



## Project Plastic Bags

**aim** To reduce the use of plastic bags throughout the Sultanate.

**date** May 2006 - Ongoing

**issues** Plastic bags are used at all retail outlets in Oman, and often unnecessarily. Customers rarely say “no” to the bags and staff behind the counters, unaware of the environmental concerns, use bags even when someone is just buying a bar of chocolate.

Plastic bags use valuable energy resources and are responsible for emissions in their manufacture. More importantly, on current estimates they take up to 1,000 years to degrade, polluting the environment and causing harm to wildlife all the while.

**elements**

- Educate staff at retail shops on the environmental effects of plastic bags and how to pack bags in order to reduce the quantities used
- Educate consumers on the environmental effects of plastic bags
- Educate children on the harms of plastic bags
- Put together a document for relevant government authorities to be able to regulate the use of plastic bags

**how you can help**

- Begin to use re-usable bags
- Say "No Thank you, I don't need a plastic bag" when offered one
- Design and print awareness posters
- Create education packages or small talks to give to management or staff at retail shops
- Promote this campaign through meetings and correspondence with retail shop management
- Talk about the campaign and educate your family, friends and colleagues

**project files** [www.environment.org.om/projects/plasticbags](http://www.environment.org.om/projects/plasticbags)



**location** Nationwide

