

Criteria for a plastic shopping bag free school zone acknowledgement.

Updated 2/10/17

NB: This document serves as a guideline and, as such, is not cast in stone. The process will always be structured to suite each individual school engaging with the cause.

Of interest perhaps...The Rethink the Bag <https://www.aquarium.co.za/content/page/rethink-the-bag> campaign has set the intention of creating *50 plastic shopping bag free school zones across South Africa in 2017*. As yet there are only a handful in the process.

Once your school has embarked on this project, please use the following list as a check box system to keep track of what has been achieved and what still needs doing.

1. Signed commitment, from the head of the school, to the campaign and intention to be a plastic shopping bag (psb) free environment. This commitment must include a pledge to monitor the progress on a regular basis and specify a date of intention for when the implementation of this commitment will be complete.
2. A signed commitment from all teachers to support the process
3. A pledge from all students – supported by their parents that they will not send psb's with the children into the school environment. Get creative with the pledge, make it an activity that all are involved with.
4. Identify a team to drive the programme in the school, educating and involving all
5. Design (can involve student art contributions) an alternative bag for promotion to students and their parents. Source and upcycle already existing materials, if at all possible, thus diverting waste from landfill (The launch bag can be more elaborate and possibly higher priced, but there must be an affordable option going forward. To be reasonably priced for maximum affordability)
6. Seek and involve a local community in need of employment to make the bags, thereby creating upliftment
Nicola Vernon, of Greyton Transition Town, can be contacted on nicolavernon@twk.co.za or 082 558 7752 for locally made, affordable, reusable bags made from South African produced nylon. Alternatively find any other community group of your preference.
7. Announcement of intention and progress in school newsletter and on any possible social media platforms
8. Write a short story/picture blog, explaining the reasons for adopting the campaign, which will be incorporated into a Two Oceans Aquarium online blog on www.aquarium.co.za
Excellent, feel-good publicity for the school leading the way in environmental awareness and ACTION!
9. Display supportive Rethink the Bag campaign signage around the school grounds.
Example: "This school is proudly plastic shopping bag free" The mutually agreed upon design will be supplied by the Aquarium with printing for schools own costs.
10. Actively **challenge** another school, of your choosing, to take up the campaign also. "Each one, teach one". A school must be selected and full campaign support will be provided by the Aquarium.
11. The school must alert all visiting schools, for any collaborative events, to respect and support the "no plastic shopping bags policy" commitment by not bringing said item onto the premises under any circumstances.
12. School to find a way to "gift" a lesser privileged school with one reusable bag per pupil.

13. Suggestion: exciting offer to all learners that they can sign up to the **Plantastic** <http://www.plantastic.co.za/> bag geotag app. <http://www.plantastic.co.za/geo-tag-it> Thus removing as many plastic shopping bags from the environment that they can.

Thank You for your time and for considering assisting in a cleaner, plastic shopping bag free, South Africa! Please always feel free to call on me for campaign support of any kind.

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