




# New Jersey CLEAN COMMUNITIES

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## BAG UP NJ

**"Bag Up NJ"** is the New Jersey Clean Communities Council's new single use plastic and paper bag ban outreach campaign, which has a simple message: **Bring your own reusable bag(s) when you shop.** The NJCCC wants to get consumers in the habit now of bringing their own reusable bags with them when they shop - **before NJ's bag ban takes effect in May of 2022.**

On Nov. 4, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature enacted the most progressive bag ban law in the country. The law reduces litter and encourages the use of reusable bags by phasing out single-use plastic and paper bags. The law **bans single-use plastic bags**, regardless of thickness, at grocery and retail establishments, as well as **paper bags at grocery stores** at or larger than 2,500 square feet. It also bans **polystyrene foam** takeout food containers and other products such as plates, cups, food trays and utensils. As of November 4, 2021, **plastic straws** will only be available upon request.

The statewide ban on disposable bags goes into effect on **May 4, 2022** and will create an effective and uniform sustainable policy for all shoppers and business owners in NJ. **For more information on our Bag Up NJ campaign and free downloadable artwork please visit: (<https://www.bagupnj.com/>)<https://www.bagupnj.com/> (<https://www.bagupnj.com/>).**



# BagUpNJ.com

## What can YOU do to support Bag Up NJ?

*As a consumer, there are many ways you can reduce your carbon footprint!*

- ✓ When shopping, **BRING** your reusable shopping bags to help fight waste in your town.
- ✓ **RECYCLE** your disposable bags by bringing them to your local retailer.
- ✓ When it comes to reusable bags, you have options. There are many different sizes, types, materials and designs, **CHOOSE THE ONES THAT WORK BEST FOR YOU** as a consumer.



# IMPORTANT DATES!

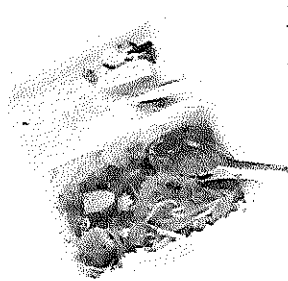
- Plastic Straws By-Request-Only
- Polystyrene Foam Food Service Products
- Single-Use Carryout Bags

(P.L. 2020, c. 117)

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

## SINGLE-USE STRAWS BY-REQUEST-ONLY

- Food service businesses may only provide a single-use plastic straw upon customer request.
- Food service businesses must keep an adequate supply of single-use plastic straws.
- Stores may sell packages of single-use plastic straws & sell a beverage pre-packaged by the manufacturer with a single-use plastic straw.



MAY 4, 2022

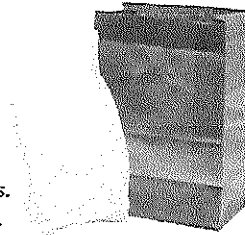
## POLYSTYRENE FOAM FOOD SERVICE BAN

- Food service businesses are prohibited from selling/ offering any polystyrene foam food service product & may not sell or provide any food served in a polystyrene food service product.
- Visit [nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law](http://nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law) for more info and exemptions.

MAY 4, 2022

## SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS BAN

- All stores (including retail), food service businesses, and grocery stores are prohibited from selling to, or providing customers with, single-use plastic carryout bags.
- Grocery Stores larger than 2,500 sq ft may not provide or sell single-use paper carryout bags but may provide or sell reusable bags.



**[Click here \(/images/BagUp-NJ/NJCCC-BAG-UP-NJ-AND-SINGLE-USE-PLASTICS-LAW.pdf\)](/images/BagUp-NJ/NJCCC-BAG-UP-NJ-AND-SINGLE-USE-PLASTICS-LAW.pdf)** for printable version of the ***NJ Clean Communities Council's Single Use Plastics Flyer.***

**[Click here \(/images/BagUp-NJ/NJBAC-Plastics-Ban-Law-Flyer.pdf\)](/images/BagUp-NJ/NJBAC-Plastics-Ban-Law-Flyer.pdf)** for printable version of the ***NJ Business Action Center's Single Use Plastics Flyer for Businesses.***

**For more information on our Bag Up NJ campaign and free downloadable artwork**

**please visit:**


**(<https://www.bagupnj.com/>)<https://www.bagupnj.com/>  
(<https://www.bagupnj.com/>)**

**For more information on the NJ Bag Ban Law and review FAQs,  
please visit: (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/>)<https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/>  
(<https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/>)**

**For information on business compliance, contact the New  
Jersey Business Action Center**

**(<https://business.nj.gov/recent/disposable-bag-ban>)<https://business.nj.gov/recent/disposable-bag-ban>  
(<https://business.nj.gov/recent/disposable-bag-ban>)**

Category: [BagUp-NJ \(/our-programs/single-use-plastics/bag-up-nj/47-bagup-nj\)](#)

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# Are You Ready for the Great New Jersey Bag Ban?



County of Union

By UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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On May 4, 2022, shoppers in Union County and throughout New Jersey will be in for a shock when they go to check out their groceries at the supermarket. Not a single-use paper or plastic shopping bag will be in sight.

It's all part of a new state law aimed at cutting down on waste, litter and pollution. Plastic bags get most of the blame, but single-use paper bags are also notorious for wasting precious resources and adding planet-warming emissions to the Earth's atmosphere.

In general, the new law prohibits all stores, food service businesses, and grocery stores from selling or providing their customers with single use plastic carryout bags.

Grocery stores that occupy at least 2,500 square feet may not provide single-use paper carryout bags, either.

That means supermarket shoppers who forget to bring their own bags will have to pay up for reusable bags, which means that forgetful shoppers will soon begin to see mountains of reusable bags piling up at home.

That could become very annoying, very quickly.

Veteran users of reusable bags know a few tricks to remind themselves to bring their own bags when shopping. These include:

1. Keeping extra bags in the car.
2. Hanging extra bags by the door or alongside coats and jackets.
3. Getting some lightweight “packable” bags that pack into a small pouch, to keep in your purse or pockets.
4. Putting a sign on your door as a reminder.
5. Writing “BAGS!” at the top of your shopping lists.

That sounds simple enough, but it does take time to break old habits and form new ones. To reduce the odds of forgetting to bring reusable bags after May 4, shoppers can start practicing now for the Great Bag Ban.

*There are many requirements and some exceptions to the new law. For more details visit [nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law](https://nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law).*

*To learn about waste reduction and recycling programs in Union County, download the free Recycle Coach app or visit [ucnj.org/recycling](https://ucnj.org/recycling).*

A monthly column from the Union County Board of County Commissioners with updates and information on recycling and related topics. The Commissioners support the principles of ‘Reuse-Reuse-Recycle’ and encourage everyone to make simple, everyday choices that help the environment.

*The opinions expressed herein are the writer's alone, and do not reflect the opinions of TAPinto.net or anyone who works for TAPinto.net. TAPinto.net is not responsible for the accuracy of any of the information supplied by the writer.*







## **BAG UP NJ**



The "Bag Up NJ" campaign, is the New Jersey Clean Communities Council's new single use plastic and paper bag ban outreach campaign, which has a simple message: **Bring your own reusable bag(s) when you shop.**

This campaign educates and reminds consumers about their options for sustainability at the checkout counter. Consumers can choose to bring their own reusable bags when they shop and recycle their plastic bags.

On Nov. 4, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature enacted the most progressive bag ban law in the country. The law prevents litter and encourages the use of reusable bags by phasing out single-use plastic and paper bags.

The law bans plastic bags, regardless of thickness, at grocery stores and retail outlets, as well as paper bags at grocery stores measuring more than 2,500 square feet. It also bans polystyrene foam food service products; and makes plastic straws at restaurants available only upon request.

While we often hear about the environmental impact of disposable plastic bags, it is important to remember that disposable paper bags have a significant impact on the environment too. Papermaking requires large inputs of water, energy, chemicals, and wood, and produces various wastes and emissions that must be controlled or treated. Additionally, paper bags require ten times the amount of trucks to deliver the same quantity of bags, resulting in increased truck traffic and diesel emissions.

“The health and safety of future generations depend on the choices we make today,” said former state Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin (D-Middlesex), who sponsored the legislation with Assemblymen James Kennedy (D-Middlesex, Somerset, Union) and John McKeon (D-Essex, Morris). “Single-use plastic products are one of the single greatest threats to our oceans, environment and health.”

The statewide ban on disposable bags goes into effect on May 4, 2022 and will create an effective and uniform sustainable policy for all shoppers and business owners in NJ. Reducing waste and litter statewide is a good thing; “This smart, uniform statewide law preempts all local ordinances.” said New Jersey Food Council CEO Linda Doherty, who is also president of the New Jersey Clean Communities Council.

### **Business Compliance:**

For more information in regards to business compliance, please contact Bag Up NJ partner **New Jersey Business Action Center**.

### **More details of the legislation:**

## **The Bag Ban goes into effect on May 4, 2022**

- The bill provides that the Department of State in consultation with the state Department of Environmental Protection will establish a program to assist businesses with compliance. This will include FAQs, outreach and educational programs, public service announcements, and distribution of free reusable carryout bags through a partnership with the Clean Communities Program which is receiving \$500,000 per year for the first three years after the effective date of the law.
- One year after enactment, November 4, 2021, plastic straws can only be provided upon request of a customer. Packages of straws and items like juice boxes may still be sold in stores.
- The bill states that municipalities and counties cannot adopt any new ordinances governing plastic and paper bags, polystyrene, and straws. Ordinances already in effect will be superseded according to the various products’ phase out schedules.
- The bill provides for penalties: a warning for a first offense, up to \$1,000 for a second offense, and up to \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense. Penalties for violations will be deposited in the Clean Communities Program Fund, except that a municipality may retain 30 percent of any penalty it collects.
- The bill establishes a Plastics Advisory Council in the state Department of Environmental Protection, whose members will monitor implementation of the law and evaluate its

effectiveness. The Council will be comprised of 16 members, including 4 representing stores and food service businesses.



