

CARRIER BAG LEVY NI IMPORTANT INFORMATION. CHANGES ARE COMING 1 APRIL 2022.

Frequently asked questions at point of sale.

WHAT BAGS DOES THE LEVY APPLY TO? The levy applies to ALL carrier bags made of any material which have been designed to enable goods to be taken away at any time.

WHY ARE PAPER BAGS AND BIODEGRADABLE BAGS INCLUDED IN THE LEVY? There is a carbon footprint in relation the production and distribution of all bags, and that is why the levy applies regardless of the material they are made from. The overall policy in Northern Ireland is to reduce **all** bag usage and to encourage consumers to reuse bags.

WHY ARE REUSABLE BAGS INCLUDED IN THE LEVY? Reusable bags need to be reused. If they are prematurely disposed of, this has a greater environmental impact than disposal of single use bags. These bags are included in the levy to encourage consumers to reuse them on a frequent and regular basis. The overall policy in Northern Ireland is to reduce **all** bag usage and to encourage consumers to reuse bags.

WHY HAS THE LEVY CHANGED? It has changed to alter customer behaviour and encourage everyone to reuse bags to make Northern Ireland a cleaner, greener and better place to live.

WHY IS THE LEVY INCREASING TO 25P? The increase of the levy charge from 5p to 25p on all carrier bags up to a retail price point of £5.00 is designed to encourage consumers to bring their own bag, reuse their own bags as often as possible and only purchase a new bag when absolutely necessary.

WHY IS THE NEW CHARGE HIGHER THAN THE CHARGE IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND, WHICH INCREASED TO 10P AND THE CHARGE IN WALES WHICH REMAINS AT 5P? The levy in Northern Ireland is set at a charging point aimed at encouraging a change in mind-sets and behaviours and to challenge the throwaway culture.

HOW ARE LEVY FUNDS USED? Levy funds are used exclusively to fund a broad range of voluntary and community groups, charities, schools and business to take forward environmental projects to help protect the natural environment **within Northern Ireland**.