Plastic Bag Policy

The distribution of plastic bags intended for single use is banned at McMaster University effective January 1, 2010.

The following alternatives are permitted, ranked in terms of preference:

1. Reusable bags made from biodegradable or cloth material
2. Reusable bags made from non-biodegradable material
3. Paper bags
4. Biodegradable plastic bags intended for single use

Definitions:

Plastic bag – a bag made from plastic film, which is intended for single use and designed to carry goods.

Biodegradable plastic bag – any bag which is composed, in whole or part, of biodegradable plastic, oxo-biodegradable plastics, plastarch material, polylactide or any other plastic resin composite that is intended to degrade at a faster rate than non-biodegradable plastic film.

Paper bag – a bag that does not contain mixed material, such as plastic or foil, and is recyclable.