

# 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&rlz=1CAQIMT\\_enUS839&ou rce=lnms&tbm=isch&s a=X&ved=0ah UKewijqWghPPgAh WSON8KHZtHDQwQ\\_AUIDygC&biw=1 366&bih=609&s afe=active&s ui-on#imgre=Ri2azmi\\_q3seJM](https://www.google.com/search?q=plastic+bag+in+charles+river&rlz=1CAQIMT_enUS839&ou rce=lnms&tbm=isch&s a=X&ved=0ah UKewijqWghPPgAh WSON8KHZtHDQwQ_AUIDygC&biw=1 366&bih=609&s afe=active&s ui-on#imgre=Ri2azmi_q3seJM)

# 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=1CAQIMT\\_enUS839&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEw4gIDthPPgAhXsx1kKHrXwDxoQAUIDigB&biw=1366&bih=609&safe=active&ssui=on#imgrc=87zUiMmKBWdQ3M](https://www.google.com/search?q=fish+with+plastic+in+stomach&rlz=1CAQIMT_enUS839&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEw4gIDthPPgAhXsx1kKHrXwDxoQAUIDigB&biw=1366&bih=609&safe=active&ssui=on#imgrc=87zUiMmKBWdQ3M)

# Are plastic bags recyclable?

**Mass Law  
Prohibits  
Recyclables  
In Trash**  
Please Separate Your  
Recyclables

- 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=0ahUK EwjzP\\_QoengAhUmm-AKHXQtB68Q\\_AUIDygC&biw=1280&bih=621&afe=active&sui=on#imgrc=e47iddJfbE0m6M](https://www.google.com/search?q=plastic+bags&source=lnms&tbm=isch&a=X&ved=0ahUK EwjzP_QoengAhUmm-AKHXQtB68Q_AUIDygC&biw=1280&bih=621&afe=active&sui=on#imgrc=e47iddJfbE0m6M)

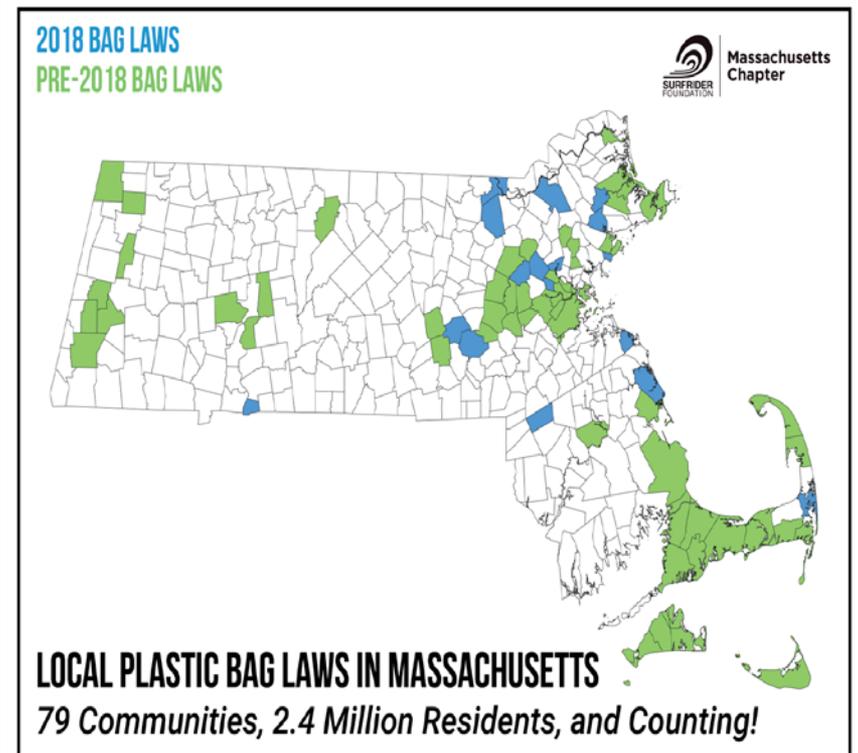
# Paper bags vs Plastic bags

- 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!

<https://www.clf.org/blog/proposed-plastic-bag-ban-would-benefit-environment-and-economy/>



*A statewide ban would cut down on the billions of plastic bags that litter our parks, our streets, or our rivers and our oceans. Photo: eflon (via Flickr)*

# Dover Store Responses to Voluntary Ban

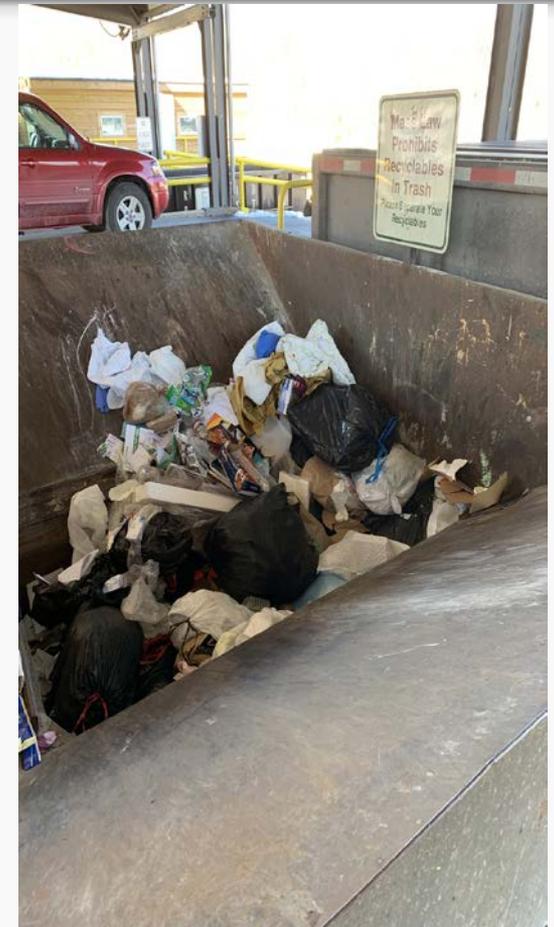
- Called Dover Deli and Dover Market
- Both refuse to voluntary ban
  - Dover Deli: By putting price on bags it is believed that it would drive away business
- Many residents are in full support!



# Where are we now?

Dover Selectmen - support us and the plastic bag ban

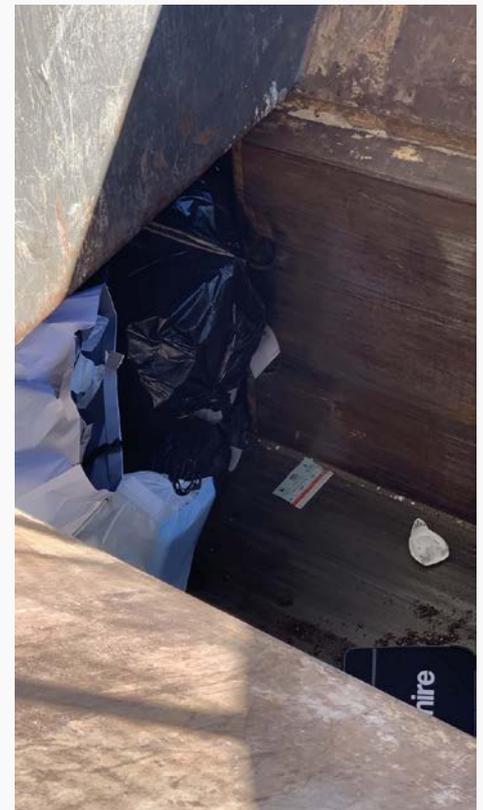
Recycling Committee - voted unanimously in support the plastic bag ban



# 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-zpEfalil505uS3mqew6iKE0i9nutWtM/edit?usp=sharing>