**Something for the weekend....Action #24:**

❤**your old bags**

With the help of some fabulous volunteers (you know who you are!), we are proud to offer live upcycling at the upcoming Eco Fayre (29th September at Fisherman's Walk, Southbourne). The focus will be on making bags out of donated fabric.

As efforts are made to reduce (and rid of) the use of plastic bags across the UK, marketing of bags made of alternative materials (paper, cotton, polyester and more) has risen. They are everywhere. Which can be handy if you get caught out with no spare and shopping to pack.

But really, how many bags do we need?

What are they made of and how is the material produced - is it sustainable, or does it carry a high carbon footprint which is potentially more polluting than plastic bags?

How much of the marketing is simply greenwashing to lure us into buying more?

In a recent post from [Morsbags Sociable Guerilla Bagging](https://www.facebook.com/morsbags/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARC6DzcITF2GqkmxUYmJXteneM8QXREGNVaK9FsJLFAwANXPdm0MRB8sLkBFlfPcf_crJHml7mIujFHw&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group):

"According to a Danish study\*, unless a newly produced reusable bag is consistently used for at least 11.5 years, it won’t offset the fact that manufacturing these types of bags creates 606 times as much water pollution as making a plastic bag...and...a UK government study echoes the fact that cotton and canvas tote bags have an enormous carbon footprint because they require more resources to produce and distribute... and "in terms of air and water contamination, cotton bags are worse than plastic bags."

\*[https://mst.dk/…/publikationer/pub…/2018/mar/plastposer-lca/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fmst.dk%2Fservice%2Fpublikationer%2Fpublikationsarkiv%2F2018%2Fmar%2Fplastposer-lca%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0XQUFK1E8RlfhJ0Bp3NwSqtE4BM05uId6lT-UiRzvFcWZc7xGc6AA1IS4&h=AT2w4Kb8ICfapSLOo2mZPRSTSNgrtWmCVWZLhQPYazkZDTpreS6TgYxoTpvxc-tjWkh3lowlC9j930ThVmHBGJJjLXquWgyreYCgf6AKTaMJtITrt-5nzbHI3m9aW11zh43lsyKT0rFKo-7R_hCNLJb0L03N-gkZ92BP2A)

So. How can you Wastebust your way out of this situation?

✅ Ensure you have a spare bag or 2 rolled up into the main bag(s) you use at all times - add it to your mental list of PHONE, KEYS, WALLET, SPARE BAG!

✅ Use what you have got until it functions no more. REUSE to the max!

✅ Shop second hand. REUSE someone else's unused! Make the most of what is already in circulation.

✅ Make your own bags with fabric you or others have stashed away; this includes repurposing old clothes, duvet covers, pillow cases, curtains or any other fabric items you have. Try a NO SEW bag out of an old T-Shirt (do a quick search on [Ecosia](https://www.facebook.com/ecosia/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARAF8A8ka0bfVhqId9-SnY58ZEGNolN5A7ege7xOlfeZ7SzXBijmDPAs7CeZLG9ZuVeBx12wMwSMm8wg&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) to find DIY tutorials online). REUSE what you can!

✅ Pop along to the upcycling stall at the Sobo Eco Fayre for inspiration and sewing tips.

If you're all set to go, go make - for you, family, friends. Or get involved with the Morsbag project to reach out to even more people.

Simply, REUSE REUSE REUSE & ❤ YOUR OLD BAGS!