

Wellfleet proposed plastic bag ban

If the proposed Wellfleet Plastic Shopping Bag Reduction Bylaw is approved, the effective date is: **January 1, 2016**

Summary: The bylaw would phase out single-use plastic shopping bags at Wellfleet retailers, markets, and restaurants.

Plastic produce bags, bakery bread bags, and deli counter baggies would not be affected by the ban.

The EPA reports that only about 15% of plastic shopping bags are recycled; the remainder are incinerated, buried in landfills, or end up as litter polluting the environment and endangering wildlife.

60,000 bags every 5 seconds



Ref. Sierra Club

Marine debris is everyone's problem

Worldwide Sources of Marine Debris



- 64% Shoreline & Recreational Activities
- 25% Smoking-related Activities
- 8% Ocean/Waterway Activities
- 2% Dumping Activities
- 1% Medical/Personal Hygiene

Top 10 Marine Debris Items

Cigarettes & cigarette filters, plastic bags, food wrappers and containers, caps and lids, plastic beverage bottles, eating utensils, glass beverage bottles, beverage cans, straws and stirrers, paper bags

How long do items remain in the environment?

 Paper Towel 2-4 WEEKS	 Newspaper 6 WEEKS	 Cotton Rope 1-5 MONTHS	 Cotton Shirt 1-5 MONTHS
 Apple Core 2 MONTHS	 Cigarette Butt 1.5 to 10 YEARS	 Cardboard Box 2 MONTHS	 Waxed Milk Carton 3 MONTHS
 Plastic Beverage Holder 400 YEARS	 Styrofoam Cup 50 YEARS	 Aluminum Cans 200 YEARS	 Plastic Grocery Bag 1-20 YEARS
 Plastic Bottle 450 YEARS	 Monofilament Fishing Line 600 YEARS	 Disposable Diaper 450 YEARS	 Glass bottles UNDETERMINED



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines marine debris as any manmade object discarded, disposed of or abandoned that enters the coastal or marine environment. Each year, tons of plastic and other litter end up in our oceans, rivers, and beaches. The only way to truly manage the marine debris pollution issue is through prevention – help Woods Hole Sea Grant change behaviors that cause marine debris to enter the environment!
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Find out more at www.whoi.edu/seagrant

 www.facebook.com/woodsholeseagrant

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 www.youtube.com/woodsholeseagrant



Sources: NOAA Marine Debris Program, Ocean Conservancy, SC Sea Grant
Design: LianneDunn.com

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photo Ron Prendergast



photos, Cape Cleanup



Earth Day 2015 -- Route 6





photo Zak Noyle (Indonesian Ocean)