



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01535

Name of petitioner

Alexander Fraser

Petition title

Teach sustainability and ban disposable plastic bags

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to:

- make teaching sustainability and the environment mandatory in secondary schools; and
- ban all disposable plastic bags in supermarkets and shops to aid the environment.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have tried to encourage as many people as possible to use re-usable bags and inform about the harm they do to the environment. I am a member of my schools Eco Committee and we do a great to help reduce waste in this issue however the messages we put across and are being put across across the country is not getting through to the general public. I have also got in contact with my local MSP, Mr Kenny MacAskill to raise my concerns. He has replied to inform me about the work of the government already and I believe that this petition is the next step we must take to tackle these issues based upon what he has told me about.

Petition background information

I believe the actions in this petition are necessary to tackle head on the problems that the environment faces in this country and abroad.

The current situation concerning education and teaching of the environment is insufficient. Currently it is up to local authorities to decide whether or not to teach the environment even though they are strongly encouraged to do so. I believe that it should not be optional to local authorities as the environment is such a big part of our lives that it must be compulsory to be taught.

Currently supermarkets are not doing enough to firstly, tackle the problem of increasing waste and secondly, encourage the public to reduce their waste (e.g. Encouraging the use of re-usable bags). The work of the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland is to be commended for attempting to help in this area but their work is not going far enough. The mandatory charge for plastic bags, due to come into effect on 20th

October 2014, is a positive step but it will not go far enough as people will pay the 5p charge and think nothing of it. I believe that the proposals in this petition are the next step and are possible as shown in California which has moved to ban plastic bags.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/sustainability>

Related information for petition

<http://www.conservingnow.com/plastic-bag-environmental-impact>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

09 / 11 / 2014

Comments to stimulate online discussion

This government should resolve to help stop climate change and other environmental issues to safeguard our future and the planet. They are doing more work than most nations to help these issues but more must be done to prevent irreversible climate change. Their actions are not going far enough to help the situation. The proposals in this petition are required to stop the damage being done to our environment and should be acted on as soon as possible. I believe that the our education system is a perfect platform to educate people about sustainability and the environment but it is not currently being utilised to its full potential.

Plastic bags are not just harmful to the environment but also to wildlife. We see this in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch where wildlife dies daily as a result of human actions. Because of this plastic bags should be banned. At the same time just stopping the use of plastic bags will not be enough to tackle climate change.

We must also educate our children from an early age to show them the impact of what they do to the environment and not leave that chance. Education is the best way out of most problems and it is exactly the same here. If we can make children more aware of the dangers to the environment, we will not have to take tough decisions on the environment because their habits will change.