

**Economic measures to reduce the use of plastic bags at the consumer level.**

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## Abstract

<b>Name of Independent study</b>	Economic measures to reduce the use of plastic bags at the consumer level.
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This independent study has an objective to study economic measures to reduce the use of plastic bags at Thailand consumer level. The concepts and principles that have been applied to this study of economic measures that reduce the use of plastic bags at the consumer level will be retrieved from the measures of single carrier charges of Northern Ireland as a role model. By this research study will mainly use the document research method from primary data such as legal policies and plans. Also, the secondary data for instance books, textbooks, academic articles, official documents of public and private agencies as well as electronic information from websites of reputable agencies in Thailand and abroad as well.

The results show that the principles and concepts related to economic measures to reduce the use of plastic bags at the consumer level are Sustainable development principles , Precautionary principle, Polluter Pays Principle: PPP and Public participation which all these principles have been used as a basis for establishing national policies and plans for Thailand to reduce the use of plastic bags. Nevertheless, Thailand still does not have any specific enforcement or implemented an exact way of economic measures to reduce the use of plastic bags at the consumer level. But merely apply by reducing the use of plastic bags voluntarily which is a collaboration between the government and private sectors as well as campaigning for the public to reduce the use of plastic bags. Moreover, the fact that there is no system to store consumer plastic bag usage data from all original sources. As a result, there is no data on the number of plastic bags that can be reduced from the measures implementation. If compared unclear Thai measures to concrete Northern Ireland economic measures found that the Northern Ireland enforcement of having a collecting fee charges on the plastics bag at the rate specified by law causing consumers to use less plastic bags. In addition, the government also has income from the fee to support environmental projects and funds.

From the study, has brought the suggestion that Thailand should take an enforcement on economic measures to reduce the use of plastic bag at consumer level seriously. By making legal measures

which allow people the opportunity to participate in expressing opinions at every step. Moreover, Thailand can also take the form of measures from Northern Ireland to be applied in a rollout. Especially the part of requiring plastic bag suppliers to collect fees for plastic bags and deliver fees to the government. Collect fees for all types of plastic bags, whether new bags that are not in use or those that are recycled, whether made of plastic material in whole or in part and in all thickness level. But also, should exclude certain types of plastic bags. The fee collection rate should be higher than the fee that people be pleased to pay but should not be too high that the consumer can not bear the burden. And use the collected fee from the process to be expensed on taking care and revitalizing the degraded natural resources caused by plastic bag problems. Or support operations involved in the plastic bag waste management. The suggestion of the ways to use collecting fee will be in accordance with the spirit of the law and also aligned with the concept and principles that been mentioned above.

Keywords: Economic Measures, Plastic Bags, Polluter Pays Principle: PPP, Plastic Bag Charge,  
Economic instrument