

Suggested Responses for Frequently Asked Questions of Cashiers



1) What will the fee money be used for?

- a. 6 cents of the fee is sent to the City to be used to address the impacts of bags in our community, such as contamination of the recycling center, and for reusable bags for the community.
- b. The fee proceeds can only be used for bag-related expenses – it is not a tax and cannot be used for general government expenses.

2) What if a bag rips – do I have to pay for two?

- a. No, accidents happen—you do not have to pay for the torn bag.

3) What should I put my trash in now?

- a. While many people reuse bags, many do not, which is why the fee was put into place. Small trash bags are available at retailers or disposable bags can be purchased at the checkout to be used for trash.
- b. The fee does not apply to produce bags, newspaper bags, etc—so if you produce very little trash those bags could be used for that purpose.

4) Is this just in the city or the whole county?

- a. The fee will only be charged at grocery stores in the City of Boulder limits.

5) Can I reuse paper or plastic bags I already have at home?

- a. Yes, the fee is only charged the first time a bag is given to a customer. Any bag can be brought to the store for reuse.

6) Why did the city do this?

- a. Several community groups petitioned City Council to create a bag ordinance in 2010 to reduce the estimated 33 million plastic and paper bags Boulder uses every year.
- b. City Council decided a fee on both types of bags was the best option right now to reduce the bags used and retain customer choice, rather than a ban on certain bags.

Recommended language options to inform customers of the fee:

Cashier: “Did you bring bags with you today?”

If no, “No problem, disposable bags are 10 cents each.”

Cashier: “Would you like to buy a bag/bags today? There is a 10 cent fee for each.”

Cashier: “Do you need disposable bags today? They are 10 cents each.”