

AD - Moore, Jasmin

From: Michael Steinle <msteinle@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 29, 2019 8:38 PM
To: jackie2ku@gmail.com; jamoore@lawrenceks.org
Subject: Fwd: Incentives not punishment to change shopping behaviors

This message came from outside of the douglascountyks.org domain - please follow best security practices and use extreme caution before opening attachments or links.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dunlap, Mary Jane" <mjdunlap@ku.edu>
Date: June 29, 2019 at 3:54:01 PM CDT
To: "msteinle@gmail.com" <msteinle@gmail.com>
Subject: Incentives not punishment to change shopping behaviors

I am older and usually carry a reusable bag with me but occasionally, I forget to do so. I am retired and on fixed income. A 16-cent garage to buy a bag, plastic or paper, can mean I will need to put back an item from my grocery shopping. I have to do this now when the tax is added into my tab at checkout and I realize I have miscalculated the total cost of my groceries. I don't know how young families can afford the cost of living now in Lawrence. Their food bills easily tally more than \$100 even on quick visits.

Punishing people financially seems mean-spirited way to work to change behaviors.

Isn't there a way to offer an incentive to reduce use of plastic? Stores now give customers points to use for gasoline purchases. Don't most grocery stores offer a discount of 5 cents for bringing a bag? Could merchants be encouraged to increase that incentive to 10 cents? Or am I naive? Do we as customers pay the full price regardless— meaning that the merchant must make up the difference to show profit so they price the merchandise to avoid any loss with the nickel incentive now given?

I am not in favor of punishing people financially to change shopping behavior. Lawrence is relatively progressive compared to many Kansas communities but it comes with a higher cost of living. Our largest employers are educational institutions not known for their high wages. I don't know what our economic demographics are but I do know that 16 cents, 15 cents, 12 cents, 10 cents, 8 cents or even 5 cents will mean some of us will be caught without budget to cover the added cost for food purchases. We already have our food taxed.

Please work to find incentives to influence change not punishment. — Mary Dunlap, Lawrence resident since 1986

AD - Moore, Jasmin

From: Ronald Liebman <ronald.liebman@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 29, 2019 11:14 AM
To: jamoore@lawrenceks.org
Cc: matthewjherbert@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed single-use plastics ordinance

This message came from outside of the douglascountyks.org domain - please follow best security practices and use extreme caution before opening attachments or links.

I believe that the June 12, 2019 "Single-Use Plastics Study and Policy Recommendations" of the City of Lawrence's Sustainability Advisory Board contained a number of errors and omissions.

The accumulation of plastic debris in our oceans and waterways is dire. Addressing this crisis requires a comprehensive and, frankly, more imaginative set of strategies than has so far been discussed.

The City of Lawrence refuses SUP bags as part of its own recycling program, which replaced collection of SUP and other recyclables at Walmart's South Iowa Street facility. Restoration of household collection (through any means) in addition to grocery store programs was never evaluated in the June report. (How about collecting grocery store bags at public elementary schools?) Likewise, recycling incentive programs (rather than penalty programs) were never evaluated.

The June report stated that "plastic grocery bags together with plastic straws account for nearly 17% of all plastic waste in waterways." This might be close to an upper bound of what might be accomplished through complete elimination of SUP bags. The report mischaracterized fragmentation of SUP bags as a significant source of microplastics ingested by aquatic wildlife, which has not been established. Microplastics might constitute up to 30% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, but more likely sources are automotive tire wear, cosmetics, clothing fibers shed in our laundry, and resin pellets used in many manufacturing processes.

The June report neglected to evaluate several potential downside effects of substituting paper or cotton bags for SUP bags. A University of Arizona study, which randomly tested reusable grocery bags carried by shoppers in Tucson, Los Angeles and San Francisco, found that bacteria levels found in reusable bags were significant enough to cause a wide range of serious health problems – not least through cross-contamination between shoppers. Coliform bacteria (including E. coli) were detected in half of the bags sampled. Paper bag manufacturing has a much higher carbon footprint than plastic. Producing one pound of cotton requires more than 5,000 gallons of water on average – more than that of any vegetable and most meats. In Austin, landfill waste increased after institution of a bag ban because shoppers used and disposed of thicker plastic reusable bags in the place of standard plastic grocery bags.

Plastic waste is a serious, complex health and environmental issue that justifies immediate, coordinated interventions. A simple bag tax is not among the best of these.

AD - Moore, Jasmin

From: Duane <dt@chaduath.com>
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2019 2:55 PM
To: AD - Moore, Jasmin
Subject: 16 cent fee for plastic AND paper bags.

This message came from outside of the douglascountyks.org domain - please follow best security practices and use extreme caution before opening attachments or links.

Hello again.

I'm sorry to read further plans to penalize people's choices. While plastic is a waste, and other solutions should be sought, but is it the government's purpose to charge more, to tell retailers how to run their business (well, maybe better not answer that)? Especially when it is not consistent.

Again, as I've written to you before, those little plastic stickers on fruit and vegetables should be eliminated. No real purpose for having permanent long lasting labels on a very perishable product. It interferes with composting and I have not found them to break down. Plastic bags will disintegrate over time, though the plastic fragments are probably still there. However, making a law to charge more for only plastic bags is inconsistent, one sided, and discriminatory. What about charging more for plastic tags, plastic produce boxes, plastic containers that make it hard for customers to get their item out of. All of these are "one time" use. It's not fair for one thing bad for the environment to be singled out and specifically targeted over other things just as bad or worse.

It was estimated that the "social cost" of a plastic bag was 16 cents. But if you charge that and then use it for something else (environmental education, low-income programming, etc.), then there's a 32 cent cost. Charging an arbitrary same amount does not remove the environmental harm. And what about paper bags, why the charge for them, too? Originally, it was promoted to use plastic bags to save a tree. Guess that was wrong.

I say, let the people and grocery stores make an un-coerced choice. But if the government thinks that is their business, at least be fair and consistent and charge for all single use plastics.

Please forward on these thoughts at the meeting,

Duane

AD - Moore, Jasmin

From: Tracey Lien <tracey.lien@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 1:23 PM
To: jamoore@lawrenceks.org
Subject: Sustainability and styrofoam in Lawrence

This message came from outside of the douglascountyks.org domain - please follow best security practices and use extreme caution before opening attachments or links.

Dear Jasmin,

My name is Tracey Lien and I'm a current resident of Lawrence. I recently read in the Lawrence Journal-World that the city's Sustainability Advisory Board is considering an ordinance on single-use plastics. I am thrilled to hear that the Board is considering action on this issue; as a transplant from the San Francisco Bay Area, where local ordinances have resulted in most people bringing their own shopping bags to the grocery store (with recycled paper bags for sale for those who don't bring their own bags), I think that a city such as Lawrence is a perfect candidate for this kind of sustainability initiative.

I'm not sure if the subject of styrofoam has come up during the Sustainability Advisory Board's meetings, but I was hoping to get that on your radar because I've noticed a disconcerting number of Lawrence businesses still issuing styrofoam cups and take-out containers, even though it has long been established that styrofoam doesn't biodegrade and has disastrous effects on the environment. The sheer wastage is appalling; many restaurants Downtown and in West Lawrence routinely package food in huge styrofoam containers that customers later toss in the trash.

As you and your colleagues work toward a more sustainable future for Lawrence, I hope you will consider an ordinance on styrofoam. There are so many packaging alternatives that are far more environmentally friendly, and I think if there's any city progressive enough to take action such an issue, it's Lawrence.

Thank you for your time.

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Tracey Lien

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AD - Moore, Jasmin

From: David and Barbara Neff <dbneff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:38 AM
To: AD - Moore, Jasmin
Subject: Pollution control and plastic bags

This message came from outside of the douglascountyks.org domain - please follow best security practices and use extreme caution before opening attachments or links.

Ms. Moore,

I wrote you last year but did not receive a response. The most recent article in the JW is about charging for plastic bags. I use reusable bags whenever possible. Like many others, the plastic bags to line my waste baskets.

I realize plastic bags are a big problem. But no one seems to address what I believe is the much larger problem of disposable water bottles. We do not buy them, but use reusable containers.

No one mentions the plastic water bottles when discussing pollution.

I'm old enough to remember returning soft drink bottles and milk bottles to the store.

Anyway, that's my two cents worth.

Barbara Neff

767 E 1250 Road

AD - Moore, Jasmin

From: Jacqueline Prescott <jzqsunflower@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 1:34 PM
To: AD - Moore, Jasmin
Subject: Plastic Bags

This message came from outside of the douglascountyks.org domain - please follow best security practices and use extreme caution before opening attachments or links.

I will not be able to attend the meeting on July 2 to discuss single use plastic bags so I'm going to express my thoughts here. Although I may not be in the majority, I either reuse or recycle those bags. I can certainly use some form of reusable bag for groceries. But one area this does not work for is pet waste. I currently use on average 6 bags a week for my cat's litter box. At \$0.16 a bag that amounts to a minimum of \$3.44. What will it cost me or the environment to buy some other form of plastic bags to take care of this problem?

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Prescott
Lawrence, KS
(785)218-3089

Sent from my iPhone