

WALMART U.S. REDUCES WASTE WITH SALE OF REUSABLE BAGS

Retailer adds new reusable bag option for customers to help reduce the need for plastic bags

At Wal-Mart, we believe that being an efficient and profitable business goes hand-in-hand with being a good steward of the environment. **One of Wal-Mart's company-wide sustainability goals is to generate zero-net waste.** By offering our customers the option to bring their groceries and purchases home in reusable bags, we are reducing the amount of plastic we use and the amount of waste that ends up in the homes of our customers.

Bag Facts

In October 2007, we began selling reusable bags in all of our Walmart discount stores, Supercenters and Neighborhood Markets for \$1 each. Since this launch, we have sold enough of our black reusable bags in the U.S. to eliminate the need for one billion disposable plastic bags.

As part of our commitment announced at the Clinton Global Initiative in September 2008, Wal-Mart will reduce our global plastic shopping bag waste by an average of 33 percent per store by 2013. To help reach our U.S. goal of a 25 percent reduction, we are increasing the availability and affordability of reusable bags in our U.S. stores. A new, blue reusable bag that will sell for 50 cents each will be available to all U.S. customers by November 2008.

- Walmart will offer both the black and blue reusable bags, providing our customers two affordable options for bringing their groceries and purchases home in a reusable bag.
- The black bags, which are offered to our customers for \$1 each, are made with recycled polyethylene terephthalate (RPET) plastic generated from soda or water bottles. Each bag will hold merchandise weighing up to 35 lbs. Our estimates show that each black reusable bag could eliminate the need for at least 150 plastic disposable bags over its lifetime. Since it was introduced in 2007, we have sold enough black bags to eliminate the need for at least one billion disposable bags.
- The blue bags – offered to our customers for 50 cents each – are made from non-woven polypropylene. Each blue bag will hold merchandise weighing up to 22 lbs. and has the potential to eliminate the need for up to 75 disposable bags over its lifetime.
- When our reusable bags wear out, customers can return them to their local Walmart store for recycling. We will combine the worn bags with the rest of the used plastic generated by our stores into our super sandwich balers, where it will be bundled and sent to a certified recycler for processing. So far, we estimate that we've **diverted more than 97 million pounds of plastic from landfills.**

Did you Know?

- A single sturdy, reusable bag needs only be used 11 times to have a lower environmental impact than using 11 disposable plastic bags once.
- When one ton of plastic bags are reused or recycled, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved.
- In New York City alone, one less grocery bag per person per year would reduce waste by 125,000 pounds.

For more information on Walmart's sustainability efforts, please visit www.walmartstores.com.

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