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JEP > Vol.3 No.9, September 2012

OPEN ACCESS

The Validity of the Reduction of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags in Japan

PDF (Size: 118KB) PP. 1020-1024 DOI: 10.4236/jep.2012.39118

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the effect of reducing disposable plastic checkout bags used in supermarkets, convenience stores, and so on in Japan. Considering that even when these checkout bags are abolished, alternative waste bags should be newly produced, because these checkout bags have been reused as household waste bags so far, and the corresponding amount of oil is still necessary to produce them, the amount of oil saved by this bag reduction was found to be 0.2 L/person/year at most. Further, it was demonstrated that the necessity to purchase substitute bags may increase the household and financial burden on consumers.

KEYWORDS

Disposable; Plastic Bag; Reduction; Oil-Saving

Cite this paper

M. Yamashita and D. Toyofuku, "The Validity of the Reduction of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags in Japan," *Journal of Environmental Protection*, Vol. 3 No. 9, 2012, pp. 1020-1024. doi: 10.4236/jep.2012.39118.

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