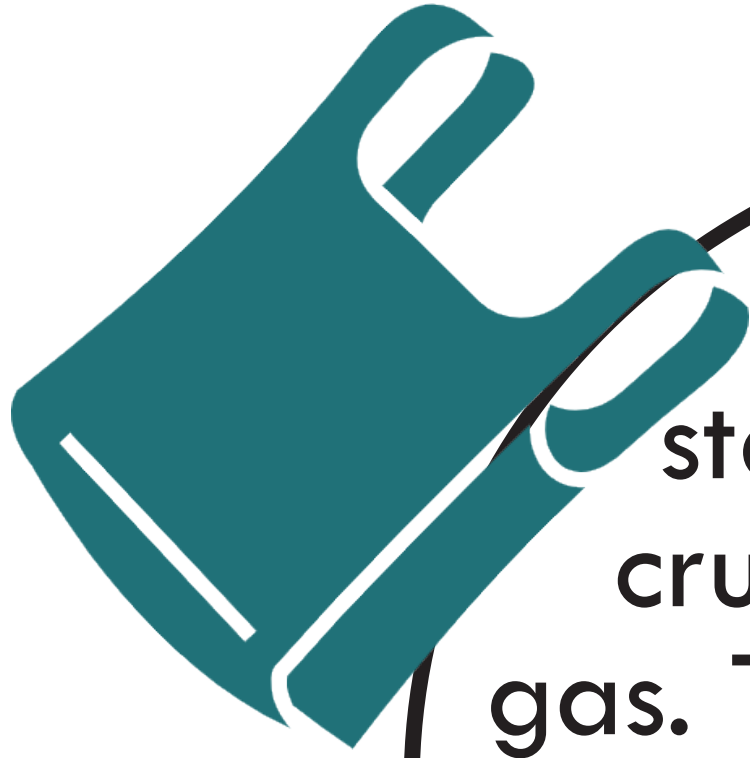
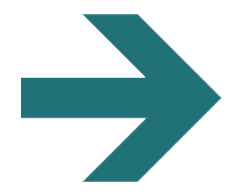


# Where are your plastic bags going?



1. Plastic bags start their lives as crude oil or natural gas. They are processed as solid beads or strings that are then stretched into bags and stamped with a company logo.



2. Bags are bound and packed in more bags and boxes then shipped to stores and businesses for use. **The average plastic bag is only used for about 20 minutes before being thrown away or recycled.**



3. Once they reach a consumer's home, they are often thrown away or improperly recycled, which eventually turns into them being thrown away.

**Single-Stream Recycling**  
Unless your city specifically allows them, plastic bags **cannot** be included in single stream recycling. Most recycling centers are not equipped to handle plastic bags so they end up being thrown away or damaging equipment and then thrown away.

4. Scientists estimate that it can take between 30 to 1,000 years for a plastic bag to fully disintegrate. During the decay process, they are constantly leaching chemicals and toxins into the environment. Plastic bags can also choke, strangle, drown and kill local wildlife.



**Plastic Bag Recycling**  
Many grocery stores and recycling drop-off centers offer specialized plastic bag recycling options. Look online for options near you.

