

# **What To Do With Plastics ?**

## **Telluride's Bag Ban**

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# Colorado's 1989 House Bill 1300

- Enacted in Section 7 of Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-17-104
  - Prevented local governments from regulating the use of plastic materials or products ... intended to facilitate recycling and avoid patchwork of local regulations
- Amended in 1993, House Bill 1318
  - Added language about municipalities not restricting or mandating “containers, packaging and labeling.”

# Town of Telluride's Plastic Bag Ban

- Conceived in 2009 after Washington, D.C. imposed a surcharge on disposable paper and plastic bags to help clean up the Anacostia River
- Ordinance approved 5-2 by Town Council on October 5, 2010, following months of controversy
- Bans disposable plastic bags for retailers, except for in-store applications, and a few minor other special cases ... specifically limited to only plastic bags, and not to “containers, packaging or labeling.”
- Grocers may provide Permitted Paper Bags for a \$0.10 fee, half of which goes to the grocer and the other \$0.05 to the Town Waste Reduction and Reusable Carryout Bag Program, which has provided reusable Chico bags to lodging companies
- Went into effect March 1, 2011, allowing merchants to use up supplies they had previously ordered ... still needed some flexibility, but Town worked with merchants who showed they were on the path to compliance
- 10 years later ... the program is successful and un-noticed except for a few visitors. Compliance is near-universal

# Colorado's 2021 House Bill 21-1162

- Bans single-use plastic bags and expanded polystyrene foam takeout containers at most retail establishments and restaurants beginning in 2014
- Also repeals the statute that banned local governments from regulating the use or sale of specific types of plastic materials ... we can now be more strict locally than State law
- Telluride's Ecology Commission looking into:
  - Banning plastic straws ... and single use plastic water bottles
  - Reusable take-out container system