



For Immediate Release

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Bag it Duluth Campaign Applauds Goodwill

Goodwill Industries ends free single use bag giveaways

(Duluth, MN) The Bag it Duluth Campaign applauds today's announcement by Goodwill Industries, a Bag It Campaign supporter, to end the free giveaway of single use carry out bags to their customers. Goodwill's decision will provide an estimated annual savings of \$25,000 for their mission to create employment and employment services to people with disabilities or other barriers to employment and reduce an estimated 800,000 single use plastic bags from entering the waste stream.

In a statement issued today Scott Vezina, PR & Marketing Specialist for Goodwill Industries stated, "I think the good it's causing outweighs any short term inconvenience and we encourage other businesses to follow our lead so that together we can create a culture of reuse and care for our community and the environment that we love."

"Goodwill must be commended for their decision to phase-out the give-away of single use carry out bags and their understanding of Duluth's core values and sense of place," stated Jamie Harvie, Bag it Duluth Coordinator. "We are confident that Goodwill's decision to end the give-away of single use bags will embolden other businesses to follow their lead, create a culture of zero waste and ideally position Duluth at the center of a new circular economy."

According to a World Economic Forum report, "From linear to circular—Accelerating a proven concept", a circular economy is an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design. It replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration, shifts towards the use of renewable energy, eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, which impair reuse and return to the biosphere, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, systems and business models. By 2030, carbon emissions could be cut by almost 70 percent if a key set of circular economy policy measures were adopted.

Citizens of Duluth use approximately 38 million single use bags per year costing an average grocery stores \$60,000 annually. "The amount of money spent by retailers on single use bags every year could instead purchase 10 reusable bags for every citizen in Duluth and reduce clean-up and landfill costs," stated Sally Munger, with the League of Women Voters, an organizational Bag it Campaign supporter. "Though we humans are creatures of habit, Goodwill recognizes that Duluth is ready and willing to shift behavior, to work together, set an example and together care for the place we call home."

Motivated in part by recent studies showing significant plastic contamination in Lake Superior and the Great Lakes, the Bag it Duluth Campaign is a call to action for the City of Duluth to follow the lead of more than 160 cities and states across the United States and enact common sense legislation to promotes reusable bags.

The Bag it Duluth Campaign proposal would encourage residents to bring reusable bags when they shop through a minimum pass through charge, kept by the retailer, on single-use carry bags. Goodwill joins Twin Ports grocery retailer Aldi's which does not provide free single use bags.

The Bag it Duluth Campaign is supported by more than 70 organizations representing faith, community, schools and business including the Whole Foods Co-op, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Loll Designs, Ski Hut, Blackwood's Restaurant Group, Duluth Grill, Continental Bike and Ski, Congdon Park Wellness Committee, Duluth Community Garden Program, University of Minnesota Duluth Office of Sustainability, UMD Stores and more.

Bag it Duluth hosts screenings of the award winning film Bag it and collects reusable bags for donation.

More information, frequently answered questions and contact information is available at the Bag it Duluth website www.bagitduluth.org and Bag it Duluth Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BagItDuluth/>

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