

Ulster County, nature at its finest.

Here in Ulster County, we pride ourselves on having some of the most beautiful natural areas in New York State. It is easy to understand why generations have been drawn to the area for recreation as well as inspiration. But plastic bags, and plastic pollution, are a threat to our environment. Plastic pollution litters our waterways, finds its way into our soil or food and can even impact human health. Not to mention litter cleanup is estimated to cost American taxpayers over \$11 billion every year. By enacting legislation in 2018, we are the first county in NY to implement a single-use plastic bag ban.

Ulster County's BYO Bag Act builds on our 2015 County-wide ban of polystyrene foam for use by food service establishments. And the Ulster County Legislature recently passed "Skip the Straw" legislation which will limit the distribution of plastic straws to only upon request. Plastic pollution is a problem in every community and we are proud to that Ulster County continues to lead the way to protect and preserve our environment.

For more information:

please see FAQ website
ulstercountyny.gov/BYOBAGFAQ

or email
BYOBAGAct@co.ulster.ny.us



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SPREAD AWARENESS, NOT PLASTIC

PHOTO CREDITS: Kingston Farmer's Market by Eric Kreeger, Ashokan Reservoir by Julian Colton, Valley View by Mike Bloom



BRING YOUR OWN BAG ACT · LOCAL LAW NUMBER 5 OF 2018

Promoting the use of reusable bags
and regulating the use of
plastic carryout bags
and recyclable paper carryout bags

THE ACT

The BYO Bag Act will result in the ban of single use plastic bag distribution at most retail locations, encouraging all residents to use reusable bags when buying food or merchandise.

This Act will go into effect on July 15, 2019 and will cover the entirety of Ulster County.

As of July 15th, 2019, you will not be able to get single use plastic bags from grocery or retail stores. We encourage you to bring your own reusable bags, however if you forget, there will be a minimum 5¢ fee for paper bags upon checkout.

This Act will go into effect before the New York State Plastic Bag Ban in March 2020. Based on the similarities of our laws, once the New York State Law comes into effect, there should be very few overall changes, especially for consumers. Make sure to check our FAQ website for more information on the state ban as it becomes available.



Bring your own bag for no fee

Any type of bag that the customers bring to the store themselves is encouraged.



Available for a 5¢ minimum fee

Recyclable paper bags, bags made of cloth or washable material, or durable plastic over 4mm thick.



Not available for use

Single use plastic bags less than 4mm thick and provided to customers at a point of sale.

How Will this Affect You?

For Businesses:

All businesses selling personal, consumer or household items will withhold the distribution of plastic bags, however recyclable paper bags can be supplied for a minimum 5¢ fee.

Businesses affected will include: drug stores, grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, apparel stores, home centers and hardware stores, stationary and office supply stores, farmers markets, and open-air flea markets. *However, food service establishments such as restaurants, are not included in this law.*

For Consumers:

Consumers should start carrying reusable bags with them when shopping, as this is the most environmentally responsible approach. This bag can be any type of bag, however for durability, we recommend canvas bags. Recyclable paper bags will be available at checkouts for a minimum 5¢ fee.

Ulster is taking steps to minimize inconvenience to residents by making reusable bags accessible and promoting the law to the public.