BRING YOUR OWN SAC!



SACRAMENTO PLASTIC BAG BAN CAMPAIGN







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INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY

On March 31, 2015, the City of Sacramento unanimously approved the singleuse plastic bag ordinance. The ordinance intent is to reduce litter and noncompostable materials in landfills, making Sacramento a cleaner, more sustainable city. As of January 1, 2016, single-use plastic bags are no longer provided at many businesses in Sacramento.

To prepare local retailers and shoppers for this change, the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works, Recycling and Solid Waste Division, hired Circlepoint to develop a campaign brand, community engagement strategy, and accompanying marketing and advertising materials. The goal of the campaign was to motivate behavior change to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The two main objectives of the campaign were to:

- 1. Prepare local retailers for the ban, provide them with easy-to-use resources and motivate them to comply with the ban requirements.
- 2. Prepare local shoppers for the ban, motivate them to use reusable bags and raise awareness about the benefits of a more sustainable lifestyle.

The client's vision was to make it easy for retailers and shoppers to adapt their behavior to align with more sustainable practices, and to inspire local civic pride about being part of a greener, cleaner City of Sacramento.



METHOD (THE BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS)

A variety of interactive, social, digital, and print materials were developed to promote awareness and compliance of the ordinance. Collaborating closely with the client, Circlepoint developed campaign branding, messaging and creative assets to resonate with target audiences and appeal to their motivations. We chose a specific mix of in-person, print, interactive and social channels based on analysis of our target audiences and a deep understanding of their motivations, barriers and preferred channels.

PHASE I

To kick-off the campaign, the project team designed web pages for both retailers and shoppers. The retailer's page featured a "get ready" toolkit with a factsheet, posters for employees and customers, counter pop-up display and an "action plan" for the ban. The outreach materials educate retailers, employees, and customers while outlining step-by-step how to comply with the ordinance. The shopper's page featured educational information about the new ordinance and encouraged the use of a reusable bag on their next shopping trip.

Local Retailers

Our first effort to reach retailers about the upcoming ban was a courtesy mailing in August 2015, which included an introductory letter and compelling factsheet. This mailing resulted in 9 proactive calls from larger chain stores to ensure their compliance. After that initial mailing, we developed a retailer toolkit which included a detailed factsheet, poster for employees and pop-up counter-top display. All of these materials are also available for download online at that campaign website.

• • • · · · Δ 0 0 Reusable Bag Ordinance - City of Sacramento Search RECYCLING & SOLID SACRAMENTO ONLINE SERVICES | LIVING HERE | BUSINESS | VISITORS | CITY HALL Home > General Services > Recycling and Solid Waste > About RSW > Reusable Bag Ordinance **BRING YOUR** RECYCLING SOLID WASTE HOME W ABOUT RSW OWN SAC > 2015 RATE ADJUSTMENTS UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS FOR RETAILERS SACRAMENTO IS SAYING GOODBYE TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SOLAR PARK AT SUTTERS BAGS The Sacramento City Council unanimously approved the Reusable Bag Ordinance and starting January 1, 2016, single-use plastic bags will no longer be provided by many businesses in Sacramento. Instead, shoppers will have a choice of reusable bag options at checkout. Click the buttons below to learn more about how you can participate for a greener and cleaner Sacramento! COLLECTION SERVICES WASTE WIZARD WE CAN HELP

We chose a specific mix of in-person, print, interactive and social channels based on analysis of our target audiences and a deep understanding of their motivations, barriers and preferred channels.



Reaching Multicultural Audiences

The City of Sacramento is home to many distinct cultures. To effectively reach as many people as possible with the messages about the ban and using reusable bags we translated outreach materials into Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish.











Research

Preliminary research for the campaign included an audit of the client's existing outreach materials and online landscape. Circlepoint conducted a breadth of visual research to understand current trends in behavior change and sustainability marketing, ensuring that the resulting campaign would be both distinctive and appropriate for the market.

PHASE II

The next phase of the campaign-targeted shoppers by utilizing print advertisements, radio public service announcements, pop-up events at grocery stores and social media channels to raise awareness of the ordinance. The outreach materials featured community-focused imagery with targeted messaging and clear calls to action. A steady drumbeat of social media infographics, quizzes, prizes, and face-to-face engagement accompanied to ensure continued engagement and participation.



MEDIA STRATEGY

EDITORIAL CALENDAR

Working closely with the client, Circlepoint developed a detailed editorial calendar to activate print, digital and radio channels in a streamlined effort ensuring consistent messaging and effective levels of market saturation. Our strategy was to reach audiences with the right message at the right time.

SOCIAL ADVERTISING

Our digital media strategy included two Facebook advertising campaigns, targeting Sacramento residents who use the social network in English and indicated they have environmental interests. By the end of its run, the campaign resulted in close to 100,000 impressions within the Sacramento market.

#BYOSAC CONTEST

As par of our social engagement strategy, the team came up with the #BYOSac contest. The idea was to get people to post a photo of themselves with a reusable bags using the #BYOSac to win one of the reusable bags we developed for the campaign. The contest familiarized people with the campaign, created a



#BYOSac contest: Mayor of Sacramento, Kevin Johnson, with the reusable campaign bags.

channel for giving away the great branded reusable bags and also helped humanize the campaign by putting faces with the behavior. The contest also gave us a clear call to action for local officials to participate and help spread the word.



RESULTS

RETAILERS

Of the 350+ local retailers affected by the ban, we were able to connect face-to-face with over 100 local retailers and distribute toolkits to help them prepare. This proactive effort went a longs ways towards building trust with retailers and overcoming misconceptions. At this time, over 90% of the local retailers are in compliance with ordinance requirements.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Our efforts to engage resulted in 4 wellattended pop-up events at local retail and grocery stores. These events enabled us to connect one on one with hundreds of residents.



EARNED MEDIA

The campaign resulted in 10 news articles from media outlets including Fox 40, the Sacramento Bee and Sacramento Business Journal, reaching a combined audience of over 300,000 readers/ viewers.





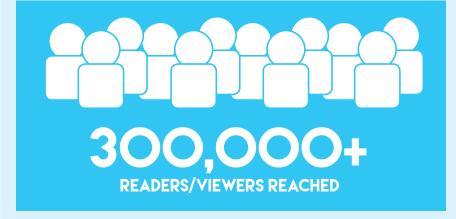




POP-UP EVENTS AT GROCERY AND RETAIL SITES







RESULTS CONTINUED

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEB

The Facebook ads were seen by 49,000 people (reach). More than 1,400 people engaged with the ads (liked, shared or clicked-through to the campaign website), and clicked on the ads to visit the campaign website. This represents a 2% click-through rate, which is a strong success rate for social media advertising (2.5% is currently the national average for Facebook news feed ads). Thirty participants took the Facebook guiz to test their reusable bag IQ and more than twenty people shared the post to encourage their networks to take the quiz. The reusable bag contest was a big success with close to 300 people engaging with the post close to 50 people posting photos of themselves with their favorite reusable bags.



The social engagement and other outreach efforts resulted in over 23,000 unique visits to the campaign website, making the campaign pages the second highest ranking pages across the sacrecycle.org platform.

Web Statistics

The team used Google Analytics to track engagement on the campaign web pages. Between July 1, 2015 - January 31, 2016, the pages garnered 23,133 pageviews, 10,631 sessions (or visits), with an average session duration: 1:32. Of this engagement, 7.647 of the visits were from new users.

4,478 FACEBOOK LIKES PARTICIPANTS TOOK
THE FACEBOOK QUIZ PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THE **REUSABLE BAG CONTEST** PEOPLE POSTED PHOTOS OF THEMSELVES WITH THEIR **FAVORITE BAGS** 49,000 PEOPLE REACHED BY **FACEBOOK ADS CLICK-THROUGH NEW USERS** 1,400 PEOPLE ENGAGED BY ADS WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS

CREATIVITY

CAMPAIGN CREATIVE

The project creative could have met campaign objectives by simply informing our target audiences about the ban, but the team took it to the next level by injecting fun, joy and civic pride into the campaign theme.

The campaign slogan, "Bring Your Own Sac" is a creative play on words that makes reference to both to the City of Sacramento and the topic of reusable bags/sacks. The "Bring it" call to action lends the campaign a personable, casual tone that softens the ask for behavior change. The result was a positive, empowering campaign that encouraged target audiences to rally (and change behaviors) in support of a green, cleaner, more sustainable City of Sacramento.

The campaign creative uses an animated bag character to educate audiences about the environmental benefits and cost savings to encourage the use of a reusable bag. The artwork is joyful and fun, with positive messaging that promotes awareness and compliance of the ordinance. The character's approachable and smiling appearance creates an easy connection that spans a range of audiences. The concept enabled us to keep the messages current and exciting by showing the bag character modeling behavior in a variety Sacramento landscapes and scenarios. For example, the Sacramento New Years' Eve graphic, showing the bag character preparing to launch the ordinance or "drop the bag" on January 1, 2016.

It was also important to respond to the comments we received via social media and overcome existing misinformation around the ban, which we did through a series of fun, informative "mythbuster" infographics.

BUDGET

The campaign budget was \$44,970.00, which included the direct costs of mounted posters and Facebook advertising. We monitored our budget and timeline weekly, to ensure that the project stayed on track.



