PLASTIC BAGS
JUST SAY NO THANK YOU!

The statistics and information gathered on the effects of plastic bags on our environment is quite astounding. Here are some facts that are sure to make you say no thank you at the checkout and carry your own reusable, recycled totes. Environmentally friendly totes are fast becoming the most popular ECO-conscious promotional product. They are inexpensive, extremely useful and tremendous advertising vehicles. They are the natural solution to our plastic bag problems. Check out these facts:

- Four to five trillion plastic bags are manufactured each year
- As many as one trillion [1,000,000,000,000] plastic bags are used annually worldwide and only 1% of these are recycled
- Plastic bags are made from polyethylene, which is a thermoplastic made from crude oil. Chinese people use billions of plastic bags and their ban on free plastic bags will save them over 37 million barrels of oil annually!
- It takes 1,000 years for polyethylene bags to break down
- As polyethylene breaks down, toxic substances leach into the soil and enter the food chain
- Plastic bags account for 10% of all coastline debris in the U.S.
- Eight million pounds of plastic end up in our oceans killing our wildlife to the tune of approximately one billion seabirds and mammals. These animals suffer a painful death. The plastic wraps around their intestines or they choke to death.
- Plastic bags choke landfills
- If one out of five people in North America convert from plastic bags to reusable cloth totes, it will save our environment from the damage of 1.3 TRILLION plastic bags in our lifetime

WILL YOU BE ONE OF THEM?

Loblaws took a leadership role in January 2009 by charging $0.05 for each plastic bag and thereby hopefully reducing their usage. Your company can take a leadership role in this initiative by using reusable, recycled tote bags as a promotional vehicle whenever possible. Talk to your promotional products distributor today to discuss the opportunities and go to **www.debcoecosolutions.com** for a look at your options.