

SustainOHIO Essay Contest 2018
Propose an innovative solution for OHIO and Athens City
Win Cash Prize!
1st Prize=\$100
2nd Place=\$50



Startup Funds for Implementation Possible!

Single-use plastic bags have been acknowledged by many to have negative environmental impacts at both local and global levels. Locally, they clog up waterways, create storm water drainage problems, and result in millions of dollars spent on litter removal and removal of misplaced bags from recycling centers. Globally, they contribute significantly to “garbage islands” that are formed in the ocean (one of which takes up approximately 700 square kilometers) and contribute to species extinction (such as coral reefs).

Ohio University campus to date uses plastic bags in most of its marketplaces and dining halls. As one of Ohio University’s Sustainability goals is reduction of solid waste, encouraging reusable bag use with the ultimate goal of replacing single-use plastic bags would be an excellent way to further this University Plan and make OHIO a more sustainable campus.

In light of this, outline an innovative approach for the goal of eliminating single-use plastic bag usage at OHIO. This could be as simple as a ban, but could also be an incentive program, a phased-in elimination, fee imposition, or anything you feel is appropriate.

It is desirable that this solution be able to be scaled up to the city level. The Athens City Council heard a resolution to tax plastic bags and concerns were raised about enforcement, equity for low-income people, and impacts on sales for local businesses owing to aggravated customers. Design your solution with these potential problems in mind.

Essays will be judged and scored for the following: clarity, feasibility, environmental impact, economic impact, creativity, and scalability of project. Applicants must be current OHIO students and essays must be 500 words. Completed essays and accompanying application should be submitted here:

https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eQXi0Ae9w47lju5

Submission due date: **Friday March 23rd**

Winner announcement: **Wednesday April 4th at 7pm, Athena Cinema** (just prior to the Sustainability Film)

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(Environmental Affairs Commissioner, GSS)

The SustainOHIO essay contest is organized by the 2017-18 Graduate Student Senate
Earth Day Every Day!

Doing our share to show that we care...

