

Chile bans the use of disposable plastic bags

Elementary

1 Warmer

Fill the gaps in the sentences about waste. Use these words.

newspaper

food

rubbish

bottles

1. People could recycle up to 60% of the _____ they throw away.
2. People around the world buy one million plastic _____ every minute.
3. It takes 24 trees to make one tonne of _____.
4. People in the UK throw away 7.2 million tonnes of _____ each year.

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

disposable

fine

reusable

customer

support

ban

1. If you _____ something, you say officially that people must not use it. (para 1)
2. If something is _____, you can throw it away after you have used it. (para 1)
3. A _____ is a person who buys products or services. (para 2)
4. A _____ is money that you have to pay because you have broken the law. (para 2)
5. If something is _____, you can use it again and again. (para 3)
6. If people _____ a law, rule, plan or idea, they think it is a good thing. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. What is the population of Chile?
2. How many disposable plastic bags do people in Chile use each year?
3. How much do shops have to pay if they give more than two disposable plastic bags to customers?
4. When will small shops have to stop giving disposable plastic bags to customers?
5. How much do reusable bags cost?
6. What percentage of people in Chile support the new rules?

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10 January, 2019

- 1 Plastic waste is a very big problem for the environment all over the world. But now, Chile has become the first country in South America to ban the use of disposable plastic bags – bags that people throw away after using them just once. At the moment, people in Chile (population around 18 million) use 3.4 billion disposable plastic bags each year. People recycle some of the bags, but most are not recycled, and plastic bags like these can last up to 400 years.
- 2 In August, 2018, Chile introduced a new law that banned large shops from giving more than two disposable plastic bags to customers. A shop that gives more than two plastic bags could pay a fine of \$400.
- 3 From February, 2019, large shops will no longer be able to give plastic bags to customers. Under the new law, customers will have to buy a reusable bag or bring their own bag with them when they go shopping. Small shops will continue to use plastic bags, but they will also have to stop giving them to customers from August, 2020.
- 4 Most reusable bags cost around \$1, so shoppers in Chile must try to remember to take their own bags with them every time they go to the shops. Despite the extra cost, most people in Chile say they support the new rules. In fact, 95% of the people in a survey said they were in favour of them. Only 5% were against them.
- 5 But there is one problem. Before the introduction of the new rules, people used disposable plastic bags as rubbish bags. Now, because they no longer have disposable plastic bags, they have to buy special rubbish bags. Some people are unhappy about the extra money they have to spend.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The problem with disposable plastic bags is that ... | a. ... will no longer be able to give disposable plastic bags to customers. |
| 2. At the moment, large shops can ... | b. ... that they are in favour of the ban on plastic bags. |
| 3. From February, 2019, large shops ... | c. ... they can last up to 400 years. |
| 4. If customers forget to take their own bag with them when they go shopping, ... | d. ... because they will no longer have plastic bags to put their rubbish in. |
| 5. Most people in Chile say ... | e. ... they will have to buy a reusable bag. |
| 6. People will also have to buy special rubbish bags ... | f. ... give two disposable plastic bags to customers. |

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5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. the problem environment a big very for
2. the all world over
3. new law the under
4. extra despite cost the

6 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. recycle | a. a new law |
| 2. pay | b. money |
| 3. introduce | c. a fine |
| 4. spend | d. bags |

7 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

around

of

to

from

1. in favour _____ something
2. up _____ 400 years
3. banned _____ doing something
4. cost _____ \$1

8 Discussion

- Has your country banned disposable plastic bags?
- Do you have to pay for plastic bags in shops?
- Do you think all countries should ban plastic bags? Why? Why not?