

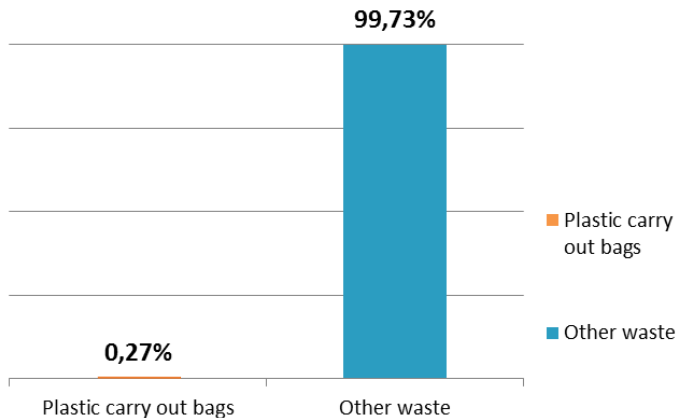
MONTREAL BAGS BY THE NUMBERS

Plastic Shopping Bags Are the Best Option for Montreal – Environmentally & Economically



1. Environmentally, bags are a tiny part of the waste stream at 0.27%

Montreal's Total Waste Stream



BAGS REPRESENT LESS THAN 1% OF LITTER

Scientifically-based litter audits across North America show that retail plastic bags comprise a minor portion of litter usually less than 1%:

- Toronto in 2012: 0.8% of the litter stream
- San Francisco in 2008: 0.6%

Source: Environmental Resources Planning, LLC

MONTREALERS OUTPERFORM ON THE 3R'S

In Montreal almost all bags are reused (60%) or recycled (33%) - a combined reuse and recycling rate of 93%.

REDUCTION

- 52% reduction in number of bags maintained

RECYCLING

- 82% of bags available for recycling are recycled
- 33% of bags distributed are recycled in Montreal

ZERO WASTE – CLOSE TO IT

- Only 7% of the bags are thrown away

REUSE

- 60% bag reuse rate in Montreal on a tonnage basis

Reuse behaviour is confirmed by CROP poll of Montrealers:

- 87% of Montrealers reuse their plastic bags
- 78% reuse their bags to manage household waste
- 15% reuse to pick up after pets
- 29% recycle them in the recycling bin

2. Montrealers want a voluntary 3R's approach to manage bags

- 71% of Montrealers want a voluntary approach on plastic bags focused on the 3R's -- reduce, reuse, & recycle - versus a prohibition by city ordinance.
- 84% of Montrealers thought it was important to reduce the consumption of bags but would prefer to reduce consumption through reuse (56%) and not have to buy thicker garbage bags.

Sources: Éco entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) et RECYC-QUÉBEC, [Code volontaire de bonnes pratiques pour l'utilisation des sacs d'emplettes](#), Éco entreprises Québec (ÉEQ), [Study](#)