



Creating Replacements for Single-Use Plastics in the Cuenca Soup Kitchen

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our environment and plastics

of all plastics ever
produced have
been recycled

9%

40%

of the world's ocean
surface is covered in
plastics

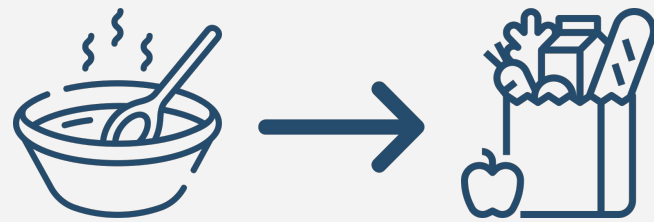
380
million
tons
produced

50%

of all plastics produced are
single-use



Cuenca Soup Kitchen



doing research



bulk packaging



bags per food kit

2

1

1



4 bags per kit * 175 families = 700 bags per distribution

700 bags per distribution * 26 distributions per year

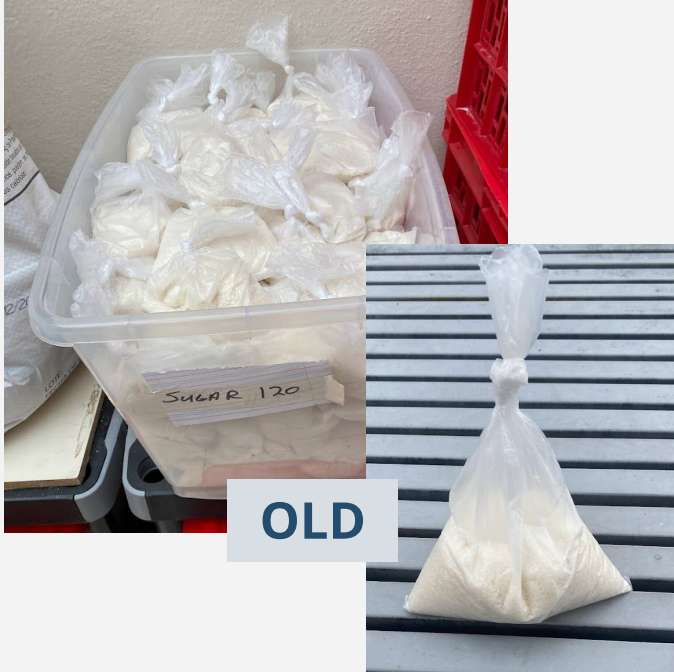
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18,200 single-use bags per year



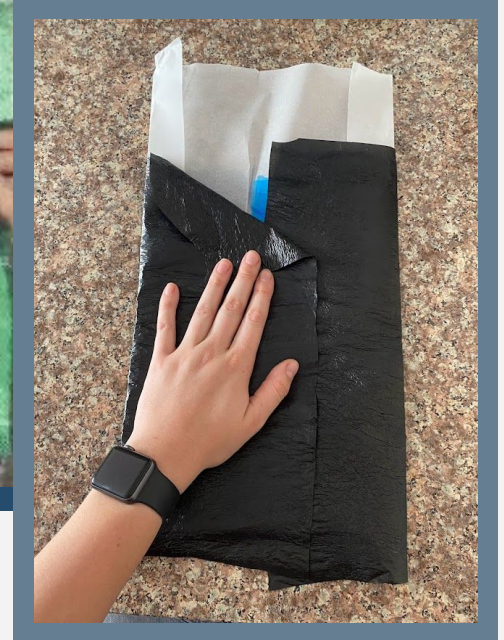
OUR SOLUTION

salt and sugar: repurposed plastic bottles

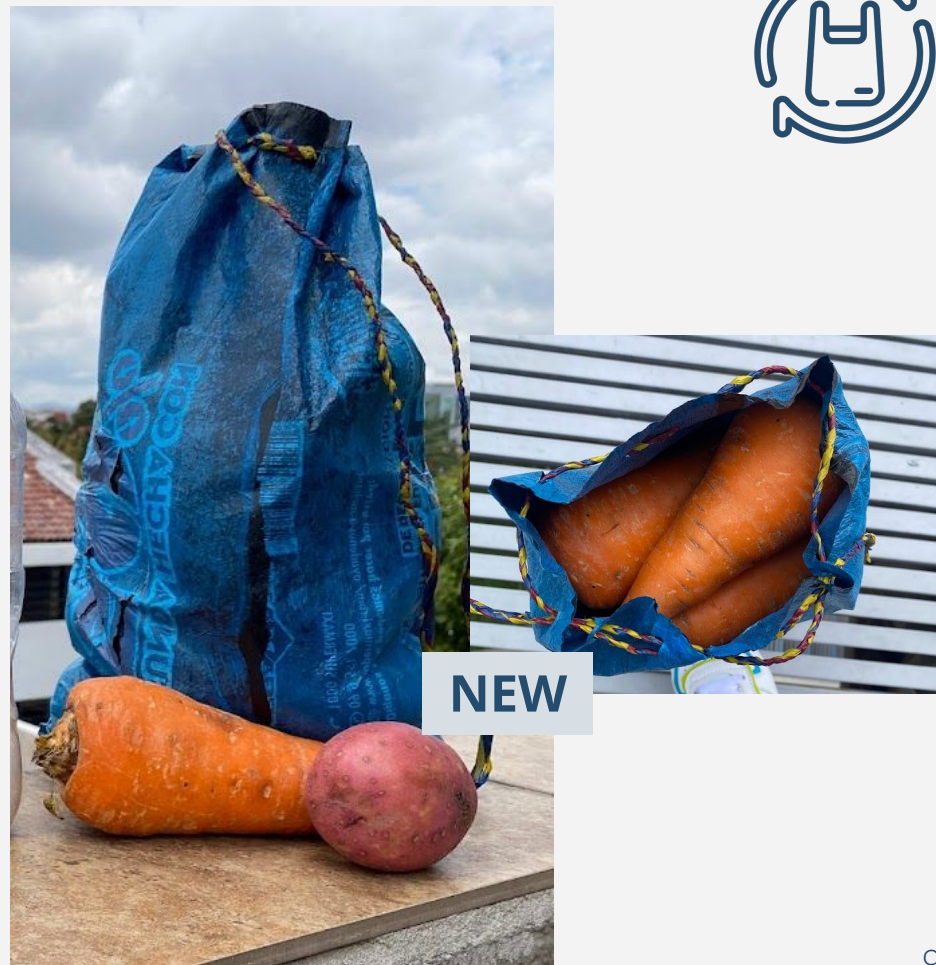




produce and rice: repurposed plastic bags



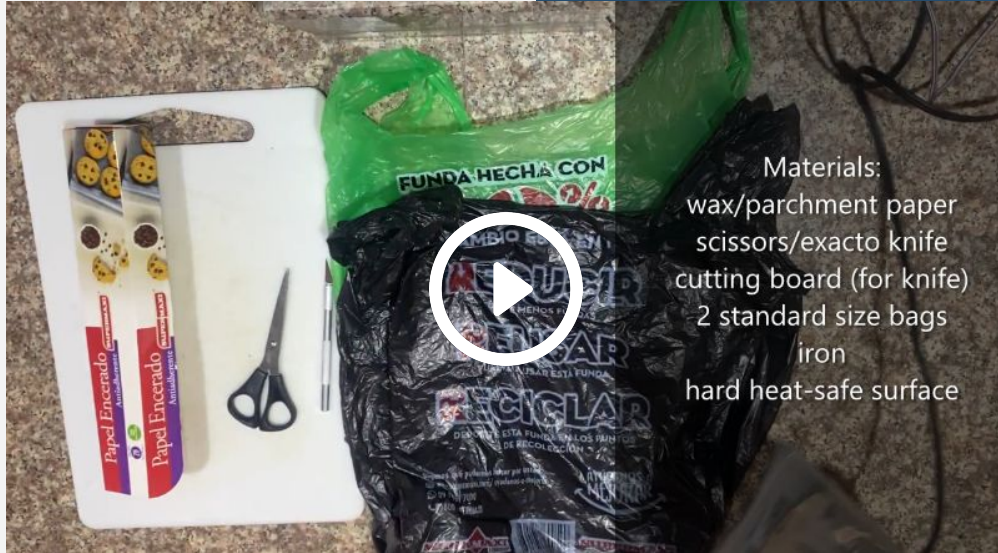
produce: repurposed plastic bags



rice: repurposed plastic bags



how to make the bags



Materials:
 wax/parchment paper
 scissors/exacto knife
 cutting board (for knife)
 2 standard size bags
 iron
 hard heat-safe surface

How to Make: Repurposed Rice Bags



- Materials**
- 2 repurposed 35L all-out green bags
 - Wax/parchment paper
 - Scissors or exacto knife
 - Iron
 - Hard heat safe surface (preferably green ceramic tile)
 - Ironing board (optional)
 - Sealing thread and needle

Step 1: Flatten and Cut Bags

Flatten and straighten both bags as best as possible. Cut off the bottom seam and handles. Cut ONE side seam of bag. Repeat with second bag.



Step 2: Refold Bag

Unfold one bag. You should have one long piece of plastic as shown below. Refold the bag in half such that all markings are now on the inside.



Step 3: Iron Bag

Place wax paper over the folded bag. Ensure iron has **no** water, and use "cotton" setting. Iron across the wax paper. This process typically takes 3 minutes.



Step 4: Fuse Both Bags

Unfold the second bag from step 1, and place your fused bag (from step 3) in the middle, as shown below. Place wax paper over the bags and iron as you did in step 3. When finished, flip bag over and place wax on other side. Iron again.



Step 5: Iron Middle Seam

Place a folded piece of wax paper in the middle of the fabric, and wrap the fabric around it. Place a piece of wax paper on top and iron the middle seam only, as depicted by the dashed line.



Step 6: Iron Bottom Seam

Fold bottom of bag over itself, as shown below. The fold is the seam. Ensure wax paper is **NOT** in the folded portion. Cover the entire bag with wax paper and iron over the bottom seam only, as depicted by the dashed line. Do not iron the rest of the bag. Flip bag over and repeat on other side. Iron bottom corners of bag.



Step 7: Final Touches

Remove wax paper from inside the bag, and cut top to be as straight as possible. Sew zipper on top edge. You now have a repurposed bag!



Tips

- Do not place iron directly on plastic bags
- Rips can be patched by ironing plastic over the rip
- Wax paper can be reused to make multiple bags
- Using more than 2 plastic bags will result in a thicker fabric
- Paying extra attention to corners and seams will help prevent tears and rips, and make the bag sturdier

Conclusion

18,000 single-use bags
= \$900/year
= support for 3 families



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

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Our sponsors and co-directors of the Cuenca Soup Kitchen

Cuenca Soup Kitchen Volunteers

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