

# Disposable Plastic Bag Tax FY26 Q3 Report

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Government Operations Standing Committee

Office of Sustainability



**CITY OF  
RICHMOND**

# GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

### **DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG TAX**

IMPLEMENTATION: OUTREACH & MEDIA COVERAGE

FY26 Q3 REVENUE & COMPLIANCE

FUNDING PRIORITIES

### **RVAGREEN 2050 IMPLEMENTATION**

PROGRESS & TRAC-E DASHBOARD

ONGOING & NEW INITIATIVES

GRANTS: 2026 & BEYOND



# DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG TAX



# DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG TAX

## WHAT IS THE DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG TAX?

The **five-cent per bag tax** took effect January 1, 2026 and applies to disposable plastic bags provided in **grocery stores, convenience stores, or pharmacies**. The tax applies regardless of whether the bags are provided to the customer free of charge or if the store charges the customer for the bags.

## HOW ARE TAXES COLLECTED?

Tax revenue is split between **the City and Retailers at a ratio of 4:1 cents**. Tax collection is managed through Virginia Tax and is remitted to the City's Disposable Plastic Bag Tax Special Fund.

## HOW IS THE TAX REVENUE USED?

Restricted to fund environmental cleanups, education programs designed to reduce waste, mitigating pollution and litter, or providing reusable bags to recipients of SNAP/WIC benefits.



# IMPLEMENTATION: OUTREACH

## BUSINESS VISITS

- **193(+/-)** visits to impacted businesses (Grocery Stores, Convenience Stores, Pharmacies) during the month of October 2025

## BAG GIVEAWAYS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Second Street Festival
- Southside Carnival
- Southwood Apartments Fall Festival
- 25<sup>th</sup> Street Market
- CVWMA Recycling Fair

## COUNCIL DISTRICT MEETINGS

- Presented to 7 out of 9 Council District Meetings from October – December 2025



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**5,000+  
BAGS  
TO DATE**

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**REUSABLE BAGS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR  
LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER!**



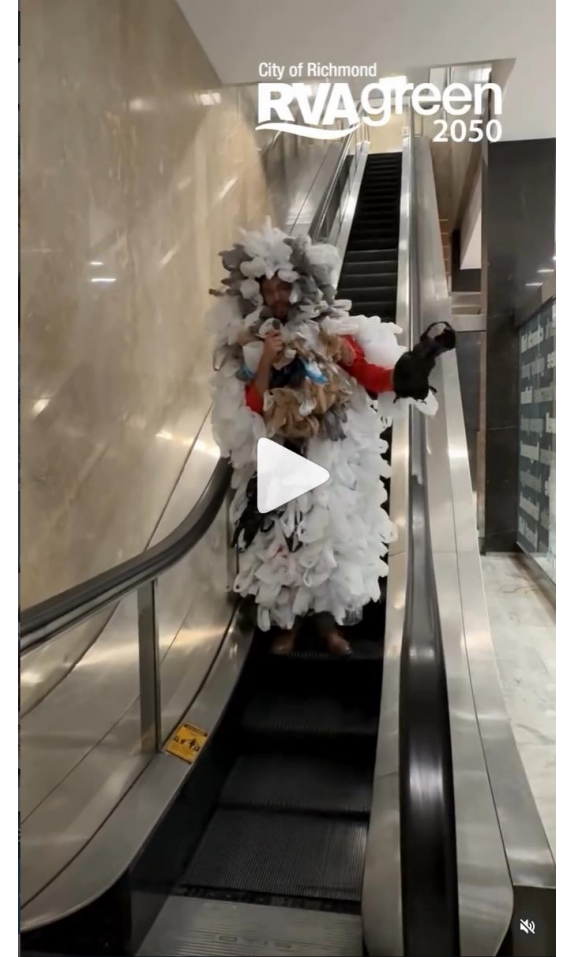
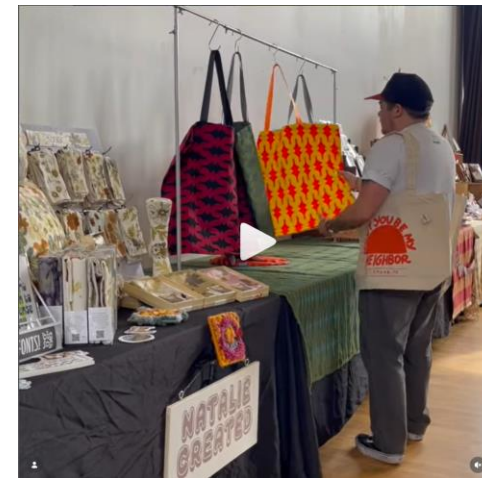
# IMPLEMENTATION: MEDIA COVERAGE

## MEDIA CAMPAIGN

- BizSense ad buys
- Paid social ad buys (Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor)
- Paid podcast geofenced ad buys
- Earned media via VPM, Urban One, and CBS6 Virginia This Morning

## INFLUENCER AND VIRAL MARKETING

- Coordinated social campaigns with Studio Two Three, Style Weekly, Keep Virginia Beautiful
- OOS Staff videos in a plastic bag “ghillie suit” shared across socials
- OOS Intern created a “90s Style Plastic Bag Informercial”

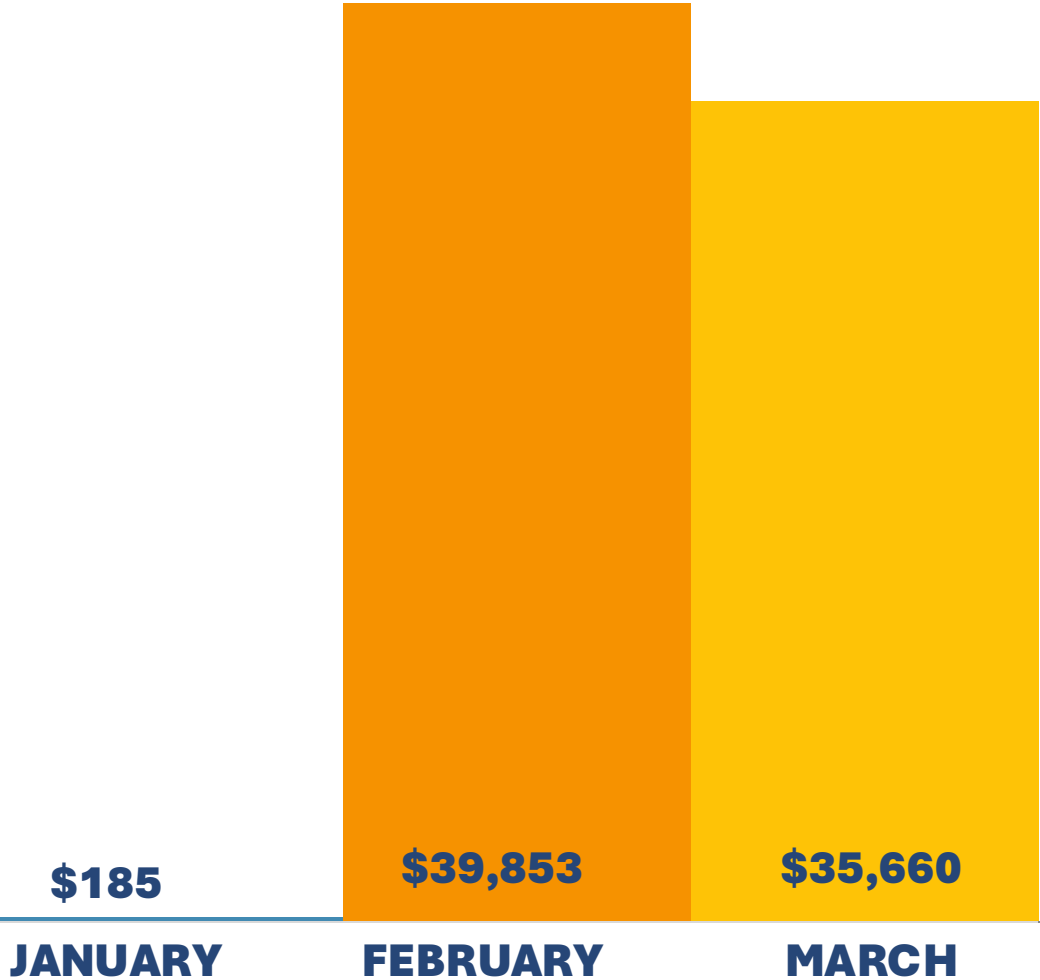


# FY26 Q3 REVENUES: REPORT AND COMPLIANCE

**FY26 Q3 TOTAL**  
**\$75,699**

Virginia Tax remittance to City **Disposable Plastic Bag Tax Special Fund** occurs on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the following month

MONTHLY REVENUES



**Retailer Participation**  
State does not currently report number of businesses paying the DPBT. **Retailers collected \$18,925 during Q3 reporting period.**

**Retailer Compliance**  
City does not have enforcement authority. **Compliance is monitored by Virginia Tax.**

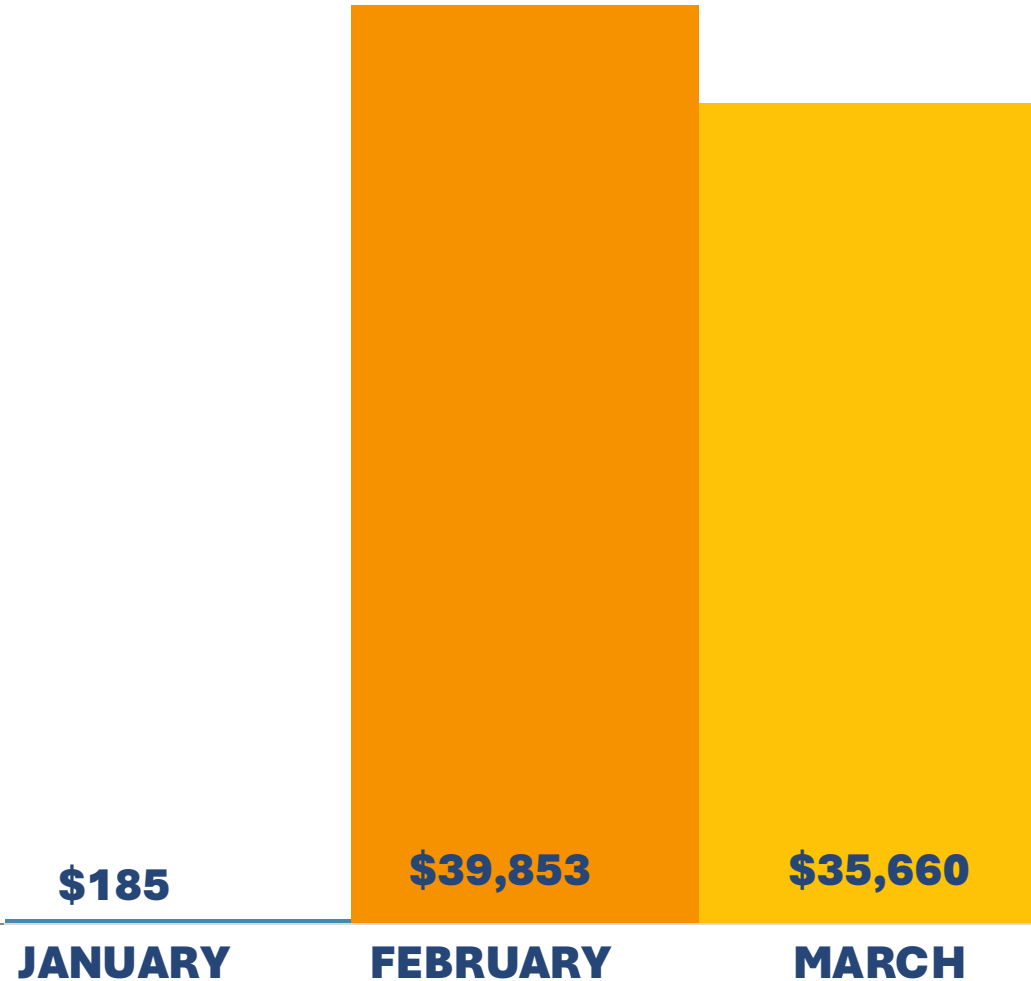


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MONTHLY REVENUES



## Retailer Participation

State does not currently report number of businesses paying the DPBT. **Retailers collected \$18,925 during Q3 reporting period.**

**189,247**  
**Bags**  
**Taxed**

## Retailer Compliance

City does not have enforcement authority. **Compliance is monitored by Virginia Tax.**



# DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAG TAX FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR FY27

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUPS

- External partners: Keep Virginia Beautiful, Keep Virginia Cozy
- Internal partners: DPW, Clean City Commission, Youth Engagement Services (OCWB)

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO REDUCE WASTE

- Waste Kit: Curriculum for Waste Reduction Education
- Illegal dumping of tires across city; business outreach and engagement programming
- Special event eco-waste stations pilot

## MITIGATING POLLUTION AND LITTER

- Procurement Sustainability Policy
- Composting Drop-Off Program

## PROVIDING REUSABLE BAGS TO SNAP/WIC RECIPIENTS

- Targeted distribution of reusable bags to under-resourced Richmond residents

**FUNDS TO PAY FOR  
1 FTE**



# **RVAgreen2050**

## **PROGRESS**

### **UPDATE**



# RVAgreen 2050: PROGRESS UPDATE



## TRAC-E Tracking Realtime Action for Climate Equity

Last Updated: 4/15/2026 1:10:24 AM

### Filters

Pathway

All

Action

All

Cohort

All

Status

All

Reset filters



Pathway	Objective	Strategy	Action
BE	1	1	i
C	2	2	ii
ENV	3	3	iii
TM	4	4	iv
WR		5	v

### Action Description

BE 1.1.i: Convert all city-owned streetlights to LED, integrate solar options where feasible, and streamline efficiency measures; Prioritize improvements in formerly redlined neighborhoods and proactively communicate climate impact and resilience benefits with the communities.

BE 1.1.ii: Track energy usage in all City-owned buildings and set energy usage benchmarks according to building type and climate impacts.

BE 1.1.iii: Equitably prioritize energy efficiency retrofits of City-owned buildings in areas that serve the public therefore improving their health, safety, and accessibility while rating the highest return on investment in cost savings and GHG reductions.

BE 1.1.iv: Create an Energy Manager position with authority to identify equity gaps in energy management, work across all departments and coordinate partnerships in frontline communities.

BE 1.2.i: Incorporate electrification requirements into all Capital

Pathways	Objectives	Strategies	Actions
5	17	49	136
Not Started	Planning	In Progress	Completed
23	17	56	40



### RVAgreen 2050 Action:

Implementation Phase:

Status:

Start date:

End date:

OOS Champion:

City Steward:

**Planning: 13%**  
**In Progress: 41%**  
**Completed: 29%**  
**[TOTAL UNDERWAY = 83%]**

**Not Started: 17%**



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# ONGOING & NEW INITIATIVES

## EAST END SOLAR MEADOW

- Solar farm on capped East Richmond Road Landfill
- \$500,000 Community Benefits Fund

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Residential Energy Efficiency Program – NEW with DPU
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and Healthy Homes Initiative: 100 homes audited
- Whitcomb Court Energy Study to make tailored recommendations for energy conservation improvements

## ULI NET ZERO IMPERATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANEL

- Deep technical expertise to advance the City's Sustainable Design Standards (SDSs) in all city projects

## COOL THE CITY

- \$6M Urban Greening and Workforce Development grant from USDA
- 1342 trees planted, 880+ community members engaged, 46 agroforestry certificates earned



# GRANTS: 2026 & BEYOND

## ✓ BLOOMBERG YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

- **\$50,000 micro-grant program** to mobilize young people ages 15-24 to design, develop and implement projects aligned with the City's climate goals.

## ✓ MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT FUND

- EPA's larger National Clean Investment Fund, which awarded a **\$5 billion capitalization grant** to accelerate the transition from carbon to clean energy
- Climate Communities Collaborative, in partnership with OOS, **received technical support and \$250,000** in market-building funding to develop a public-private partnership plan that will advance priority clean energy

## ✗ EPA SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING (2025)

- **\$2M for comprehensive composting and recycling** services to 4 low-income public housing neighborhoods - Gilpin, Mosby, Fairfield and Whitcomb Courts.
- Notified in December 2025 not selected (17 municipalities received funding, down from 25 in previous round)

## ? BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN COMMUNITY GRANT (FEMA)

- **OOS applying with PlanRVA** to fund site-specific microgrid systems (solar + battery storage) at community-serving facilities that could function as **resilience hubs**



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