

Somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year.



Less than 1% of bags are recycled. It cost more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one.



“There's harsh economics behind bag recycling: It costs Rs. 172,000 to process and recycle 1,000 kg of plastic bags, which can then be sold on the commodities market for Rs. 1,376”

Then...

Where Do They Go?

Of the lot that we throw out as wastes,  
a lot of them end up in contaminating  
soils and waterways



A study in 1975, showed oceangoing vessels together dumped 8 million pounds of plastic annually. The real reason that the world's landfills weren't overflowing with plastic was because most of it ended up in an ocean-fill



# Bags get blown around...





...to different parts of our lands

<http://ramjeenagarajan.blogspot.com> ; [Ramjee.N@gmail.com](mailto:Ramjee.N@gmail.com)





...and to our seas, lakes and rivers.

# Bags find their way into the sea via drains and sewage pipes



# Plastic bags have even been found floating north of the Arctic Circle



# Plastic bags account for over 10 percent of the debris washed up on the Indian coastline



Plastic bags photodegrade:  
Over time they break down into  
smaller, more toxic petro-polymers



# The effect on wildlife can be catastrophic





# Birds become terminally entangled



Nearly 200 different species of sea life including corals, whales, dolphins, and turtles die due to plastic bags





They often choke to death ingesting plastic bags which they mistake for jellyfish, their favourite food



So...

What do we do?

If we use a cloth bag,  
we can save 6 bags a week



# That's 24 bags a month



# That's 288 bags a year



That's 22,176 bags  
in an average life time



If just **1 out of 5** people  
in India did this we would save  
**4,435,200,000,000** bags  
over our life time





Plastic shopping bags are made from polyethylene: a thermoplastic made from oil





# Reducing plastic bags will decrease foreign oil dependency



China has banned plastic bags  
and will thus save 37 million  
barrels of oil each year!



Canada, Kenya, South Africa, Singapore, and many others world over have banned or are moving toward banning the plastic bags!



On this June 5, World Environment Day,  
2008, or June 8, World Ocean Day let's decide  
to make Our India plastic free!

Say



to Plastic Bags!

# You Can Make A Difference!



## Thank You

Ramjee Nagarajan

Ramjee.N@gmail.com