



Business Survey: Shape Northfield's Approach to Single Use Carryout Bags

Purpose:

The City of Northfield is seeking community input on the potential implementation of a pass through charge on *single use carryout bags*. Similar ordinances have been adopted in other Minnesota cities, including Duluth, Edina, and Minneapolis. Feedback from this survey will help guide decisions as the city works toward the goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Plan, which focus on reducing waste and promoting environmental sustainability.

Definition:

For the purposes of this survey, a carryout bag refers to a single use bag, including paper or plastic bags, provided by a retail establishment at the checkout, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure, for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. Lightweight reusable bags, which are typically used multiple times, are not included.

Method:

If enacted, retailers would collect a pass through charge from customers who choose to use a single use carryout bag. Retailers would retain the collected fees to help offset the cost of bags and other related expenses.

Survey Questions:

1) Approximately how many carryout bags does your business distribute to customers each month?

- a) 1-100 bags
- b) 101-500 bags
- c) 501-5,000 bags
- d) More than 5,000 bags

2) If you supply carryout bags, are they (select all that apply):

- a) Paper
- b) Plastic
- c) Reuseable
- d) We don't supply bags

3) Would you support an ordinance for a small pass-through (such as \$0.05 and the business keeps the revenue) surcharge for the use of carryout paper, plastic, and reusable bags?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

4) If you answered yes or maybe in question-3, what is a reasonable minimum pass-through charge amount?

- a).05
- b).10
- c).25
- d)1.00
- e) An amount more than \$1.00

5) Would a pass through charge impact your business operations?

- a) Negatively
- b) Positively
- c) Neutral
- d) Unsure

6) Certain bags, including those used for prescriptions, produce and dry cleaning are likely to be exempt from the requirements. Are there any other bags that you think should be considered for exemption? Please explain.

7) How can the City help you prepare if an ordinance is passed that requires merchants to charge customers a fee for carryout bags? (Select all that apply)

- a) Host an event to talk with businesses about best practices for implementation (i.e. employee training, systems updates, tracking and reporting, customer relations, how to use the revenue).
- b) Recognition of early adopters.

- c) Inform the community of upcoming changes with media and in-person efforts.
- d) Assist with signage at establishments.
- e) Establish a 1-year grace period.
- f) Additional implementation suggestions. (Please add any comments you might have)

8) What other actions should Northfield consider to help reduce waste?
(Please add your comments)

9) What other questions or comments do you have about this possible single use carryout bag ordinance?

10) Is your business located in any of the following?

- a) Northfield
- c) Rice County, other than NF
- d) Dakota County
- d) Other Outside of Rice or Dakota County