

Green Notes: Weekly tips for reducing your carbon footprint from First United Methodist's Green Team:

City of Denver Enacts 10-Cent Plastic Bag Fee

On July 1, Denver enacted a 10-cent plastic bag fee. The per-bag charge also applies to single-use paper bags. And while it may not seem like much money, similar fees in other U.S. cities have proved effective at sharply reducing the use of plastic disposables and encouraging shoppers to bring their own reusable bags to grocery and retail stores.

In nearby Boulder, for example, fees reduced the use of plastic bags by 70 percent. Fees in Chicago cut disposable bag usage by 28 percent. And, according to The Guardian, England's enactment of fees put an 85-percent dent in plastic bag use.

Denver's new fees apply to "each single-use paper or plastic bag that customers use at grocery stores or bags that are included in food deliveries, curbside pickups and takeout orders," the Denver Post reported. "Other retail stores like CVS, Family Dollar, Dollar Tree, Kohl's, Target, Walgreens and Walmart will also have to impose the fees."

Of the fees collected, \$0.04 will go to the businesses and \$0.06 will go to the city, the Post said. The city must put any money it collects into sustainability efforts: providing residents with reusable bags, for example.

As the fees start doing their job, the city will collect less and less money – a great goal for any government effort! The biggest payoff, of course, will be less plastic in Denver's landfills, waterways, streets and open areas; less fossil fuels burned to

produce the bags; and more awareness of each individual's contribution to global warming.

Isn't it time for Missoula to find the best way to curtail our community's use of plastic bags?

TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING! Please join First Church's glass recycling program today by emailing Sherry Devlin at sherrydevlin@gmail.com or calling her at 406-546-1016.