

PLASTIC BAGS BAN

An average plastic bag is used for **30-40 minutes** and then discarded. The bags are often dirty after contact with food, so they cannot be recycled. Also plastic bags are light and can be easily carried by the wind, ending up in the environment and harming birds, fish and animals.

Back in 2016 it was hard to imagine any restrictions on plastic bag use in Ukraine. And now the **law has been passed** banning this type of packaging. This timeline describes how we worked towards this goal and advocated switching to reusable alternatives.

2016

PLASTIC FREE JULY: AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

As a part of the annual worldwide Plastic Free July campaign we participated in the discussion on the Tvoje Misto media and talked about the importance of reducing the use of plastic bags.

2017

ZERO WASTE MARATHONS

This year we organized two **social zero waste experiments** — 7-day and 21-day marathons of environmentally friendly habits for the public. Every day we posted tasks and useful information on waste prevention on our Facebook page, and the participants shared their success in the comments. The experiments showed that the society already had the demand for waste-reducing practices such as reducing the use of single-use plastic, especially plastic bags.

2019

DAY WITHOUT POLYETHYLENE: AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In **April**, we organized a local campaign that was joined by **8 supermarket chains**. The stores offered their customers paper bags instead of plastic ones, they started selling reusable produce bags, changed plastic gloves to tongs in the baked goods sections, and encouraged the customers to bring their own containers.

In **July**, the campaign reached the national level and was supported by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, and also by the United Nations Development Programme.

We also organized a **31-day marathon** on social media with daily posts about 31 disposable plastic items and their reusable alternatives. Later these posts were used to record a series of **audio clips for the radio** together with the Suspilne Ukraine.

2020

PLASTIC FREE JULY: AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

This year because of the Covid pandemic, we moved all the educational activities online and held 3 webinars on minimizing negative environmental impact for the local authorities, businesses and the public.

АКЦІЇ «СВЯТА БЕЗ ПЛАСТИКУ»

We celebrated St. Nicholas Day by gifting the locals with reusable produce bags on the Shuvar market and on the Christmas market in the city center. This was a part of the “No plastic” project supported by the Lviv City Council. We also created promo videos on shopping without waste: on [REUSABLE BAGS](#) and on [USEFUL LIFEHACKS](#) (both in Ukrainian).

2021

THE LAW ON PLASTIC BAG USE LIMITATIONS

This year the law №2051-1 was passed limiting the use of plastic bags. We wrote a lot on the topic on our social media and gave commentaries to the media.

ZERO WASTE FEST 2021

We renewed the tradition of annual festivals, and this year’s festival started on July 3, which is **Plastic Bag Free Day**. Several of the activities were dedicated to this topic:

- a **market** of zero waste goods had a wide selection of shoppers and produce bags;
- we had **workshops** on sewing produce bags and decorating shoppes with wooden stamps, which is a traditional Ukrainian craft;
- we had a special **photo exhibition “Torba”** (“shopper bag” in Ukrainian), where the photos by Lviv street photographers depicting the life of single use plastic bags were printed on fabric bags. The bags were sewn from fabric from the thrifted shirts using large supermarket plastic bags as a pattern. The prints were then sold on the silent auction.

2022

THE LAW ON PLASTIC BAG USE LIMITATIONS

The next phases of plastic bag use limitations, introduced by the new law, happened after the start of the full-scale invasion. So this year we did not work as closely with this topic. Still we posted information explaining the bans and limitations on different types of bags and the alternatives we recommend.

2023+ plans and dreams

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING THE NEW LAW ON PLASTIC BAG LIMITATIONS

On January 1 2023 the new law on limitations of plastic bag use in Ukraine comes into effect. We plan to post clarifications and information on the topic on our resources explaining what kinds of bags will be banned and what alternatives there are.

BIODEGRADABLE BAGS

Виведення з обігу одноразових пластикових пакетів та заміна їх на біорозкладні полегшить збір органічних відходів від населення. Тож у межах роботи з темою компостування плануємо популяризувати використання багаторазових пакетів для сортування харчових відходів вдома.