

Estimates on Financial Cost of Disposable Grocery Bags in Duluth

References on bag usage and costs are cited below. Bag it Duluth acknowledges that these are estimates and usage may differ somewhat in Duluth. This said, the estimates are only for grocery bags and do not include other single use bags from hardware, Target and other general merchandise stores. Based on the below calculations:

- **Duluth area grocery stores spend approximately \$765,000 to \$2,295,000 /year purchasing single use bags**
- **The cost to purchase one reusable bag/person is approximately \$54,000**
- **IN ONE YEAR, the amount of money grocery stores spend on single use bags could fund the cost of at a minimum 10 reusable bags/person.**

Calculations

425 grocery bags/person/year * 90,000 people in Duluth = 38,250,000 grocery bags/year

cost of bags 2 cents to 6 cents depending on quantity and or whether paper or plastic

So stores spend \$765,000 - \$2,295,000 year on disposable grocery bags -

A quick internet search shows you can purchase reusable bags in bulk in the range of \$.60/bag.

So, assuming 90,000 people in Duluth, the cost to purchase one reusable bag per person is

90,000 * \$.60= **\$54,000/year**

In one year the grocery stores could fund the cost of 10 reusable bags/person . In one year!

Sources

One Duluth grocery store gives out approximately 1.5 million bags annually and cost the store approximately \$60,000/year (*Bag it Campaign with night manager Super One Foods*)

The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year. ([National Resources Defense Council](#))

The average person uses 425 plastic grocery bags or 0.93 lbs. per year
http://www.tomsofmaine.com/TomsOfMaine/v2/en-us/pages/less-waste/Less_Waste_Challenge_Sustainability_Tips.pdf