



Plastic Bag Free Thornbury



Today's society currently consumes plastic bags at a rate of **1.2 trillion bags annually**—more than **1 million per minute**.

On average we use each plastic bag for approximately 12 minutes before disposing. **It lasts in the environment for decades.**

Fast facts:

- It takes 1 second to produce a plastic bag
- It takes 500 to 1000 years for a plastic bag to degrade
- 100,000 tonnes of plastic bags are thrown away in the UK each year
- 100,000 marine animals and birds are killed each year by plastic bags



Plastic bags, as with all forms of plastic, do not biodegrade –they break down into smaller toxic parts contaminating soil, waterways and oceans. For marine life, plastic bag litter is lethal, killing at least 100,000 birds, whales, seals and turtles every year. After an animal is killed by plastic bags, its body decomposes and the plastic is released back into the environment where it can kill again.

Sustainable Thornbury - a community group whose aim is to preserve and develop a sustainable local economy for Thornbury — **is asking local traders to join them in their bid to reduce plastic bags in the town.**

Do your bit for Thornbury and help your local environment by reducing the number of plastic bags you hand out in your shop.

Thornbury Chamber of Commerce and **Thornbury Town Council** support the initiative to reduce the number of plastic carrier bags given to customers at local shops.

Message in the Waves

A BBC production

Come and see for yourself why reducing the use of plastic bags in our town is so important. **Sustainable Thornbury**, with the support of **South Gloucestershire Council** and the **BBC**, is showing the short film "**Message in the Waves**" - a short documentary showing the effects of plastic bags on wildlife.

Join us at

Turnberries Community Centre - Main Hall

Wednesday 13 February 2008

5.45pm

Coffee & tea available

Free showing



To find out more about providing alternatives to plastic bags visit www.plasticbagfree.com and look at 'wholesalers'. Modbury in North Devon is the first 'plastic bag-free town in the UK—following the filming of 'Message in the Waves'.

For further details about the film showing and the campaign contact:

Sustainable Thornbury

www.sustainablethornbury.org

info@sustainablethornbury.org

If you do not have access to the web please contact **Judith Dale** on **01454 415345**