

Plastic bag ban urged for city of Duncan

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A plastic-bag ban is being considered by city council along with more comprehensive recycling action.

Council referred debate about the bag ban and recycling to committee while requesting information from staff Monday.

Councillor Paul Fletcher supports banning non-biodegradable plastic bags from city stores after a suggestion from residents Aaron Richard and Katie Harris.

"We could make some exciting green changes and this could be a good first step," Fletcher says.

Councillor Sharon Jackson isn't convinced, saying earlier there are few large stores in city limits.

But Fletcher cites Save-On Foods as sitting inside Duncan.

Jackson notes many residents use plastic bags to line trashcans, but that thinking didn't stop San Francisco from recently banning plastic bags from stores.

"If a big city like San Francisco can do it, imagine how easy it would be for a small community like Duncan to take the environmentally conscious step," writes Richard and Harris.

They urge council's leadership in a bag ban following its drive to run city vehicles on bio-diesel and create parking for fuel-efficient cars.

"A bag ban is possible," the couple says. "But so is recycling and we have yet to see the city take an active role in bringing it to downtown Duncan."

Mayor Phil Kent says the city's cardboard recycling downtown is successful "but there could be (recycling) improvements in smaller areas and in composting."

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