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Could a plastic grocery bag ban be on the horizon?

Local environmental groups want the City of Sarasota to ban plastic grocery bags. Feb 6, 2017



SARASOTA, Fla. --- We see plastic bags everywhere. In fact they're now the item of choice for carrying almost anything anywhere. But efforts are underway to decrease their carbon footprint.

"There's a legislation that is being proposed that will allow coastal communities such as the city of Sarasota to enact a temporary ban on plastic bags so that they can study the problem and

see if its effective, said Glenn Compton with Suncoast Environmental group Manasota 88.

House Bill 93 aims at stopping what some are calling the plastic bag crisis. According to conservingnow.com, an environmental website, a plastic bag can take between 400 to 1,000 years to break down in the environment. The site also says plastic bags never fully biodegrade and instead the bags break down into smaller and smaller toxic bits. The site also shows other statistics including the fact that nearly 90% of the debris in our oceans is plastic.

"Turtles have been known to consume plastic bags and its lethal to them, we've seen that with dolphins and whales. Birds can consume them when they break down and its a significant impact to the aquatic environment around here," added Compton.

Compton says that is why his organization wants the city of Sarasota to participate in the volunteer plastic bag ban that would be created by the proposed legislation. And, while the city of Sarasota says it has not received an official request yet, many in the community are currently mixed on the idea.

"I think its a great idea, they are convenient for a lot of people but i think its a great idea because we could get use to using the old cloth bags," said Suncoast resident Connie Alarie.

But resident Jeff Hood disagrees, "I'm apposed to it i think its perfectly acceptable to have plastic because they can be easily be recycled and also they have a lot of uses around the house."

If the legislation is passed and the city of Sarasota does agree to participate. The temporary plastic bag ban would go into effect January 2018 and run through June 2020.

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