



OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS ASSOCIATION

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ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO PLASTIC BAG BANS

Toronto City Council has reversed its decision to ban plastic bags in retail operations after taking into account legal advice

The city faced legal challenges from the Ontario Convenience Stores Association and the Canada Plastic Bag Association, and the ban's reversal was passed by the Council by a 38 to 7 vote.

CPBA had argued that Toronto's Council did not get evidence from anyone that their proposed plastic bag ban "would further the economic, social, and/or environmental well-being of the city or would protect the health, safety and well-being of any person." The Ontario Convenience Stores Association had also launched a legal challenge against Toronto on 15 November, and similar legal challenges have been made in California.

The Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association agrees with these legal actions because it does not believe that plastic bag bans are the right way to deal with plastic waste in the environment. On its website at <http://www.biodeg.org/position-papers/Plastic-bag-bans/?domain=biodeg.org> the Association explains that banning plastic bags is actually worse for the environment, and that the better course is to require the bags to be made from degradable plastic, so that they will degrade in the same way as a leaf. The United Arab Emirates and other countries have already passed laws to that effect.

In February 2011 the UK Environment Agency published a Life-Cycle Assessment http://degradable.net/files/uploaded/Carrier_Bags_Report_EA.pdf which showed that oxo-biodegradable plastic bags have a better Life Cycle Assessment than paper or "compostable" plastic bags.