

PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION BYLAW





How Many Plastic Checkout Bags Do We Use?

4 Million every year in Wayland

Based on Wayland's population (13,444) as a percent of the US population (318.9 million) and the Federal Government's statistics on national checkout bag distribution (102 billion per year)

Reference - New York Times

Overview of Plastic Bag Reduction bylaw



- ▶ Eliminates the use of thin-film single-use plastic check-out bags in Wayland



- ▶ Promotes the use of re-useable shopping bags



- ▶ Preserves the ability to use plastic bags for dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise

Why Ban the Bags?

- ▶ There are Environmental, Health and Potential Economic Benefits by banning bags
- ▶ There are also some potential objections that can be easily handled
- ▶ Let's take a look

Bags that will still be available



Bag Litter

- ▶ Bag litter detracts from Wayland's natural beauty and community appeal
- ▶ Plastic bags pollute parks, conservation lands, wetlands, and waterways
- ▶ Bags can get into storm drains and the sewer system, requiring a cost to the town to correct
- ▶ Scenes from the Wayland Town Beach



Environmental Impact

Only 5-10% of plastic bags are properly recycled

Bags Are Very Harmful to Wildlife, Locally and Far Away

Entanglement:

Animals become entangled long before “degradable” bags break down



Marine degradable bags do not exist in the U.S.

Bio-degradable or compostable bags are not a viable alternative



Bags Look Like Food

Boston Globe, Dec. 4, 2016

Is it a bag or a sea jelly?



CHRIS JO
A dead baby albatross on Midway Atoll, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. This bird was among many who are fed lethal amounts of plastic by their parents, who mistake the floating trash for food.

Why seabirds can't stop eating plastic

THE NO secret that trash ends up in brielle Nevitt, head of the UC Davis lab

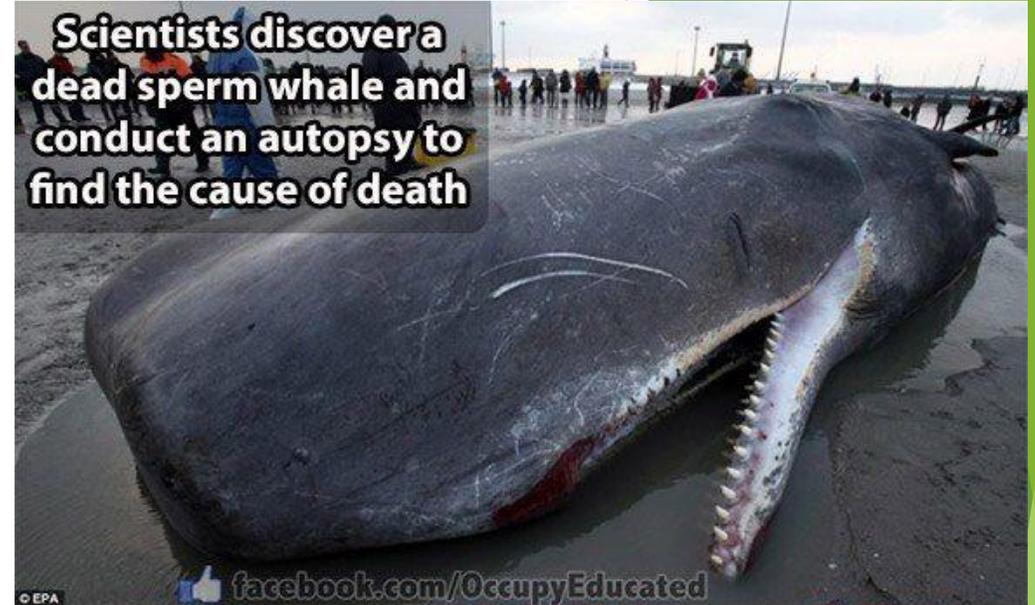
Environmental Impact



Plastic bags need **500 to 1000 years** to break down and they never fully biodegrade



Environmental Impact



Scientists discover a dead sperm whale and conduct an autopsy to find the cause of death

facebook.com/OccupyEducated



Inside the whale's unusually bloated stomach, they find 100 plastic bags

© Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute

Economic Issues

- ▶ Plastic bags cannot be part of single stream recycling
 - ▶ They are not allowed in the single stream bin because they clog the machinery, creating down time for the operation



If recycled, plastic bags must be in their own recycling stream



“This is the #1 contaminate in our recycling stream.”
EL Harvey and Framingham DPW



Economic Issues

- ▶ **Wellesley has stopped recycling plastic bags**
- ▶ **Market Collapse:** Low oil prices allow plastic manufacturers to buy “fresh” petroleum-based materials rather than using recycled plastic.
 - ▶ *There is little or no market for recycled bags*
- ▶ **Storage challenges / Handling Difficulties**

- ▶ ***Plastic bags can lead to higher recycling costs***
 - ▶ *Bags in the single stream can increase the cost of recycling*
 - ▶ *Bags in their own stream have little or no market value*



Health Issues - I ask you to consider the health and work environment of these workers!



**Workers removing plastic bags from recycling machinery.
Photo courtesy of Klicker and Waste Connections**

Instead of banning plastic bags, why don't we just educate and encourage more recycling?

- ▶ You can never reach the entire population
- ▶ Some people don't care about litter or environmental issues
- ▶ There is no budget for education and awareness
- ▶ Increased recycling might increase the Town's recycling cost
 - ▶ Only 5 to 10% of plastic bags are recycled and this is already enough to make the bags “the #1 contaminate in [the Framingham] recycling stream”
 - ▶ Increased recycling would just make this worse

Possible Concerns

- ▶ I use checkout bags as doggie poop bags
- ▶ I use checkout bags as trash can liners
- ▶ What will stores use instead of plastic checkout bags?
- ▶ Is it sanitary to carry meat in reusable bags?
- ▶ Will this hurt Wayland businesses?
- ▶ What is the cost to the Town? How is the ban enforced?
- ▶ Are there bans in other towns?



Some choices for pet waste bags



Garbage can liner ideas...



Eco friendly bags are cheap!



Roll over image to zoom in

Earth Friendly Pets N Bags Dog Waste Poop Bags, Refill Rolls (60 Rolls / 900 Count, Unscented) Includes Dispenser

by Pets N Bags

★★★★★ 499 customer reviews

| 16 answered questions

Price: **\$19.99** ✓Prime
+ \$0.00 estimated tax

In Stock.

Want it **Wednesday, May 4**? Order within **1 hr 19 mins** and choose **Two-Day Shipping** at checkout. [Details](#)
Sold by **i-BLASON** and **Fulfilled by Amazon**. Gift-wrap available.

Size: **60 Rolls / 900 Count**

16 Rolls / 240 Count
\$10.99 ✓Prime

24 Rolls / 360 Count
\$13.99 ✓Prime

60 Rolls / 900 Count
\$19.99 ✓Prime

8 Rolls / 120 Count
\$5.99 ✓Prime

What will stores use instead of plastic bags?

- ▶ There are two major alternatives
 - ▶ Paper bags with at least 40% recycled content
 - ▶ Reusable bags - for sale and/or customer provided
- ▶ **Please BYOB!** This is the best alternative, better than paper
 - ▶ Little environmental impact
 - ▶ Stronger than paper (or plastic)



Tips for an easy transition



Is it sanitary to carry meat in reusable bags?

Yes, it's safe.

In 30+ years since the advent of reusable shopping bags there is no credible research or evidence linking reusable bags to outbreaks of e-coli or any other harmful bacteria

Reusable bags are washable

You can put meat in a meat or produce bag for extra protection



Will this hurt businesses?

- ▶ Many Wayland stores have already eliminated plastic bags
- ▶ Many Wayland stores are part of national chains
 - ▶ Interviews with store managers confirm that national chains will conform to local bylaws - no issue for them
- ▶ In interviews with local businesses [so far], no complaints
- ▶ Bag ban is a potential opportunity for stores and restaurants
 - ▶ Buying less bags saves businesses money
 - ▶ Revenue from reusable bag sales
 - ▶ Reusable bags as advertising
- ▶ BJs, Trader Joe's and Whole foods haven't had plastic bags for years -their business is thriving

Businesses do need time to adapt

- ▶ The effective date is January 1, 2018
 - ▶ This gives stores 8 months after town meeting to use up existing inventory and stock alternatives
 - ▶ A store can request up to 6 months extension if this is a hardship

What is the cost to the town?

How is the ban enforced?



- ▶ There should be little cost to the town
- ▶ Outreach and education for Wayland businesses can be done by Transition Wayland with cooperation and support by BoPW
- ▶ The town will benefit from reduced waste disposal cost at the transfer station
- ▶ Enforcement, if needed, would be done by BoPW via DPW
- ▶ BoPW/DPW can rely on citizen reports/monitoring of stores for compliance
 - ▶ No need to do inspections!
 - ▶ Chain stores will certainly conform
 - ▶ Once a store stocks alternatives there is little probability of going against the bylaw and reverting to plastic bags
- ▶ A data point from Newton (which has many stores with ban in effect since 7/20/15):
“Enforcement has never been an issue in Newton. We have issued zero warnings and zero fines”.

42 Massachusetts cities and towns have banned plastic bags

- ▶ *Now is the time for Wayland to do so as well.*
- ▶ Wayland is not breaking new ground.
- ▶ The Framingham ban is effective January 1, 2018. This will also be the effective date for Wayland.
 - ▶ Our merchants will not be at a disadvantage compared to the large retail base in Framingham.

Local action by cities and towns builds momentum for a state-wide ban.

Adams	Manchester
Amherst	Marblehead
Aquinnah	Mashpee
Barnstable	Nantucket
Bourne	Natick**
Bridgewater	Newburyport
Brookline	Newton
Cambridge	Northampton
Chatham	Plymouth
Chilmark	Provincetown
Concord	Salem
Dennis	Sandwich
Edgartown	Shrewsbury
Falmouth	Somerville
Great Barrington	Tisbury
Greenfield*	Truro
Hamilton	Watertown
Harwich	Wellesley
Ipswich	Wellfleet
Lee	West Tisbury
Lenox-BoH	Williamstown

Questions?

