



Town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island Plastics and Plastic Bag Workshop November 9, 2017

Workshop Participants,

Thank you for being a part of our Plastics and Plastic Bag Workshop.

We all want to do things that are good for the environment and to also preserve the beauty of our community. Although there are many things that threaten our environment, one of the areas that is most prevalent, and one that appears to be a viable target is the use and disposal of plastics, in particular plastic bags. Plastics have become such an integral part of our way of life it seems that their use has become indispensable. So, the alternatives are to (1) be better stewards of how we use and dispose of plastics, (2) voluntarily come up alternative ways to minimize the use of plastics, and (3) forcefully legislate away the use of them by bans on use or other severe restrictions.

Our workshop endeavors to create an open dialogue to exchange ideas and create a better-informed public to create a "social environment" that can make a positive contribution to the damage plastics do to our "natural environment". But, as we know from things like the use of seat belts, people will not always do what is best for their well-being without being forced to do so. Consequently, as an initial focal point for action, it has been proposed that one of the alternative solutions be to reduce the damage that plastics do to our environment by enacting a ban on single use plastic bags. We want to make sure that all the consequences of a ban are fully explored. Even though there is a current focus is on single use plastic bags, it is not, in and of itself, a panacea for the many dangers facing our environment. We want the discussion to be a catalyst to look at the larger picture and other initiatives that can be built to create an increased focus on all measures that can be used to improve our environment.

Please keep an open mind in this workshop where there are no "wrong" answers, everyone can express their views and their comments are respected, we can agree to disagree and, hopefully, come to some consensus on how to move forward to make progress in a seemingly impassable quagmire of environmental hurdles and roadblocks.

Again, thank you for your time in participating.

Richard A. Rainer
Town Administrator

Plastic Bag Workshop
November 9, 2017
Agenda

- 6:30 PM - Registration and Meet and Greet**
- 7:00 PM - Introductions and Working Group Subject Briefs**
- 7:20 PM - Break into Working Groups**
- 8:00 PM - Working Group Report-outs**
- 8:20 PM - Wrap-up**

Attachments:

- **Why are the Cities Regulating Plastic Bags?**
- **The Plastic Bag Position of Business**
- **What are the Alternatives**

**Additional supporting material is available on
the Town of Portsmouth Web Site Plastic Bag Workshop page**

<https://www.portsmouthri.com/490/Plastics-Workshop>

Rules for Our Workshop

- **Everyone gets a chance to speak if they desire**
- **All ideas are recorded**
- **Every opinion has value**
- **No personal attacks**

CLEMENTS MARKETPLACE

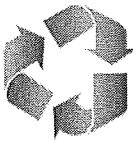
PLASTIC BAG POSITION

Our stance on the proposed plastic bag ban:

- Clements Market supports a ban on all single use bags
- A ban on single use bags should be done at a state level rather than one town at a time
- A ban on plastic only forces consumers to paper which are much worse for the environment when they are being produced
- Clements has been working with Dave McLaughlin from Clean Ocean Access (the group behind the ban) in an effort to approach a ban in the right way
- Staff from Clements has participated in beach clean-up days with Clean Ocean Access
- Clements is participating in the Clean Ocean Access/Town of Portsmouth plastic bag workshop in November

OTHER WAYS THAT CLEMENTS MARKET IS A RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY PARTNER:

- Dramatically reduced waste being sent to the landfill through diverting and recycling efforts
- Working with local farmers to reduce organic waste sent to the landfill
- Collection of plastic bags to deliver to RI Resource Recovery for recycling
- Eliminating the use of non-recyclable materials in our supply stream
- All departments and trash collection areas set up for mixed recycled items that are all sent to recycling centers twice a week



Working Towards A Greener Future...

At Clements, we are determined to go the extra mile to promote a sustainable future and environmental well-being. Over the years, we have developed a multi-channel recycling program to keep our waste to a minimum.

What We Do...

Our Recycled Paper is collected and utilized as a high energy feed additive in various cement plants which allows them to grow the on-site plants and more. High quality, yellow grease is also used in the construction industry to manufacture asphalt, paint, hoses and adhesives.

Clements Market-Place has reduced waste in our transfer by over 30 tons in the past 2 years. In 2011, we recycled over 18 tons of cardboard in fewer loads than 2010. To further decrease our carbon footprint, we also offer boxes to our customers that are re-used.

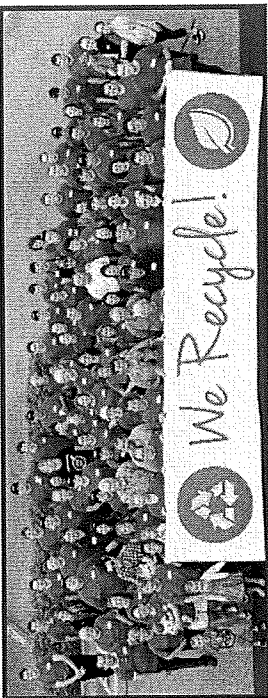
We waste no grease as members of our staff ensure that their machines and equipment are regularly greased.

We have worked with local companies like packaging & more, to bring responsible solutions to containers and other packaging throughout our store.

We waste no paper in our offices as we use multiple things before eventually going into the recycling bin.

We have a recycling program for local food products to collect and reuse as animal feed.

We use a recycling program to collect and reuse as animal feed.



Clements' Marketplace Management Team

We Are All Committed To Saving Energy & Reducing Waste In Our Community

Meet Michael Leverett Store Manager	Meet Tracy Anthony General Manager	Meet Brian Pyles Retail Sales Representative	Meet Stephen Bandy Retail Sales Representative
Meet Rick Ponds Retail Sales Representative	Meet Jim Siro Retail Sales Representative	Meet Larry White Retail Sales Representative	Meet Scott Bandy Inventory Manager
Meet Larry White Retail Sales Representative	Meet John Bandy Retail Sales Representative	Meet Stephen Bandy Retail Sales Representative	Meet Scott Bandy Inventory Manager
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Local Recycling Information

Town Of Portsmouth Transfer Station
Tel. (401) 293-5865

Located at the corner of Hedley St. and West Main Rd.

Hours of Operation:
Monday, Friday & Saturday
7:30 am - 4 pm
Tuesday & Thursday
7:30 am - 1pm
Closed Wednesdays, Sundays & Holidays.

All new dairy cases with doors to control temperatures. The new dairy cases have high efficiency motors and LED lighting.

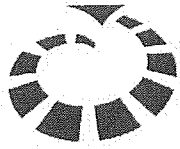
Special curtains on open cases to be used at night to reduce energy use when store is closed.

New store freezer, high efficiency motors, LED lights, with brand new insulated walls and roof to control temperatures better.

EMS system to control store lighting and all case temperatures to reduce energy in down time or when store is closed.

Alternatives to plastic bags:

- The recycling arrow symbols on plastic do not mean that plastic can or will be used again.
- Recycling plastic is not the same as recycling glass or metal.
 - Plastic material cannot be reused to make products of equal quality like glass or metals.
 - Plastic can only be downcycled into lower quality materials.
 - Downcycled plastic becomes landfill once it is no longer useful.
- Most used plastic is sent to other countries to be stripped of other valuable materials and then burned.
- A glut of low-quality plastic in the recycling stream undercuts the reuse of more valuable materials and causes financial hardship for waste management programs and taxpayers.
- Low quality plastic is often diverted to landfill when the market for it is unprofitable
- Landfills fill up land.
- Biodegradable and Compostable materials are falsely advertised.
 - These types of plastics require the use of an industrial composter, which are energy intensive and do not always work for many common products.
 - Rhode Island does not have an industrial composter.
- There is no infrastructure for collecting and managing bioplastic waste.
- Bioplastics cause further harm in recycling stream by contaminating the batches of downcyclable plastics that might be used to sell for reuse.
- Using plastic bags for dog poop or bathroom trash dooms that plastic to landfill and is an inefficient use of plastic material.
- Paper bags are environmentally and economically costly, but they are not the only option.
- Most economically and environmentally viable alternatives require simple behavior change.
- Countries and municipalities where plastic bags are not used adjust quickly.
- Fees for paper bags at the register are effective in encouraging people to bring reusable bags.
- Selling cloth reusable bags in the store is an effective alternative and an opportunity for businesses to market themselves.
- Advertising environmental stewardship holds promise for businesses.
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UPSTREAM

Real Change Starts at the Source

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Why are Cities Regulating Bags?
Portsmouth, RI Public Workshop
November 9th, 2017

The Equinox Center in 2013 estimated that up to 1.5 trillion plastic bags are used annually worldwide. As more cities, states and countries realize the detriments of plastic waste, plastic bags are highlighted as an easily preventable source of pollution. One of the most common legal mechanisms to address plastic waste is to regulate plastic bag usage at the retail and consumer end user level by banning them and/or requiring that retailers charge their customers for carry out bags. Generally speaking, these regulations have been enacted with the express purpose of decreasing the consumption of single-use or disposable plastic bags and encouraging consumers to use reusable bags in their place. The need for bag regulations continues to be proven, and their effectiveness continues to be demonstrated.

Phasing-out plastic bags prevents and eliminates waste, rather than just managing it after it has been created. At the front end of the life cycle of a plastic bag, this can reduce pollution and other detriments associated with petroleum extraction. And at the back end, it reduces waste management and litter cleanup costs for municipalities.

Expansion of Bag Regulation. There is currently no comprehensive and up-to-date list of bag regulations in place either in the U.S. or globally, so it is not possible to provide wholly accurate data as to the number of regulations under consideration or currently implemented.

It is clear, however, that the number of people living with bag regulations in place is growing. In Rhode Island, 2017 has brought about ordinances on the rest of Aquidneck Island. It is also being considered in communities such as Bristol, Warren, South Kingstown and Narragansett. In Massachusetts, there are now regulations in place in 56 different municipalities. At the state level, California and Hawaii have successfully implemented statewide regulations, with numerous other state bills being considered every year.

Basis for Food Service Packaging Regulation. Bag regulation is not intended to solve a global problem of plastic pollution such as marine and coastal plastic debris. It is a singular step toward a reimagining of our larger food service packaging standards and trends. This includes consumer awareness of the exponential growth of single use plastic and the impact of that material.

The exponential growth in the use of plastics in our economy, on its own, is insufficient to justify consumer and regulatory efforts to stem the flow of this material into our communities. Research over the past 10-15 years have indicated that merely 8% of all the plastic every produced has been actually recycled. Additionally, it's been found in every environment in the world, ranging from remote areas of Antarctica, every ocean, pristine forests, and almost every street and sidewalk in the world. Its expansive use has directly resulted in it as a pervasive pollutant. Beyond the mere presence of plastic as litter, its sourcing and structure have compounded other known and emerging human health impacts.

Examples of Additional Regulations in the U.S. Bag regulations alone are not the answers. After implementing bag regulation, cities in the U.S. have also taken some of the following actions:

- Polystyrene food packaging.
- Take-out packaging fees.
- To-go cups and lids.
- Single-use straws

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are additional questions.

Sincerely,