

# Reducing Plastic Bags

## STANMORE VILLAGE – BAGSHARE INITIATIVE

### The Plastic Bag Dilemma

Many well-intentioned shoppers have reusable bags, but simply forget to bring them when they shop. At participating retailers, shoppers who forget their reusable bags may borrow a BagShare bag and reuse it on their next shopping trip, or return it to participating retailers or Council locations.

Eleven local retailers in Stanmore Village, in conjunction with Marrickville Council's Bagbusters program and The Watershed Sustainability Resource Centre, are helping to reduce the impact of plastic bags on their local environment.

### How it works

## Bagbusters BagShare



**Step 1:**  
Community donates extra bags.



**Step 2:**  
Bags are tagged with "BagShare" label.



**Step 3:**  
Delivery to participating retailers.



**Step 4:**  
Customers borrow BagShare bags.



**Step 5:**  
Customers return BagShare bags.



**Step 6:**  
Fewer bags in our rivers and landfills

### Participating Stanmore Retailers

**108 Take Away**

**Just Movies**

**Le Chocorève**

**Made in Stanmore Deli & Café**

**Magic Roundabout**

**Molly Coddle Café**

**Salisbury Hotel**

**Stanmore Cellars**

**Stanmore IGA**

**Stanmore Station Pharmacy**

**Stanmore Supermarket**

In partnership with their local community, these businesses have saved close to 1,800 plastic bags from entering our waterways and landfills in just 6 months.

As recognition of their effort and commitment, these Stanmore businesses were finalists in the Resource Recovery category of the 2009 Marrickville Council Environment Awards for Business & Organisations.

If you know a business that you think should be rewarded for its sustainability initiatives, contact the target sustainability team to find out more about these annual awards.



## Benefits of a Community Approach

Stanmore businesses have noticed the community spirit and financial benefits that BagShare has brought to their village.

“We’ve noticed that our customers aren’t afraid of plastic bags breaking under the weight of their purchases, so they buy more on one shopping trip. We’ve seen sales increase!”

**Cameron Dowsett, Stanmore Cellars**

“I don’t need to give away plastic bags any more. Our shoppers borrow a bag or bring a BagShare bag from another participating retailer. It’s great! Since several businesses in Stanmore are participating in the BagShare, customers can return their bag to any shop that’s convenient for them.”

**Lashea Konn, Le Chocorève**

Stanmore's community approach to reducing plastic bags has increased the overall impact of individual retailer efforts. For instance, the program is highly visible through signage displayed at each participating shop. This reinforces plastic bag reduction messages throughout the shopping district and develops a community ‘norm’ regarding use of reusable bags.

Community ownership of the program has been fostered by involving students at Stanmore Out-of-School Hours Centre to design tags for BagShare bags and make bag deliveries to shops.



Some organisations within the Marrickville area have informally adopted the BagShare initiative within their workplaces, encouraging sustainable practices amongst their co-workers.

For more information about BagShare and setting up your plastic bag free business, contact Marrickville Council’s Plastic Bag Reduction Officer by sending an email to [pbro@marrickville.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pbro@marrickville.nsw.gov.au)

## The Watershed

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS

The Watershed is a joint initiative of Marrickville and City of Sydney Councils.

## Bagbusters BagShare

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