



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EASTERN MARKET AIMS TO IMPROVES ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH RESUABLE BAG INITIATIVE

*Pilot program enlists market vendors and customers with goal to reduce single-use bag waste by 50 percent by 2021*

**DETROIT – August 13, 2019** – Eastern Market Partnership (EMP) is taking action to reduce single-use bags at the public market. To do this, EMP is launching a pilot reusable bag program in the market by distributing sample reusable bags, in a variety of styles, materials and function, to market customers who agree to be part of a survey and provide feedback. The bags will be distributed at several locations in the market on Sat., August 17, Sun., August 18 and Tues., August 20.

The specific single-use bag reduction initiative began with the vendor operations workgroup to get their input and support and is now turning to customers to garner their input and cooperation. EMP’s goal is to reduce current waste by 50 percent by 2021.

EMP will run the pilot program for four weeks to allow the customers ample opportunity to use and assess the bags, and, when the pilot concludes, complete a survey on their findings and experience. EMP will collect data and produce the preferred reusable bag in large quantities that will be available for a nominal price at the market. This program is supported by a grant from the Erb Foundation.

“The objective of this initiative is to continue diverting market waste from landfills, particularly by reducing market use of nearly 2 million plastic bags per year,” said EMP president Dan Carmody. “Over the past three years we have diverted 25 percent of our waste stream by recycling cardboard. Given the global hesitance to take and process additional plastic waste, it is our urgent responsibility to work with the market community towards the eventual elimination of single-use disposable bags.”

EMP has been developing and refining steps it can take to reduce waste streams and improve the environmental sustainability in the market including recycling cardboard, evaluating composting options and by reviewing best practices of a variety of markets in the U.S. and globally that have virtually eliminated waste streams.

In addition to the test program, there will be signage throughout the market encouraging all customers to participate by bringing their own reusable bags and offer their suggestions to EMP through its social media channels.

For more information, visit [EasternMarket.org](http://EasternMarket.org).

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### **About Eastern Market Partnership**

Eastern Market Corporation and Eastern Market Development Corporation together comprise the Eastern Market Partnership (EMP) which are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that manage and promote Eastern Market and guide the development of the Eastern Market District on behalf of the City of Detroit. EMP’s vision is to create the most inclusive, resilient, and robust regional food hub in the United States. EMP works to enhance Eastern Market’s role of nourishing a healthier, wealthier, and happier Detroit by: operating vibrant markets, improving food access, incubating and accelerating food businesses, providing nutrition education, and by nurturing an Eastern Market District that is centered around food, is a place where people go to grow their independent business, and is a place where everyone is warmly welcomed. For more information, call 313.833.9300, visit our website at [EasternMarket.org](http://EasternMarket.org) and follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/easternmarket), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/easternmarket), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/easternmarket).

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- ! Help us eliminate single-use plastics at Eastern Market.
- ! Our goal is to reduce plastic waste by 50% by 2021 in partnership with the Erb Foundation.
- ! Pick up test bags from vendors on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup> and complete the survey included with the bag by September 15<sup>th</sup>.