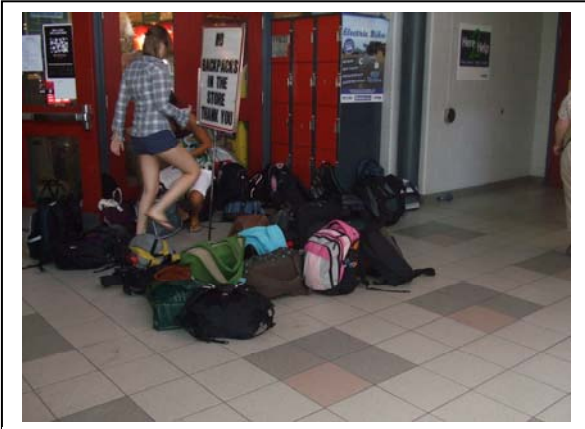


Quick and Easy Bag Check



The pile of bags by the door obstructing the hallway. There are two more such piles.



Bag check system with attendants, right after setup. Attendants are important!



Our bag check system: cafeteria carts with trays for shelves, and foamcore number chips labelling the spaces for bags.

Designers

Bashayer Althehli, Bronwyn Boltwood, Celeste Christie, Michelle Goodison, Amanda Munroe, Christine Pilon, Sean Schuck, Druta Veronica, and Sloane Weingarden.

Institution

Algonquin College

Sponsored by

Kurt Espersen-Peters and Dana Tapak

The problem

At the start of term the bookstore doesn't allow schoolbags in the bookstore for fear of theft. Students must leave them outside on the hall floor so that their possessions can be stolen instead. Anyone can lose a bag or pick up the wrong one in the huge, disorganized pile.

The solution

A temporary bag check will control bags scattered around the bookstore. This solves the issue of lost or stolen articles and the congestion the bags create. Wheeled tray trolleys and a numbering system will be utilized to ensure students' articles are stored securely. These trolleys are borrowed from the cafeteria and can be returned, cutting down on costs and materials used. It's a simple idea with simple components that solves a large problem on campus.

The solution's impact on its users

The bag check was easy to setup. It took an hour or less to make the foamcore number chips, and the cafeteria was happy to loan us some carts and trays. We operated near or at capacity from about 15min after setup. We found that having staff was important for customer confidence in the service.

The bookstore manager thought a bag check was too much work and liability – we would be responsible if something was lost or stolen – and he insisted we post that the bookstore wasn't providing the service. But the bookstore security guards were soon sending us customers.

Lots of students and passers-by gave us compliments and thank-yous. Many asked if we were charging for the service and were delighted it was free. Many people also thought that the bag check was a genuine college service. The difficult part was closing down the bag check: we could have had full shelves for another seven hours.

Overall it was a roaring success and people were disappointed that it wasn't permanent. Someone could set up a microbusiness at 50 cents a bag and rake in quite a bit!

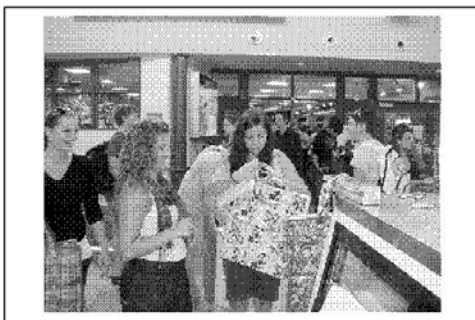
Do Something Drastic, CUT THE PLASTIC! With the 4 Bag Ladies



The Bag Ladies working hard at finding new creative uses for plastic bags, a new art form!



Creative products made from recycled plastic bags, & recycled info-boards demonstrate the problems & potential solutions of plastic.



Giving out reusable bags in exchange for plastic bags; 34 bags were collected and returned to the bookstore for reuse.

Designers

Erika MacKay, Emma Lees, Kira Loyko, Alia Chaaaraoui

Institution

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Sponsored by

Dana Tapak & Kurt Espersen- Peters

The problem

Each year, 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic shopping bags are consumed worldwide. "Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade—breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways and entering the food web when animals accidentally ingest." ¹ Alternative solutions do exist, but convincing people to adopt such changes can be challenging.

¹ Cobb, Vincent. "Reusable Bags - Facts and Figures Regarding the True Cost of Plastic Bags." [ReusableBags.com](http://www.reusablebags.com). 2008. 3 Sep 2008 <http://www.reusablebags.com/facts.php>.

The solution

We hope to initiate change in the way people perceive plastic bags by raising awareness of their negative effects and inspire consumers to carry their products in reusable bags. We demonstrated creative and sustainable uses for old plastic bags and provided people with fabric shopping bags, in exchange for their plastic ones. Our demonstration boards, constructed from used project boards emphasize the adverse effects of plastic bags.

The solution's impact on its users

Our booth generated a lot of positive attention. People were very interested in our cause, and inspired by our creations. Most people were excited and cooperative with us by trading in their plastic bags for a more sustainable option, and took a great interest in our crafts that we were creating out of the old bags. As such, we feel that this experiment was successful at initiating change and creating awareness within the small demographic that we were able to target during the charette. Some people encouraged us to take the project further by selling our crafts, as a fundraising opportunity. We were very pleased with the response and are all inspired to continue following through with the potential of this project. From a design perspective, it opened our eyes to the availability of alternative products for other applications that are outside the box. There is clearly a great deal of potential to create products that entice the consumer without having adverse affects on the environment.