

Please read this document carefully before you decide to participate in this research study. **Your participation is voluntary, and you can decline to participate, or withdraw consent at any time, with no consequences.**

Study Title: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Update of 2010 Plastic Bag Report

Person(s) conducting the research:

Timothy Townsend, Principal Investigator, Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences, 352-392-0846, ttown@ufl.edu.

Purpose of the research study:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is interested in understanding more about retail bag usage, attitudes regarding plastic bags and access to plastic bag alternatives and recycling. We are administering six surveys to gather information from multiple stakeholder groups (governments, residents, retailers, manufacturers, and recycling facilities). This information, along with other data collected by the researchers, will be compiled into a Retail Bag Report to be released in 2022.

What you will be asked to do in the study:

Participants will be asked to answer questions related to their personal behaviors and feelings regarding plastic bags and reusable bag alternatives, as well as questions about their understanding of bag recycling accessibility in their area. Some participants will respond on behalf of a business or organization (e.g., retailers, plastic bag manufacturers) or local government and will answer questions relevant to those entities regarding plastic bag policies, usage and recycling.

Time required:

Completing this survey should take no longer than 10 to 15 minutes for residents and tourists responding to questions about their personal experiences, and possibly 30 to 45 minutes for retailers and local government representatives depending on the availability of historical data we request in this survey.

Risks and benefits:

There are no risks or discomforts anticipated as a result of participation in this survey, and no direct benefits or compensation offered to the participant.

Confidentiality:

Participants in this study will remain anonymous unless they elect to contact the researchers to provide additional information or ask questions. Participant identification will not be attached to the data generated in the survey.

Compensation:

Participants will not receive compensation.

Source(s) of funding for the research:

This research is funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

May the researcher(s) benefit from the research?

The researchers may benefit professionally if the results of the study are presented at meetings or in scientific journals.

Withdrawal from the study:

You are free to withdraw your consent and to stop participating in this study at any time without consequence. You can decline to answer any question you don't wish to answer.

If you withdraw, will your information be used or discarded? If you do not complete the survey (Press "submit" on the last page) your information will not be saved or used.

Can the researcher(s) withdraw you from the study? If so, on what basis? We will not withdraw participants from the survey, however, we may not include data from surveys which are less than 50% complete when submitted.

Agreement:

Now that you've read about the study, if you wish to participate, click the "I agree to participate" button to continue; if you do not consent to participate, click "I do not wish to participate" or just close this window.