

# Should we pay for plastic bags?

People should pay for the plastic bags they use for their shopping. According to experts from Clean Up Australia, Australians use over six billion plastic bags a year and many of these are used for carrying shopping home from supermarkets. Making people pay for these plastic bags would encourage them to use reusable bags.

Some plastic bags can last in the environment for up to 1000 years before they disintegrate (break down). Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife as they can kill animals, especially in the ocean.

Also, when plastic bags are made, dangerous gases are released that pollute the atmosphere. If we use fewer plastic bags there would be less air pollution, as well as less land and water pollution.

We need to reduce the number of plastic bags in the environment. Making people pay will help to stop them using plastic bags and force them to use reusable bags for their shopping!



Plastic bags such as this are causing huge problems in our oceans.



## ***Summer in The Alps***

The Alps in summer remain one of the best kept secrets for nature lovers and families. With plenty to keep you busy, the more active person will find a great choice of exhilarating activities, whereas those in search of a more relaxing stay can discover the unspoilt environment, stunning scenery and glorious sunshine. The astounding beauty of the mountains is hard to beat with their dramatic skyline of rugged peaks, crystal clear mountain lakes and green meadows. What more could anyone ask for?



### ***Activities***

Some resorts offer up to 40 different activities for adults and children of all ages alike. There are plenty of alpine rivers and lakes, covering some 35,000 hectares, which provide an endless playground for those of you who love water.

### ***Walking/hiking***

Do you want to experience the mountains from a substantial height? The ski lifts take you higher up the mountain without wearing yourself out. There are many hiking trails with signposts to keep you on track. Be dazzled by the breath taking views with many opportunities to take photographs to impress your family and friends. The walks also offer many opportunities to rest your legs for a well-deserved break at a café selling delicious light lunches and cakes. With 2 national parks, 6 natural regional parks there are plenty to choose from.

### ***White water rafting***

Lakes Léman (Geneva), Annecy and Bourget are favourite spots for water sports. Rediscover your sense of adventure (and what it's like to be soaked to the skin!) with a white water rafting experience in an inflatable six to eight person raft. You'll start by being kitted out with all the equipment, before a full safety briefing and instruction in rafting techniques. Then an experienced guide will take you onto the water for a series of runs down the breathtaking twists, turns and drops of the rushing mountain rivers. It's an adrenaline-fuelled, exhilarating and unforgettable experience.



***So what are you waiting for?***

## Recycling – It's not easy being green.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Everyday we are told that we need to take more care of our environment. But it's not that easy being green – or is it?

Over the past few years, local councils have tried to make it easier for people to be green. They provide different coloured bins so residents know where to put their rubbish. Added to these coloured bins are pictures on the bins showing what is allowed and what is not. These steps make it simple for people to recycle most of their household waste and help protect our environment.

But on the other hand, some people find the idea of recycling takes too much of their time. They can't be bothered to sort their rubbish, and would rather just send it all to our ever growing tips and dumps. They don't stop to think about what will happen 10, 20 or 30 years down the track when these places are full.

Other narrow minded people believe that one person can't make a difference. Well they're wrong. Every item that is recycled is a bonus for our environment as we learn to use our resources in a more efficient way so that they last for years to come.

Recycling is not that hard when you think about it. Almost everything we use can be recycled, from paper to glass to plastic. It makes sense to do everything we can to help protect our environment for the future. Green is the very best colour of all!



# Should the oak tree be cut down to make way for a playground?

An ancient oak tree stands majestically in the grounds of a small field belonging to Mr Cartwright. Until recently, the field has been used for horses to graze and local children have access to play. Mr Cartwright now has plans to sell the field to the town council, who want to tear down the oak tree, concrete over the entire field and build a children's playground.



Ecologically, this would be a disaster. The tree, and the field in which it stands, makes an important contribution to the wildlife of the area. It provides a habitat for large numbers of birds, insects and squirrels. Without the tree, this flora and fauna would perish.

The area has become an important feature of the local community. Parents know their children will be safe as the area is closed off to all traffic. The field provides a unique opportunity for children to explore the diversity of nature.

In addition, the tree provides a link with the past. It is believed to be over 100 years old, (the oldest inhabitant of the village remembers it being planted). Removing the tree would devastate older members of the community.



Therefore, I urge you to sign our petition to save the tree and the field in which it stands, from this needless destruction.