

INTRODUCTION



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P L A S T I C S B A G S - C O N C E R N S



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PLASTICS BAGS - CONCERNS

FLOWS



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TOOLS FOR CONTROL



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GOOD PRACTICES



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CONCLUSIONS

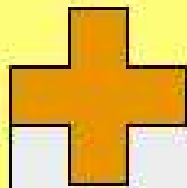


DEFINITION OF A PLASTIC BAG



*"a **polymer** carry bag provided or utilised at the retail **point of sale** for carrying and transporting **retail goods**. This includes all plastic retail carry bags, but excludes produce bags used in-store, dry cleaning bags, garbage bags and other primary product packaging".*

PROS & CONS OF PLASTIC BAGS



LIGHTWEIGHT
CHEAP
STRONG
DURABLE
ADVERTISING MEDIUM



PUBLIC LITTER NUISANCE
DIFFICULT TO COLLECT
PROXY FOR CONSUMPTION
LOW RECYCLING RATES
OFTEN NEGLECTED
CAUSES MRF PROBLEMS



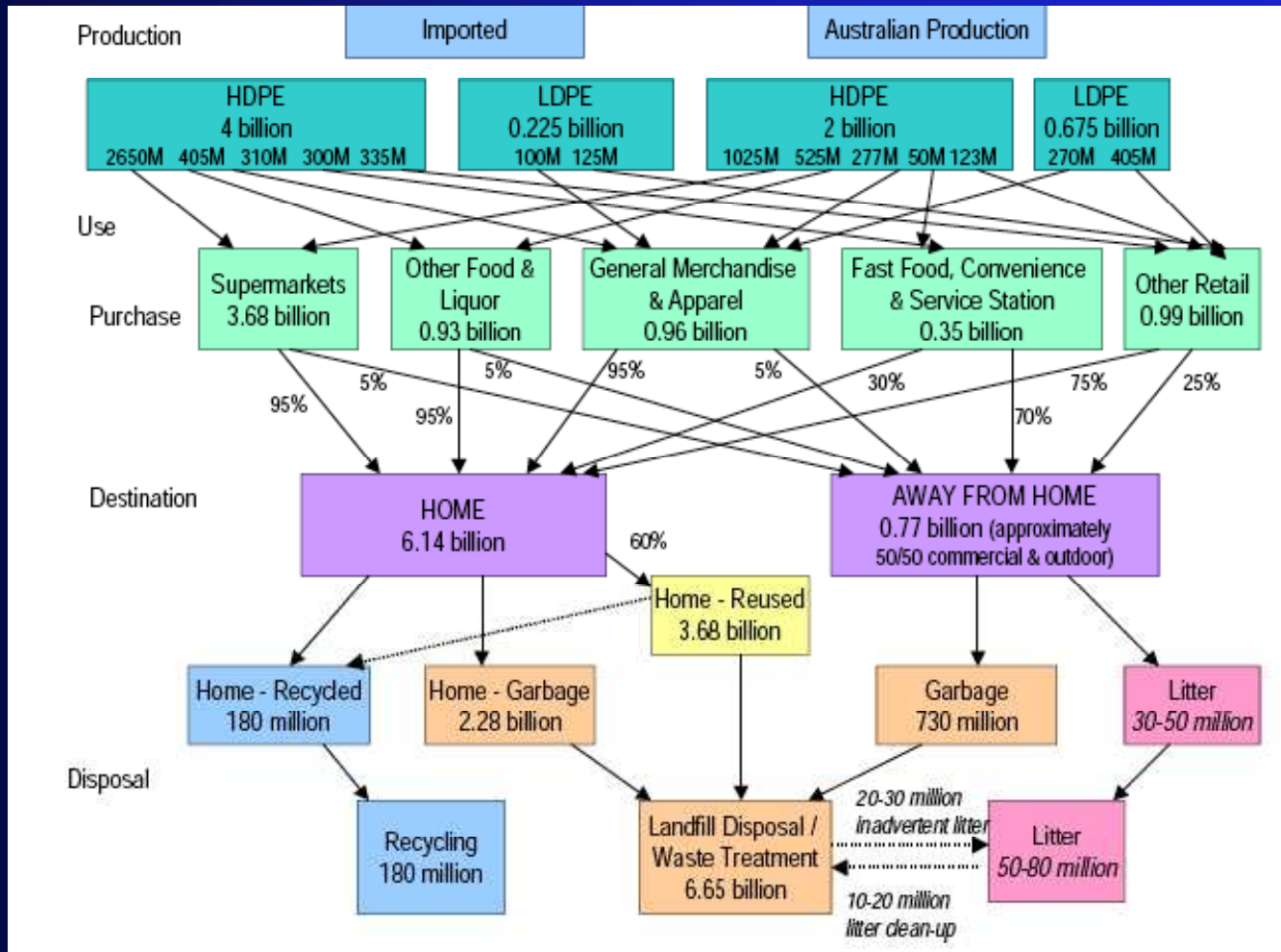
Significant potential to reduce life cycle environmental impacts of plastic bag use in:

- *resource consumption*
- *energy*
- *greenhouse gas emissions*
- *litter*

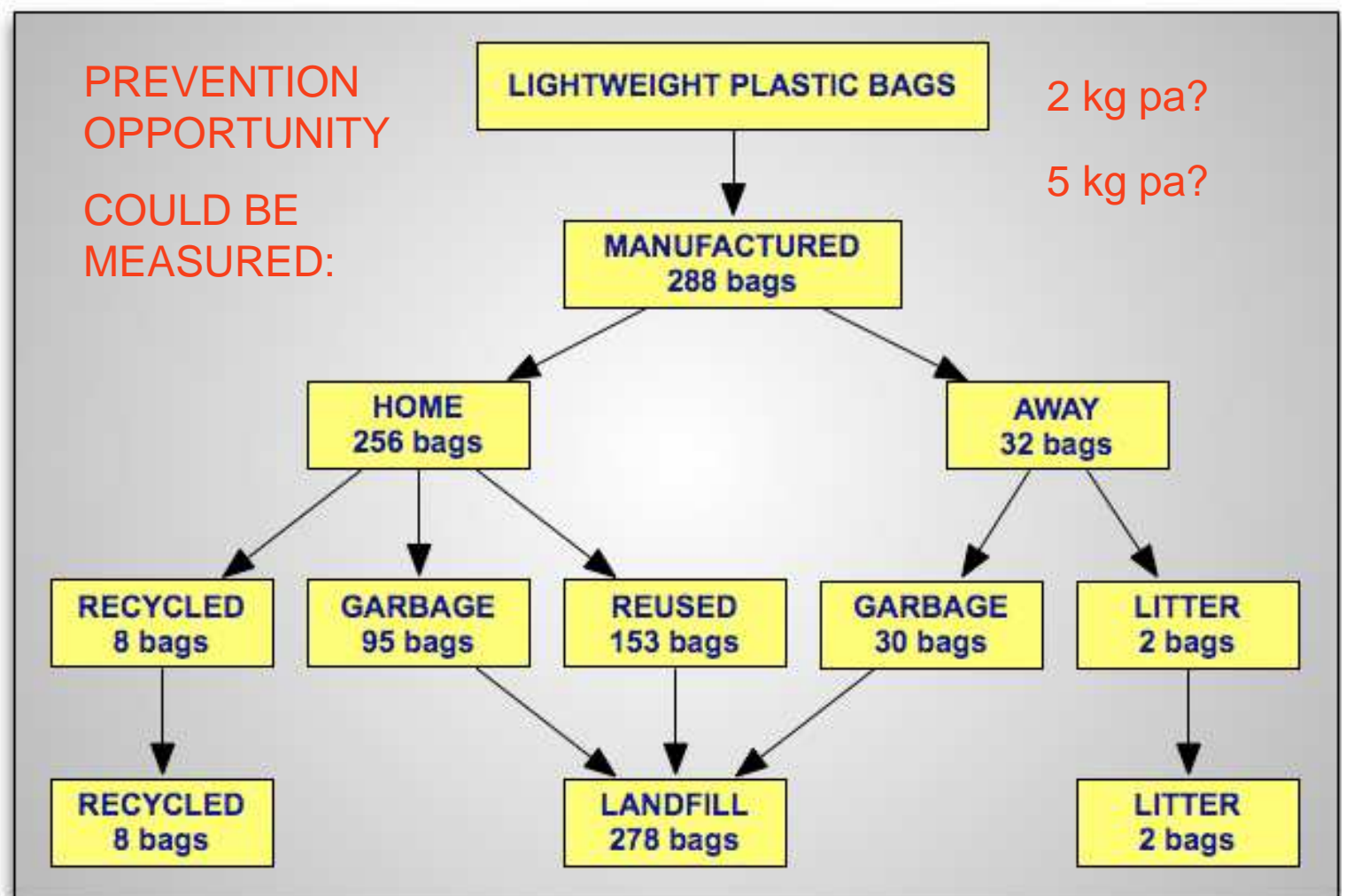
Plastic bags in France

- 17 billion plastic bags issued pa (80,000 t)
- 120 million bags pa litter the coastline
- In 2004 12 billion lightweight supermarket bags were issued (15 billion in 2003)
- Per capita arisings = 2 kg pa plastic bags

PLASTIC BAGS - FLOWS THROUGH AUSTRALIA



PER CAPITA PLASTIC BAGS - TYPICAL FATE



TOOLS TO CHANGE THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

Class	Policy tool	Applicability
Information	Education & campaigns (use of bags and littering)	National, regional & local
	Promoting Reusable Bags	National, regional & local
	Encourage retailers to adopt Codes of Practice	National, regional & local
Infrastructure	Kerbside recycling of plastic shopping bags	Local
	Biodegradable bags	Local
Legal	Ban on plastic bags	National & regional
Economic	Impose a mandatory charge system	National & regional
	Agree a voluntary charge system	National & regional

APPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENT TOOLS VS PLASTIC BAGS

INFORMATION

		CHINA
NEW ZEALAND	RSA	AUSTRALIA
USA	LUXEMBOURG	BOSNIA HERZ.
BELARUS	BELGIUM	CANADA

INFRASTRUCTURE

FRANCE	
NEW ZEALAND	KENYA
UK	MALTA

KENYA	RSA	FRANCE
ITALY	RWANDA	AUSTRALIA
BANGLADESH	INDIA	TAIWAN

GREECE	RSA	SWITZERLAND
BELGIUM	HUNGARY	USA
MALTA	AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	TAIWAN
IRELAND	SCOTLAND	ICELAND
FINLAND	GERMANY	CZECH REP

LEGAL

ECONOMIC



INFORMATION

“Choose no plastics” campaign (BEL)

Supermarkets promoting reusable bags with loyalty card points (B)

Ecolabelling bioplastic bags (CZ)

Knot plastic bags (USA)

Offer free paper or cotton bags (CHN)

IMPACT OF PLASTIC BAG CAMPAIGNS IN BELGIUM

Use of Reusable and Disposable Bags





INFORMATION

Choose no plastics campaign (BEL)

Supermarkets promoting reusable bags with loyalty card points (B)

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Offer free paper or cotton bags (CHN)



INFRASTRUCTURE

Collect plastic bags for recycling (UK)

Encourage use of biodegradable plastics (F) (B)



LEGAL

Ban plastic bags (F) (AUS) (RWA) (RSA) (IND) (KEN) (TAIWAN)



ECONOMIC

Voluntary charging for bags (AUS) (B) (D) (LUX) (NL) (UK)

Mandatory charging for bags (DK) (ICE) (IRL) (I) (MAL) (KEN)
(RSA) (TAI)

Other intervention (NGR)

DANISH PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION: 20-65% SINCE THE TAX

Danish bag tax revenues to Government

Year	Revenue (billion DKK)
1994	129.6
1995	162.2
1996	156.1
1997	159.9
1998	171.3
1999	177.4

Country	How many plastic bags are used every year?	Are there any 'plastic bag' campaigns?	Are plastic bags banned?	Is there a levy on plastic bags?	Are customers required to pay for plastic bags?	Are there national recycling schemes for plastic bags?	Are reusable 'eco' bags available?
America	San Francisco – 45million bags	California – Schools 'Kids Recycling Challenge'	No	Not yet	California-Yes San Fran - Yes	Yes	Yes
Australia	6.9 billion bags	Yes	In a number of communities in Tasmania & NSW	Some planned	Usually	Yes-instore depots	Yes
Austria	NA	Plastic bags will be a topic in a campaign 'Clever Shopping'	No	No	No	No	Yes
Bangladesh	NA	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	No	Yes
Belarus	NA	Yes	No	No	NA	No	NA
Belgium	NA	Yes	No	No	Often	No	Yes
Bosnia & Herzegovina	NA	'Yes - Say No To Plastic Bags'	No	No	No	No	Yes
Canada	1.4 – 2.7 billion bags in Quebec		No	No	No	No	Yes
China	Large supermarkets use approx 362 million bags	Yes - Free cotton bag give away & 3 year 'clean up'	No	No	Shanghai Supermarkets- Yes	No	Yes
Czech Republic	NA	Ecolabelling	No	No	In some supermarkets	No	Yes
Denmark	750,000	NA	No	Yes Green Tax – Retailer pays DKK22/kg	Usually	No	Yes
Finland	NA	No	No	Yes	Yes		Yes
France	17 billion bags 80,000 t	Yes	Yes if non-biodegradable by 2010	No	NA	No	Yes
Germany	150,000 t (all plastic bags – not just supermarket)	Yes	No	No	Yes – in all large supermarkets	DSD	Yes

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Greece	10 billion bags	Yes	No	No	Usually	No	Yes
Hungary	NA	NA	No	No	Yes - large bags in supermarkets	No	NA
India	NA	Yes	Yes less than 20 microns	No	NA	No	Yes
Iceland	16 million (2004)	Yes	No	Yes (EUR0.2/bag)	Yes	No	Yes
Ireland	1.2 billion bags pre-tax, <0.2 billion after	Yes	No	Yes - PlasTax	Yes	No	Yes
Italy	NA	Yes	No	No	Yes - EUR0.05	No	Yes
Japan	30 Billion bags	Yes	No	No - planned for 2007 (Y5-10 per bag)	No	Yes	Yes
Kenya	4,000 tonnes flexibles	Yes	Yes <30 microns	Yes	Yes	In planning	Yes
Luxembourg	NA	Yes	No	No	NA	No	Yes
Malta	50 million bags	Yes	No	Yes-EcoTax EUR0.10	Yes	No	Yes
New Zealand	800 million bags	Yes-Regional & National	No	No	NA	No	Yes
Republic of South Africa	NA	Yes	Yes <24 microns	Yes (>24 microns) R2.13/kg	Yes	No	Yes
Rwanda	NA	Yes	Yes >100 microns	No	NA	No	Yes
Scotland	1 Billion bags	Yes	No	No - under consideration	Yes - only in B & Q, Ikea	No	Yes
Spain	NA	NA	No	No	No	No	Yes
Switzerland	NA	Yes	No	No	Yes - Supermarkets (CHF0.15 - 0.20)	No	Yes
Taiwan	20 Billion bags	Yes	If <60 microns	Yes	Yes	Planned	Yes

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The Netherlands	NA	Yes	No	No	Yes – EUR0.20 for thick bags	No	Yes
UK	8 Billion bags	Yes 'Bag for Life' 'Penny Back'	No	No	Rarely – eg 'Bag for Life' and Lidl	No – except in-store depots	Yes

ARE PLASTIC BAGS AN
IMPORTANT ISSUE?

NO

ADDRESS THROUGH WASTE
PACKAGING PRODUCER
RESPONSIBILITY

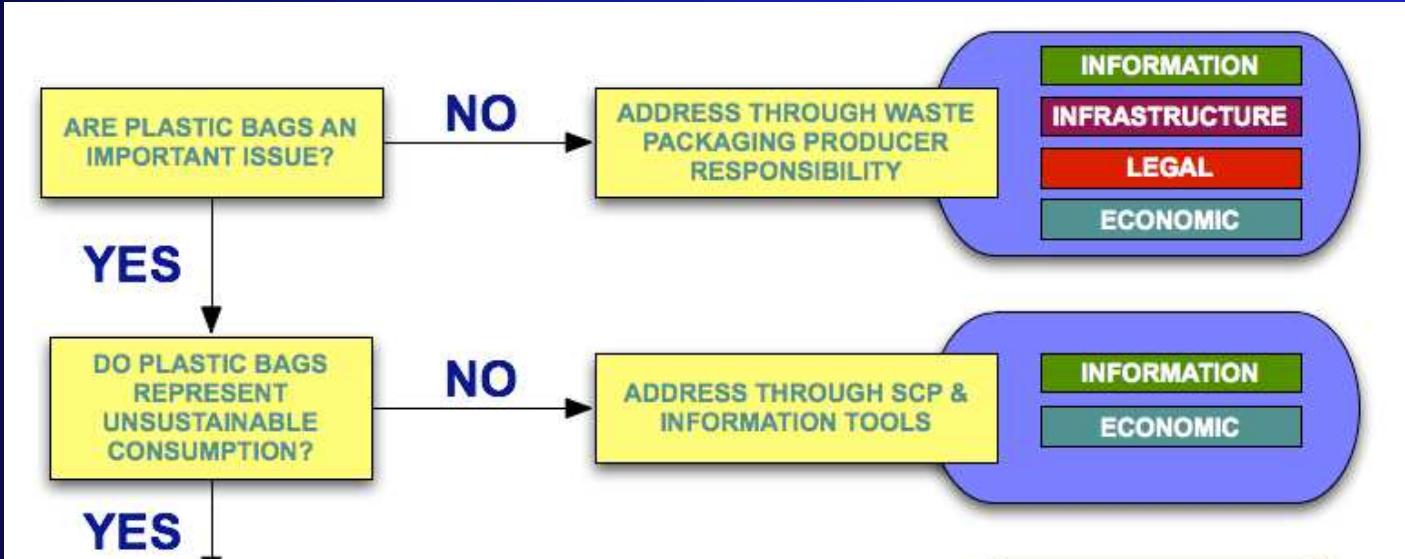
YES

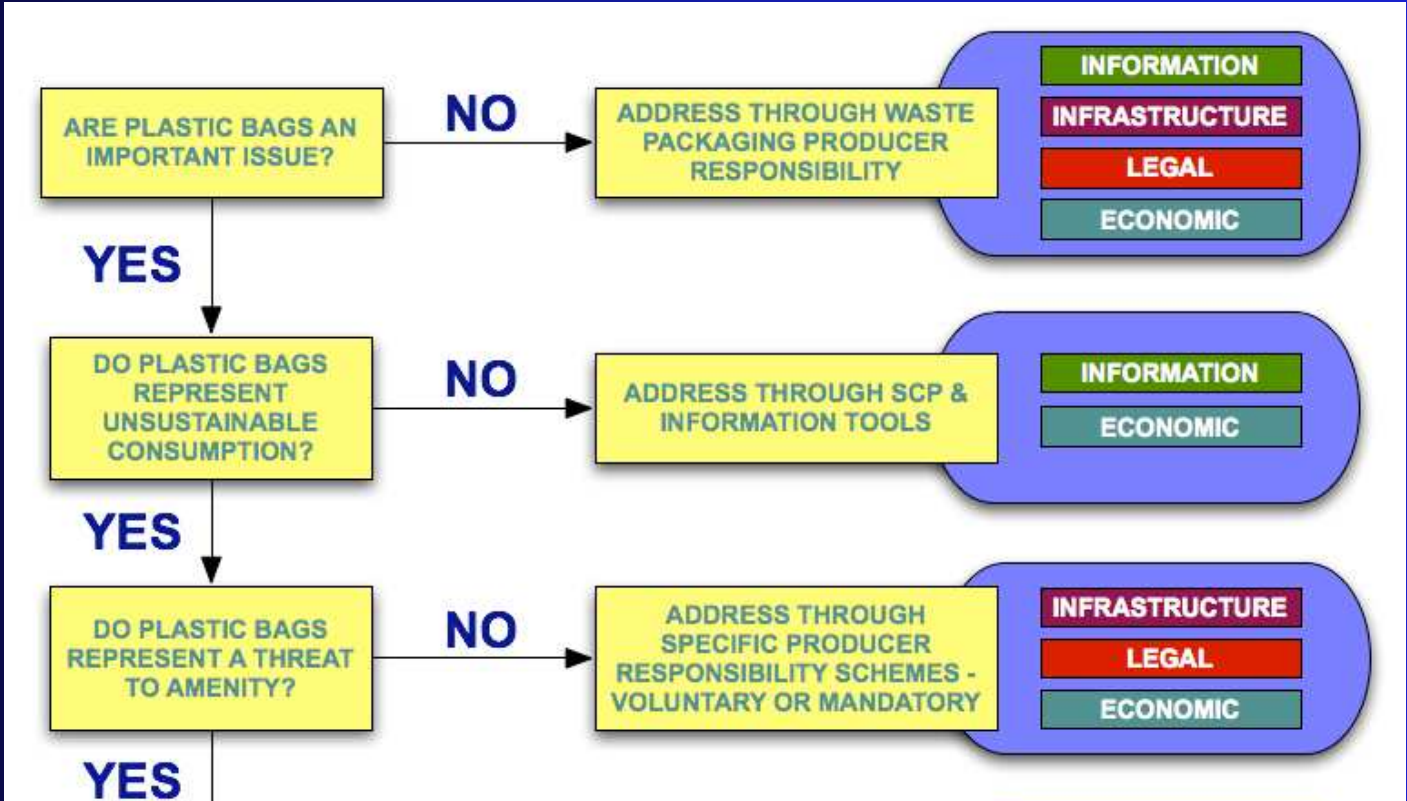
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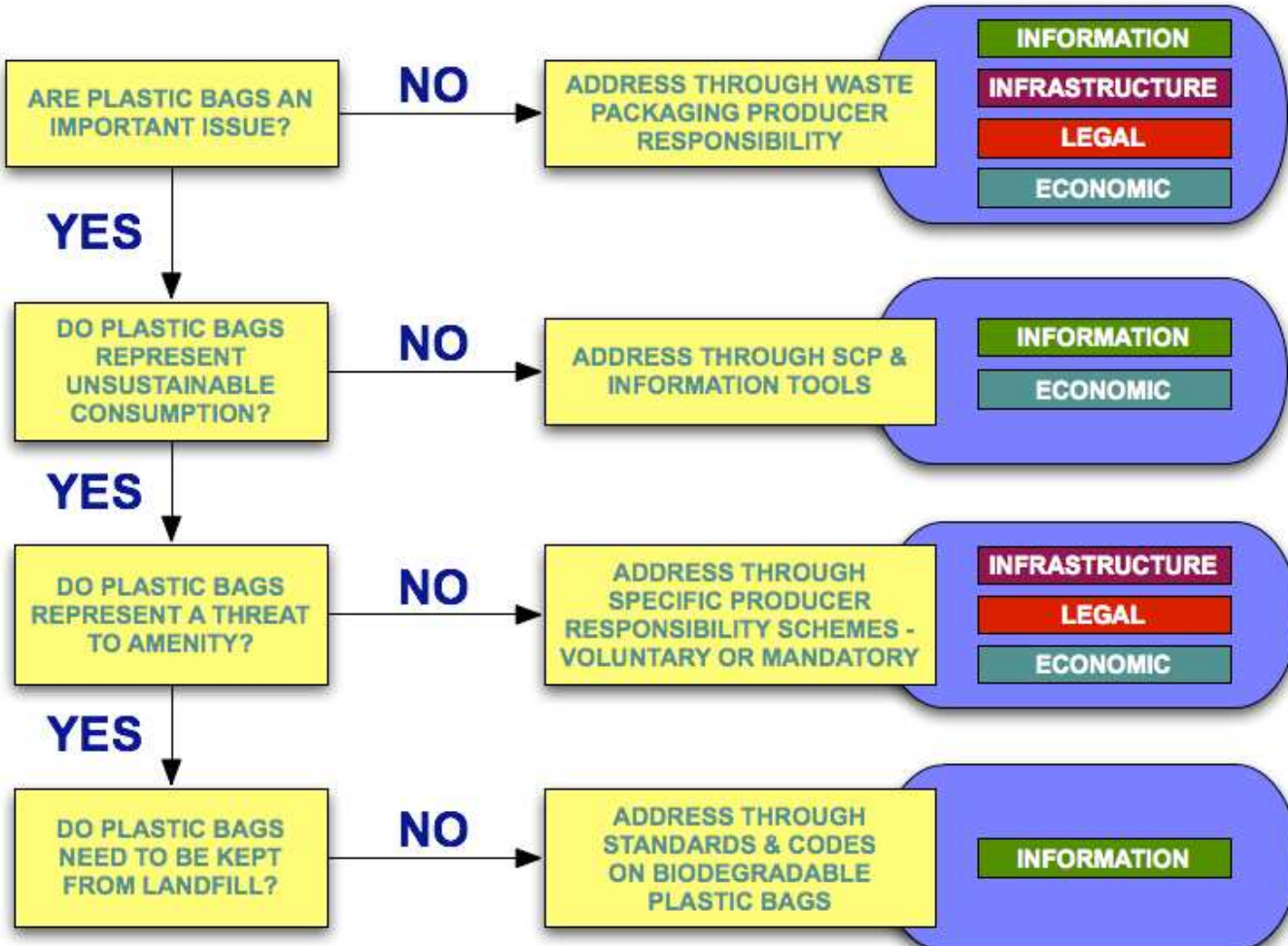
INFRASTRUCTURE

LEGAL

ECONOMIC









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- THIS IS A MODEST BUT SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION, AND AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF ENGAGING CONSUMERS

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- ending practice of free bags in supermarkets
- make reusable bags available in supermarkets
- provide collection systems for plastic bags, in in-store and household recycling schemes
- local communications campaigns to raise awareness of the issue, problems & solutions
- using any revenue from a levy or charge to fund litter clean-up or relevant research

THANK YOU

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