



B.Y.O.B

BRING YOUR OWN BAG

KEEP WATERFORD CLEAN AND GREEN

THE PROBLEM: Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags a year causing significant damage to the environment. Plastics do not biodegrade but just break into pieces and get into storm water, animals, the soil and ultimately the ocean. **NEW JERSEY TOWNSHIPS ARE BEGINNING TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS. Here is something you can do to help the environment and get ahead of the curve NOW – use your own reusable bags for shopping.**

Plastic bags become **trash:** Everywhere we look, there are plastic bags caught in trees and bushes, in creeks and streams, and in our streets. There are “plastic islands” in the ocean that are thousands of square miles in size.

Plastic bags **kill wildlife:** marine animals mistake plastic bags for food, the bags can’t be digested, so the animals starve to death. Fish and wildlife also get tangled up in bags resulting in strangulation or reduced mobility.

Plastic bags are **unsustainable:** plastic bags are made from petroleum and natural gas and contribute to increased greenhouse emissions.

Plastic bags cause **infrastructure failure:** plastic bags end up caught on storm drains and attracting a cover of leaves and debris, preventing water from entering the drains which causes flooding.

THE SOLUTION: REUSABLE BAGS. Bringing your own shopping bags (made from recycled material as an extra bonus) contributes to addressing each of these negative effects of plastic bags.

WHERE TO GET THEM LOCALLY: Shoprite (insulated/thermal and regular), RiteAid, and Dollar General

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEM: Use separate bags for raw meats, seafood and produce. Wash bags frequently following care instructions on label. Wipe insulated bags with a disinfecting cloth. Make sure bags are dry before storing them.

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