment. I would endorse a village-wide ban on their commercial use. Please feel free to share my viewpoint with the pertinent village officials.
oppose	If you make it an inconvenience for people to shop they will take their money else where.
oppose	Doing what we can for the environment is very important. However, the ten cent per bag fee might be a disincentive to shop in Northbrook for some people. If the surrounding communities do not implement such a fee, Northbrook businesses and sales taxes could suffer.
support	I'm delighted to hear that the Board of Trustees is seriously considering a plastic bag fee for Northbrook. I'm delighted to hear that the Board of Trustees is seriously considering a plastic bag fee for Northbrook. I know you already have data on the many benefits of reducing plastic usage, especially in this form. I've been using my tote bags for all the shopping I do for close to 10 years. It's an easy switch to make.
support	I urge the Village of Northbrook to adopt a plastic bag fee. I think there are many people who are well meaning and intend to use reusable bags, but just forget to bring them into the store. I know that is what happens to me. If I had to carry around change to pay for my bags, or worse yet, was handed a bunch of coins as change for my fee, I'm pretty sure I would remember to bring my reusable bags. The fee should not be a financial burden on the customer, but rather an annoying one, which should cause us to "Remember to bring the bags"! I hope the trustees see fit to pass this ordinance. I remember the first Earth Day back in 1970, when as a teacher I began to teach units on Recycling and the Environment. At that time we had to get in our cars and take recyclables to drop-off centers; but village governments worked to institute curb-side programs. It is now time for village governments to make the single-use bag a thing of the past.
oppose	I object to the proposed ordinance. I understand that the Village Board has named waste reduction a top priority, but I disagree that it should be an important goal for the Village and this ordinance, if passed, will just be a nuisance for retailers and consumers alike
support	I think the 10 cent charge for single use plastic is a good beginning. Actually, due to the fact this is a well to do community the fee will not be felt by many. I would love to see a future complete ban. We all have reusables sitting in our cars and need that push to use them. I hope the 5 cents the village is taking is being used towards taking care of our environment.
oppose	We think that this is a terrible idea unless you are trying to get people to stop using the bags. It sounds like this is just a money maker for you and for the grocery stores. We, in Northbrook, pay plenty of taxes to the village. So many other nearby suburbs provide much more in the way of services than you do. We don't need more ways to give our money to Northbrook. Thank you for listening.

oppose	<p>I'm a 40-year resident of Northbrook, and I oppose a fee such as this. My children have lived in Austin and NYC, and when we visited them, we witnessed the ineffectiveness of their ordinances.</p> <p>It would impose a large administrative burden on retailers, and an annoying inconvenience to shoppers. Durable bags need to be reused many times to offset their initial costs, both financial and environmental, so the benefit of compelling their use is marginal.</p> <p>Life is annoying enough without adding another inconvenience. Please don't force this on Northbrook residents.</p>
oppose	<p>Inflation costs are high enough, that the last thing our village needs to be doing is virtue signaling how progressive they are by charging for bags.</p> <p>Significantly thicker reusable bags do not have an infinite lifecycle and also are thrown away. Paper bags used in lieu of plastic bags results in the loss of more trees.</p> <p>Stop with the progressive signaling. People are having a hard enough time paying their grocery bills.</p> <p>It is known that some people even have a hard time paying their mortgage in Northbrook. Adding another cost is irresponsible. Granted, it has come to be expected from this board.</p>
support	<p>Please help eliminate plastic bags from our environment by encouraging businesses and residents to use reusable bags, not plastic ones. Thank you</p>
support	<p>I fully support the SC's proposed single-use bag proposal and establishment of a Village sustainability fund. Thanks for all your hard work on behalf of this important measure.</p>
support	<p>I'm writing to you on behalf of Go Green Northbrook and as a Northbrook resident to support this ordinance, although I would be fine with a flat-out ban too.</p> <p>I receive so many free reusable bags that I give many of them away to charity.</p> <p>I keep them in my car when I shop. It's EASY. Let's get on the right side of history.</p>
oppose	<p>I think this is a terrible idea. We pay plenty in taxes and 10 cents in tax will not stop people from not using reusable bags. What's another 40 cents? Why don't we look for ways to REWARD people for using recyclable bags instead of punishing them.</p> <p>That is basic psychology and would get many more people on board.</p>
oppose	<p>My very first reaction is annoyance about the idea. Let's not turn Northbrook into the Evanston NW with all these new rules and laws that just make it more expensive to live here. In my opinion, Northbrook people are really good at being responsible about recycling and reusing whenever possible.</p> <p>I absolutely hate being nickel and dimed by my government and feel as though this is just another low impact, high annoyance ordinance.</p>
support	<p>I am in favor of the ordinance. Just having returned from Maui, entire island has implemented a plastic ban:</p> <p>Effective March 1, 2022, plastic disposable foodware will be banned for use, sale, or provision in Maui County. The ban will affect Maui County food providers that serve food or beverages in plastic disposable foodware after it has been ordered, as well as businesses that sell these items for use. Businesses will provide non-plastic products that are safer for the environment.</p> <p>This ban also includes food trucks, there appears to be full compliance where ever we ate, using compostable products. If an entire island can do this, I believe Northbrook could also.</p>

oppose	I am totally opposed to the idea. As so many prices in stores have increased why bring even more. We can't keep gouging people.
oppose	Thought it wasn't a great idea to bring your own bags because of Covid. Why don't stores only use paper bags. Seems like Trader Joe's does it right.
support	<p>My family (Northbrook residents since 2004) strongly support the plastic bag ordinance in Northbrook. Many cities and countries across the world have already taken this action and some did so decades ago.</p> <p>Americans are reported to use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture and will be compressed in landfill for hundreds of years or floating in the ocean and poisoning our ecosystems.</p> <p>I am very proud that Northbrook is showing leadership on this important initiative for communities of the North Shore. There might be push-back from residents and business that have not seen a bag ban in action but we can reassure sceptics that we'll all get over it quickly as other countries and communities have done. We will re-train ourselves to BYO BAG - like we used to - back in the day!</p>
oppose	<p>There is no way I will pay ten cents for a paper bag here in Northbrook. My business will be taken to Glenview or Deerfield.</p> <p>With the way prices are rising, the last thing we need from this village is another tax. Are you people tone deaf?</p>
oppose	<p>I wanted to voice my concerns about the proposed single -use bag ordinance. I am very much for concerned about the environment and for trying to leave the world in a better place. I recycle religiously, re-use and repurpose when I can.</p> <p>With that said, I am opposed to the single bag tax. I use a combination of reusable and single use bags. I use the paper bags for my garbage bags rather than buy plastic bags that do not decompose in the land fill (which also means I am buying excess cardboard that holds the bags) and use the plastic bags to hold wet garbage and to carry items.</p> <p>Prices for everything have increased dramatically. Adding additional costs to buying groceries or other items will force me to go outside of Northbrook to buy groceries. I have multiple options. Further, I can go to Deerfield or Glenview for hardware and Target in Glenview for a multiple of items . In short, Northbrook will lose out on sales taxes and create a situation where Northbrook businesses are at a disadvantage over neighboring communities. I do not believe the Village leaders want to create an environment where its businesses are shunned for communities that are more friendly.</p> <p>A better use of time for the Sustainability Committee may be to focus its efforts on having Waste Management accept single use bags, encouraging the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, assisting in creating a safer bike routes and other types of projects.</p>

oppose	<p>We are opposed to this proposed payment for single use bags. There are retailers who will take the plastic bags used by retailers.</p> <p>The regular grocery paper bags are to be put in recycling container. This is an unnecessary added cost for the consumer.</p> <p>The retailers will not lower their price when they do not have to pay for bags the consumers are not going to get from them, because they do not want to pay extra for a bag.</p>
oppose	<p>We r Proud Northbrook residents for many yrs. Totally and completely against this proposed bag fee! There r plenty of other things to support the environment that Nbk does - like recycling, tree planting encouragement, shredding days etc - without resorting to something awful like this.</p> <p>Pls vote NO on this bag fee!</p>
support	<p>I believe fees on plastic bags as a way to deter people from using them/bringing their reusable bags is mostly effective. I believe the City of Chicago saw a steep decline when it first started its fee but then it leveled off a bit. The idea is that people get used to it. I fear the City thinks of the bag fee as a line item in their budget they can count on, rather than the ideal goal of eliminating bag use. Looking at Northbrook's description, I don't get that sense, which is good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's neat that you all have a place for bags to be dropped off and turned into recycled bags and Marianos locations makes it even more convenient. • Very interesting you all are including paper bags. I don't think I've heard of that before! But I like that you're addressing their single-use nature. • Great that you all are tracking the before and after presence of the litter. <p>Overall, well thought out and researched.</p>
oppose	<p>it is not sanitary and it's inconvenient to reuse bags at grocery store. We are also taxed enough overall.</p>
oppose	<p>This bag problem should be up to the consumer.</p> <p>If they want to help the world, they would bring their bags, and many do.</p> <p>I recycle my bags and also have other uses for them.</p> <p>If it's the price for the bags by the store, they've recovered that money by overcharging for their groceries all ready.</p> <p>Enough all ready!</p>
support	<p>A bag fee is a great idea. The write-up I saw in the Northbrook e-Newsletter did not mention any exemption for fully recyclable paper bags.</p> <p>I think a retailer offering a paper bag ought to owe nothing to the village.</p>
support	<p>I wanted to show my support for the single use ordinance.</p> <p>I think that for more residents to get on board the \$.10 that's proposed to be the cost for using a plastic bag could be directed to allowing more families to use the school bus system.</p> <p>Personally I find that it's very expensive and if we could provide that for free we would do a better job at climate change, by busing as many families as possible.</p> <p>Not sure what the money collected will be used for. I support any steps towards a better planet and future for Northbrook and the world.</p>

On April 20, 2022 Village staff presented information about the proposed single-use bag tax to Northbrook residents. There were 12 attendees. The following notes include all input provided by members of the public who were in attendance.

- Attendee 1 loves the idea and recommends providing static clings for inside car windows that say "Don't Forget Your Reusable Bags". They believe people could use tips and that signage at the front entrance of stores will be pertinent.
- Attendee 2 is in support.
- Attendee 3 is in support, and requests that the ordinance may somehow address using reusable bags for online pickups.
- Attendee 1 added that Peapod used to allow you to recycle your bags when they'd come for your subsequent delivery.
- Attendee 4 says the fee is a good idea but has concerns related to reusable bags declared health hazards and mentioned associated problems with insects. They asked if we could encourage larger bags so as to not use so many.
- Attendee 5 is in support and says they have never had insect problems related to their reusable bags.
- Attendee 1 would love to give recognition to smaller stores/businesses that opt in to participate such as a front window sticker.
- Attendee 1 mentioned that when retailers discontinued reusable bags in the beginning of the pandemic this was out of caution and without scientific research.
- Attendee 1 proposed a reusable bag drive where people can turn in some of their extra tote bags to provide free to residents to stem the burden to the Village.
- Attendee 1 added that cashiers should be trained to ask people if they have their bags or if they need to buy a bag. They believe making it a choice (consumers can buy reusable bags at checkout, for example) is important, rather than 'sneaking' in the fee.
- Attendee 6 is in support and thanks the Village for considering this topic. They believe Northbrook will be a leader for the North Shore and many communities may follow suit.
- Attendee 7 asked to what extent is the Village considering that consumers may take their business elsewhere. Village staff replied there has not been evidence of this becoming an issue in municipalities that have adopted fees, but rather it is more likely to result in behavior change for those looking to avoid the charge.
- Attendee 8 asks why the Village gets a \$.05 cut and that there are a lot of other things that need to be looked at that is damaging our Earth such as mask loops and pop plastic. Village staff replied that portion of the remittance will be used to administer the program, supply reusables, and support businesses with signage.
- Attendee 9 says the habit of using reusable bags will become second-nature in due time.
- Attendee 1 recommends any Village-provided reusable bags should be machine washable and dryable to help address hygiene concerns.

RETAILER FEEDBACK		
Small Businesses: 3,000-10,000 square feet		
Large Businesses: 10,000 + square feet		
Small Business	oppose	Would not apply to them if it was plastic only. Concerned about timing due to the pandemic and rising inflation. Said they think it's generally a good idea, but not now.
Small Business	oppose	Opposed to proposed tax if it will impact small businesses. Stated they still haven't recovered from pandemic-related losses in revenue.
Small Business	oppose	Concerned about rising inflation costs and customers choosing to shop elsewhere if enacted.
Small Business	oppose	Believes implementation will have a disproportionate burden on small businesses and asks the Village to reconsider inclusion of businesses under 5,000 square feet.
Small Business	no preference	Mixed feelings about proposed ordinance: understands why it is important and looks to avoid plastic in any way they can. They are such a small store, they are close to being exempt. Most customers don't use bags, and they recycle the bags they do use in store. Major concern is that it becomes another thing to keep track of. Hopes the Village will provide reusables.
Large Business	support	As of about a year ago they stopped using plastic or paper bags. They only offer customers reusable bags for 99 cents.
Large Business	oppose	Understand the environmental effort but are concerned about complaints and that time spent counting bags would result in longer checkout lines.
Large Business	oppose	Said they would comply if implemented but were concerned about how taxes for self-checkout or online orders could be properly applied. Said they were uncertain whether or not current POS systems would be able to add fee, or if technological upgrades would be needed.
Large Business	oppose	Would not apply to them if it was plastic only. They were not concerned about implementation due to experience implementing fee in other municipalities. Stated that they don't like to raise costs to customers, especially given inflation and recent addition of a dine-in fee.
Large Business	support	In support: already encourage BYOBag as much as possible and do not supply plastic.
Large Business	no preference	Did not state a preference one way or another but would have the ability to implement the fee if passed.
Large Business	no preference	Did not state a preference one way or another but would have the ability to implement the fee if passed.
IL Retail Merchants Association	oppose	Cited concerns such as inflation and challenges related to current events (supply chain and staffing issues). Said the remittance to businesses would not come close to covering costs of administrative burden. Said reusable bags are unsanitary. Said square footage threshold should be raised to at least 15,000 which is the technical definition of a small retailer.