

PLASTIC CHECK-OUT BAG POLICY STATEMENT

Policy

The Board of Selectmen is committed to reducing the environmental and aesthetic impact of the improper disposal of single-use plastic bags. Plastic shopping bags are difficult to recycle, contribute to the contamination of waste processed at the Town's Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS), and create significant litter problems in business centers, neighborhoods, parks, and in sewer and storm drain systems.

A reduction in the use of single-use plastic checkout bags through a voluntary, public- private partnership will have a positive impact on the Town and the region. The Board of Selectmen therefore requests that all commercial establishments with a retail space of 3,500 s.f. or greater that sell goods directly to the consumer discontinue use of single-use plastic check-out bags, on or before June 1st, 2018, in favor of reusable or recyclable paper bags.

The Board further encourages all retail establishments selling goods directly to the consumer, regardless of retail space area, to consider and act, consistent with the requirements of their businesses, to minimize the use of plastic check-out bags in favor of reusable bags or recyclable paper bags.

Exceptions

This policy statement shall not apply to bags, whether plastic or otherwise, in which loose produce or products are placed by a consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or check-out area of a retail establishment or used to contain dry cleaning, produce, meat, bulk foods or similar merchandise.

Definitions

Checkout Bag – a bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale.

Reusable Bag - a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple use and is made of thick plastic, cloth or other washable durable materials

Recyclable Paper Bags - a paper bag that is 100% recyclable, whether or not containing post-consumer content.