

Carry-Out Bag Ordinance

Plastic Bag Pollution Reduction Ordinance
recommended for municipalities by ANJEC
(Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions)

A proposal by Sustainable Verona



How it Works

The Carry-Out Bag Ordinance promotes the use of reusable bags.

- **Regulates** the use of carry-out bags in retail stores and food establishments.
- **Prohibits** single-use plastic carry-out bags.
- **Requires** a 10 cent minimum charge on compliant carry-out bags (paper and fabric).

How the Carry-Out Bag Ordinance Works



The ordinance prohibits single-use plastic carry-out bags.

It takes effect **6 MONTHS AFTER ADOPTION** to give businesses time to comply.

Businesses can supply two types of **COMPLIANT BAGS:**

1. Paper carry-out bags
2. Reusable fabric bags

Compliant bags should be available to customers **upon request for a FEE** of at least \$0.10 -shown on the customer's receipt. **Businesses KEEP the entire fee.**



Volunteers clean up Verona Lake



Volunteers clean up the West Essex Trail

How can customers **avoid**
the 10¢ charge?

Customers can avoid a 10¢ charge by

1. bringing their own bag or
2. refusing a bag when making a purchase

The bag charge does not apply to **EBT, WIC, SNAP, and food stamp** program transactions.

This ordinance does not apply to nonprofit charitable organizations.



Volunteers clean up Grove Park

Bags NOT subject to 10¢ charge

The ordinance does not apply to bags used for the following:

- To package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candies, or small hardware items
- To wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish
- To wrap flowers, plants, or other items where dampness may be an issue
- To contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods
- Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry and/or dry-cleaning bags
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags (for food storage, garbage, yard waste, or pet waste)
- Pharmacy prescription bags



Ordinance Definitions

- **Single-use plastic carry-out bags:** plastic bags provided by businesses to customers at the point of sale (including compostable or biodegradable bags).
- **Compliant bag:** paper carry-out bags and reusable fabric bags.
- **Paper carry-out bags:** 100% recyclable, made with 40% or more post-consumer recycled material, compostable, and labeled "recyclable" or "reusable".
- **Reusable bags:** bags made from machine-washable fabric, without lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts.
- **Compliant bag fee:** businesses should provide customers with a paper bag upon request (for a fee of at least \$0.10 but not more than \$0.25 per bag), and may provide customers with a reusable bag (for a fee of at least \$0.10). Includes bags provided for takeout/delivery.



Volunteers clean up tributaries of the Peckman River



Volunteers clean up Verona Park

How much could we **save**
with this ordinance?

Based on a report produced by Parsons Brinckerhoff, the town of Brattleboro in Vermont, calculated the following:

- A municipality with a **population** of about **12,000** and an average plastic bag usage of **531 bags** per person per year, will be...
- Eliminating about **6,372,000 plastic bags** per year and
- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions** from manufacturing, distribution and disposal of plastic bags by nearly **170 metric tons** of carbon dioxide per year.

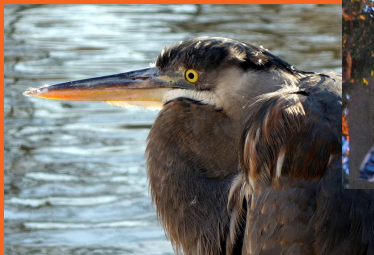
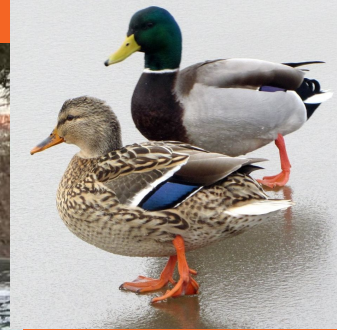


At about 4 cents a bag, local retailers could **save about \$254,880 per year** on plastic bags, in a municipality with a population of about 12,000. Customers pay for compliant bags.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this ordinance?

- Reduce the impact to the town and the environment of disposable bags.
- Reduce litter, waste, and microplastics.
- Reduce pressure on waste management, contamination in recycling, in turn reducing costs to taxpayers.
- Improve water quality.
- Mitigate harmful impacts to rivers, lakes, forests and wildlife.
- Discourage the use of disposable bags.
- Encourage the use of reusable bags.



What types of businesses does the ordinance apply to?

- All retail stores and food establishments in Verona.
- This ordinance does not apply to nonprofit charitable organizations.
- Businesses will charge a minimum of 10¢ per compliant checkout bag.
- Single-use plastic carry-out bags are prohibited.

How will the 10¢ charge be monitored?

- The charge must be shown separately as a single line item on the customer's receipt.
- It is not taxable to the consumer.
- Businesses will need to adjust their Point of Sale (POS) systems.

Where does the 10¢ charge go?

- Stores and food establishments keep the entire checkout bag charge to help offset the cost of compliant bags.



What happens to businesses out of compliance?

- Sustainable Verona and the Environmental Commission will focus on education and helping businesses comply.
- Starting six months after ordinance adoption, customers can report violations.
- Verona's Code Enforcement Office will follow-up with the business. For those who are persistently out of compliance, warnings and fines will be issued.



What type of bags can businesses supply?

Compliant checkout bags include:

- Recyclable paper bags labeled with 40% post-consumer recycled content
- Reusable checkout bags made of cloth or other washable fabric that are specifically manufactured for multiple reuse.

What is the disposal cost?

- The average use lifespan of a plastic bag is **12 minutes** and it takes hundreds of years for a plastic bag to degrade.
- The NY City Sanitation Department collects over **1,700 tons** of single-use carry-out bags **every week**, and spends **\$12.5 million** a year on disposal.
- Verona is not free from such pollution cost.
- The bags wash up in water bodies, clog drains, harm wildlife, litter streets, and contaminate the environment.

Are there any alternatives? Whole Foods banned plastic bags from its checkouts in 2008. Their paper bags are FSC-certified and made from 100% post-consumer recycled content. They offer shoppers who bring their own bags a refund.



Plastic Pollution

NJ Conserve Wildlife Foundation's Habitat Program Manager Ben Wurst, who monitors osprey nests, posted these pictures of single use plastic shopping bag wrapped around the neck of the incubating female.

The True Costs of Plastic

There are **150 tons of plastics** in our oceans. About **eight-million additional tons** enter each year. Most of it starts out on land as litter.

Plastic debris kills over 100,000 turtles and mammals every year, and approximately 1 million seabirds.

Plastics break into microplastic pieces and contaminates seafood and shorelines.

Carcinogens latch onto microplastics in our waters, and then are eaten by fish and move up the food chain. **We eat fish that eat plastic.**

The concerns of disposable plastic are too big to ignore.

Plastic Bag Bans

work. A plastic bag ban led to an 89% reduction in the number of plastic bags winding up in the city's storm drains in San Jose, California.



Photo Credit: <http://www.seaturtle.org/imagelib/?photo=4364>

Nationwide Effort

Americans use over 100 billion single use plastic bags yearly. No more than 5% of plastic bags are recycled, 10% of plastic bags end up in the ocean.

In 2007 San Francisco became the first city in the U.S. to ban plastic bags. California and Hawaii imposed a statewide ban on plastic bags.



OCTOBER 1, 2013

- City law prohibits all single-use checkout plastic bags
- Mandatory charge of 10¢ per checkout bag provided
- Save 10¢ when you say no to a bag



SF Environment
Our home. Our city. Our planet.
A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

sfenvironment.org/checkoutbag
(415) 890-2962

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

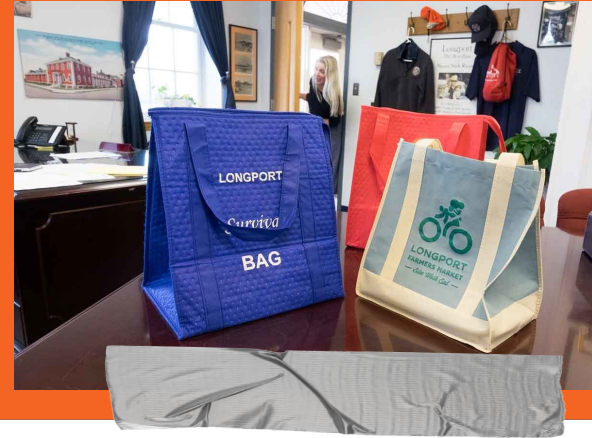
U.S. cities and counties in 18 states approved plastic bag bans or fees in the last 10 years.

Notable cities with plastic bag bans or fees include:

- Austin
- Cambridge (Massachusetts)
- Chicago
- Los Angeles
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Boulder (Colorado)
- Brownsville (Texas)
- Montgomery County (Maryland)
- New York (N.Y.)
- Portland (Maine)
- Washington D.C.

New Jersey Statewide Legislation

- Last August Gov. Phil Murphy vetoed a state bill that would have established a proposed fee on single-use plastic shopping bags. **The governor said the bill did not go far enough to address the “over reliance on plastic bags.”**
- On September 28, a bill passed the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. It would prohibit stores and food service businesses from providing single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene foam food products to their customers.
- If the governor signs the bill, it would take effect one year after. At the state level, several proposals failed in the past.



Statewide ban

“The more towns and counties ban plastic bags, plastic straws, polystyrene, and Styrofoam, the more likely there will be a statewide ban,” said Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.

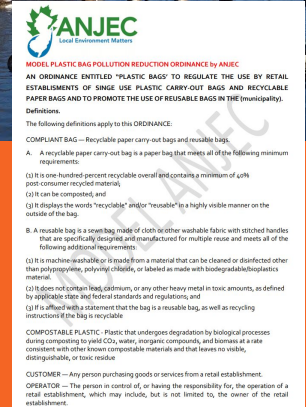
Legislation in New Jersey Municipalities

- In 2015 Longport became the first NJ municipality to charge 10¢ per checkout bag.
- **NJ Municipalities with plastic bag legislation include:** Jersey City, Hoboken, Belmar, Monmouth, Bradley Beach, Longport, Ventnor, Long Beach, Pleasant Beach, Stafford, Harvey Cedars, and Teaneck.
- Atlantic County banned plastic bags and straws in county parks.
- Avalon (Atlantic County), Stone Harbor (Cape May County), and Lambertville (Hunterdon County) banned plastic straws, stirrers, single-use carryout bags and polystyrene products.



What can we do?

Verona could start reducing plastic waste by adopting [ANJEC's Model Ordinance](#) to ban single use plastic carry-out bags.



Examples of Official Notice and ANJEC Model

- [Expanded Bag Reduction Notice](#)
- [Attention All Food Establishments](#)
- [ANJEC Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance](#)

Examples of Resources for Businesses

Food Establishment Resources

- [Checkout Bag Factsheet & Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for Food Establishments](#)
- [Sample Placard for Food Establishments](#)
- ["Say No to a New Bag" Poster for Food Establishments](#)

How to Notify Customers

- [Sample Placard for Stores](#)
- [Bring Your Bag Poster - 8.5"x11"](#)
- [Bring Your Bag Poster - 11"x17"](#)

Where to Buy Bags

- [Suppliers of Recycled Paper Checkout Bags](#)
- [Suppliers of Reusable Checkout Bags](#)

 Notice for Food Establishments
OCTOBER 1, 2013

Say NO to a new BAG. 

Avoid the San Francisco mandatory bag charge.

10¢ CHARGE 
minimum on compliant
takeout and delivery bags.
compostable recyclable

NO MORE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS. 

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

  **SF Environment**
Our home. Our city. Our planet.
A Department of the City and County of San Francisco.

 **Checkout Bag Ordinance**
SFEnvironment.org/checkoutbag
(415) 890-2962

To help stores comply with the Carry-Out Bag Ordinance, we could host **Informative Events**

- This would be a great opportunity to meet bag suppliers and see examples of acceptable recyclable, and reusable bag options.
- Town staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions and distribute reusable cloth bags to participants, courtesy of Sustainable Verona.



SUSTAINABLE
VERONA 
Creating a Greener Community