



## Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) – National Ecumenical Campaign

South Africans use approximately 8 BILLION plastic shopping bags per year. Less than 1% are recycled and many end up in landfills or blow out of bins — blocking storm water drains, getting stuck in trees or littering rivers and beaches. In nature, plastic breaks into smaller pieces, but never fully disappears – it breaks up into micro plastics not down into organic matter, contaminating land, food and water. Scientists say that by the year 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish. Rwanda and Kenya have already banned the Plastic bag. Here are some steps to get involved:

1. **BRING YOUR OWN BAG.** Make a pledge to **STOP** using single-use plastic shopping bags. Sign the pledge here and encourage others to do so too:  
<https://www.aquarium.co.za/content/page/rethink-the-bag-make-a-pledge>
2. **MAKE YOUR OWN BAGS.** Encourage sewing groups in your church and community to make material bags and generate income while promoting the eco project. Even use donated material from curtains, material shops. Get creative, get colourful, brand the bags with the name of your church!
3. **PUT PRESSURE ON YOUR LOCAL SHOPS.** Mobilise local churches, schools etc and community members to put pressure on your local supermarkets and businesses to stop using one use plastic bags. Here are some examples; the SPAR in Kloof (KZN) gives out only paper bags, the SPAR in Kleinmond gave out a free re-usable bag to everyone who hands in 10 plastic bags.
4. **COMBAT PLASTIC POLLUTION.** Arrange a local community, river or beach clean-up event or join one arranged by others. Participate in World Environment Day, National Clean-Up Week, International Coastal Clean-Up.
5. **MOBILISE WITH OTHERS TO BAN PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS IN SOUTH AFRICA.** Kenya did it, Rwanda did it. Yes we can!!! Please sign a petition to the Minister for the Environment here:  
<https://www.causes.com/actions/1755124-ban-plastic-shopping-bags-in-south-africa>

Like our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/190793368196276/>

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