

## **ABSTRACT**

The main purposes of this study are to find out university student behavior in using plastic bags and to measure their basic knowledge and understanding of plastic bags and global warming.

Data were accumulated from 102 questionnaires completed by students from Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, and Silpakorn University as sampling groups. The study is quantitative research with a non-probability sampling design using non-proportional quota sampling. The results of the study indicated 92% of the students knew that plastic bags are made from petroleum. Most of them believed that plastic bags are non-biodegradable. Many students recognized that carbon dioxide is one of the gases contributing to global warming; however, 43.1% of the respondents believed that carbon monoxide was also another gas. Interestingly enough, only 2% of the respondents recognized methane as a greenhouse gas.

The study suggested that; the majority of the students were aware of the plastic bags issue and tended to reduce the number of the plastic bags they used by preparing their own carriers, rejecting plastic bags which seem unnecessary. The study also found that the sellers' actions influence student behavior. There was a probability that some students would use the plastic bags unavoidably if the sellers had already put the merchandises in the plastic bags, although the students saw that the plastic bags given were unnecessary.

It can be implied from the results of the study that most students took responsible for disposing the plastic bags they used properly. Many of them disposed of plastic bags properly at places arranged for such use and did the same for plastic bags which were found as litter. And when there was no litter bin nearby, 83.3% of them would keep the plastic bags with them and dispose of them at proper places later.