



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham
Street
London SW1P
4DF

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

The Baroness Sheehan
Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Date: 22 September 2026

Dear Lady Sheehan,

Results from the Single-Use Carrier Bags Charge 2025 - 26

I am writing to let you know that the tenth full-year's data under the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (England) Order 2015 has now been published on GOV.UK.

For the period 7 April 2025 to 6 April 2026, the overall number of single-use carrier bags sold by the 94 retailers who registered and reported data was 399 million. This represents a decrease of 9% in single use carrier bags sold, from last year's reporting period, which was 437 million.

For this reporting period, Marks and Spencer and Sainsburys declared for the first time that they did not sell any single-use plastic carrier bags in 2025 and 2026. Tesco and Waitrose have not sold any single-use plastic carrier bags since the 2021 to 2022 reporting period. The other main retailers (Asda, Morrisons and The Co-Operative Group) sold 126 million single-use plastic carrier bags, compared to 164 million in the previous year. This is an annual decrease of 23% in the latest reporting period. There has been a reduction of 98% on the number of single-use carrier bags sold compared to 2014, the year before the charge was introduced (when 7.6 billion were distributed).

The carrier bag charge continues to be effective and demonstrates the important role we can all play in reducing and reusing plastic.

In line with the legislative requirements, data can be viewed on GOV.UK:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carrier-bag-charge-summary-of-data-in-england>

Yours sincerely,

EMMA HARDY MP

Minister of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs