

### Overview

We have all heard the phrase, “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.” The majority of Canadians have recycling options right on their doorsteps, provided by their municipalities. The recycling symbol is a common marking on the items we use. On a personal level, what to use and how to reduce our consumption can be challenging.

### Design Rationale

The evolution of packaging and the use of containers to carry purchases from shopping is interesting. In many parts of the world, customers are expected to bring their own shopping bags, and these often take the form of baskets, reusable cloth or heavy-duty plastic bags, boxes, etc. Not so long ago, a very familiar question at our store’s check out counter was whether you wanted a paper or plastic bag to transport your purchase. Currently, many stores will either charge you for a disposable bag or will credit you a few cents if you use your own bag.

Many of us feel that we are doing our part to reduce waste by bringing our own fabric bags or recyclable containers. However, the issue of what is the best solution for waste reduction may not be so black and white/paper or plastic. Please read this article from *WIRED Magazine* <http://www.wired.com/2016/06/banning-plastic-bags-great-world-right-not-fast/>. This article reminds us that using anything is complicated and has unintended consequences and impacts. While plastic bags litter the landscape and take years to decompose, paper bags consume trees, and many cloth bags are made using cotton, a very environmentally costly plant to grow.

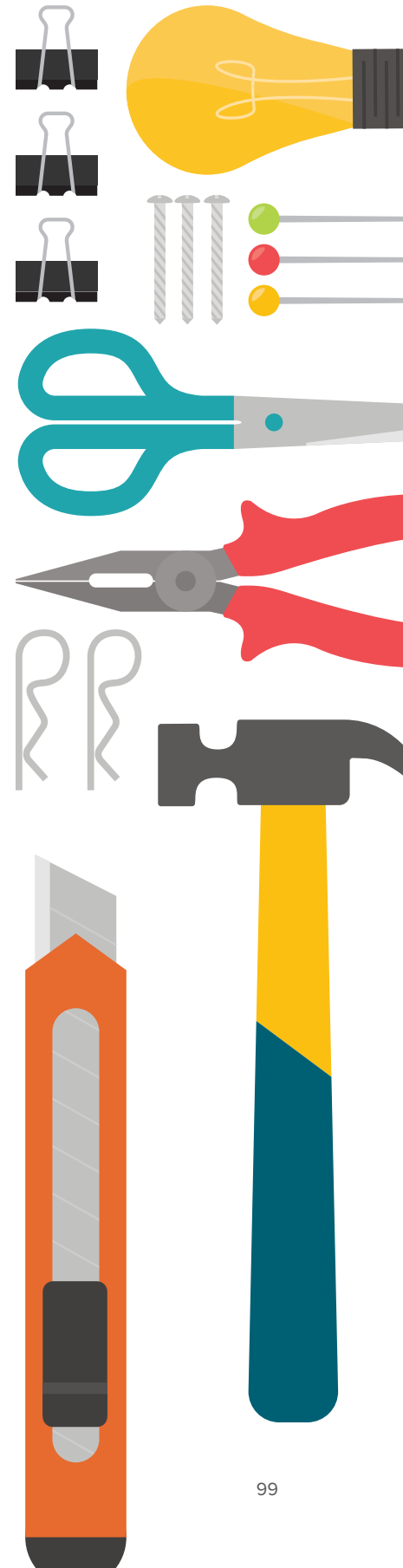
### Problem Scenario

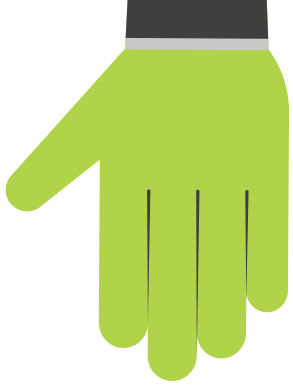
Your team has been selected to produce an option for consumers to transport their purchases. Your option needs to tend to the challenges and issues surfaced in the article, *Banning Plastic Bags Is Great for the World, Right? Not So Fast* (<http://www.wired.com/2016/06/banning-plastic-bags-great-world-right-not-fast/>). Your option also needs to be flexible, portable, reasonable, and useable by a large sector of the population.

### Success Determinants

Success will be determined by the degree to which your design solution:

- Addresses the issues suggested in the design challenge
- Uses some of all the consumable items found in the participant group kit provided
- Aligns with your design sketch
- Is useful, aesthetic and environmentally responsible
- Is easy to show how the merits of your option in relationship to the points shared in the article, *Banning Plastic Bags Is Great for the World, Right? Not So Fast* (<http://www.wired.com/2016/06/banning-plastic-bags-great-world-right-not-fast/>)





## Parameters

- ❑ Choose consumable items and materials found in the shared pantry to aid in the enhanced development of your group's prototype.
- ❑ Use the tools that have been provided at the shared tool station.

