Plastic Bag Ban, Dover, MA

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Why Plastic Bags are Bad for the Environment

- Pollute our water and land
- Made from non-renewable resources
- Contribute to climate change
- Charles River is filled with plastic garbage
- Streets all around town are lined with trash

https://www.google.com/search?q=plastic+bag+in+charles+river&lr=1CAQJMT_enUS839&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwijuqWghPPgA_iWmDlKHZHDQwQ_AUIDygCdbiw=1366&biw=609&safe=active&source=image&client=firefox-b&bihb=1
Dover’s Garbage
What happens when an animal eats plastic?

- Turtles and other sea creatures eat the bags
- Some animals cannot digest the plastic which leads to death
- Some animals choke on plastic, which causes them to die
- Found in fish we eat

https://www.google.com/search?q=fish+with+plastic+in+stomach&rlz=1C4Q1MT_enUS839&source=imme&bmn=tech&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj4gIDhtPT2AhXs1kKHRwQvQoQ_AUJhDgB&biw=1366&bih=609&safe=active&ssui=on#imgrc=87zUiMmKBWDq3M
Are plastic bags recyclable?

- Can’t be recycled
- Collect too much dirt, and trash
- Get tangled up with other recyclables
- Are usually thrown out with whatever is tangled up with them

https://www.google.com/search?q=plastic+bags&source=lnms&tbm=isch&a=X&ved=0ahUKEwmjzIbdmWzZAhUJX0Q_AUIdygC&biw=1280&bih=621&safe=active&sa=i&usg=AOvVaw2E47IdJfhE0m6M
Paper bags vs Plastic bags

- Sell for 5-10 cents per bag
- It usually doesn’t hurt the environment since they are grown on tree farms where every tree that is cut down another one is usually planted
- Reusable bags are the best and could also be sold at stores or as fund raisers
Places that have Banned Plastic Bag

- Currently 93 Massachusetts cities and towns, over 40% of the state's population, regulate single-use plastic shopping bags: - * Feb 2019

Examples of small town: Plymouth, Duxbury, Gloucester, Needham, Marshfield, Wellesley, Natick, Newton, Boston and Framingham

https://massachusetts.surfrider.org/world-oceans-day-spotlight/
Why is it Good for Dover to Ban?

- Good for town, shows progressive thinking and care for the environment
- Good example for children and community
- Soon to be statewide ban, since they were recently banned in Boston!

Dover Store Responses to Voluntary Ban

- Called Dover Deli and Dover Market
- Both refuse to voluntary ban
  - Dover Deli: By putting price on bags it is believed that it would drive away business
- Many residents are in full support!
Where are we now?

Dover Selectmen - support us and the plastic bag ban

Recycling Committee - voted unanimously in support the plastic bag ban
Bags of trash we collected

- Signed up for Dover Town Clean-up in April
- We have recruited Senator John Rush to come and help us clean up!

(more pictures will be here from Dover clean up and from the plastic bag collection month at the transfer station)
Thank You
Bylaw

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11f2vT-aNqQR-zpEfaliI505uS3mqew6iKE0i9nutWtM/edit?usp=sharing