




Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance for Radnor Township

Presented by the **Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council**



The Problem with Plastic Bags

- Over 100 billion single-use plastic bags are used by US consumers each year. Over 97% are discarded in waste streams, either landfilled or incinerated.
 - Many commercial establishments within Radnor Township provide Single-Use Plastic Carry-Out Bags to their customers.
 - Single-use plastic bags have severe environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, ground level ozone formation, atmospheric acidification, water consumption, and solid waste generation.
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Purpose of the Ordinance

- PA State Pre-emption law expired Dec 2021, allowing cities and townships to proceed with single-use bag ban ordinances.
- Objective is to reduce the use of single use bags by commercial establishments within the Township to:
 - curb litter on the streets, in the parks, and in the trees
 - protect the local streams, rivers, waterways, and other aquatic environments
 - reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce solid waste generation
 - preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the Township
 - relieve the pressure on recyclers, who cite single-use plastic bags as a major source of contamination and inefficiency within the recycling stream
 - reduce the incineration of plastic from the disposal of single-use products



The Process

- ▶ 3 Public forums have been held to discuss the proposed plastic bag ban
 - ▶ Individual citizens spoke of their support and offered insights and experiences in other areas with plastic bag ordinances
 - ▶ Radnor Friends Meeting spoke in support
- ▶ 1:1 discussions have been held with the key stakeholders
 - ▶ Giant
 - ▶ WaWa
 - ▶ Lancaster County Farmer's Market
 - ▶ Wayne Business Association
- ▶ Letters were sent to Radnor Township businesses by Township Administration

Timeline of Plastic Bag Ordinance

July 2018
Radnor EAC makes a motion to recommend to Radnor BOC to consider plastic bag legislation

June 2019 PA legislature enacts a prohibition on plastic bag bans; ban officially expired **December 2021**

March 2022:
EAC holds first public meeting on the ordinance; members of the public speak mostly in favor of the ordinance

May 2022
Third public meeting by the EAC

August 2018- January 2019: the ordinance is drafted and reviewed by legal

September 2021- December 2021:
EAC begins to discuss and revise the Radnor 2018 plastic bag ordinance; ordinance is reviewed by Radnor legal

April 2022 The second public meeting is held; letters are sent to each business in Radnor Township

July 2022
Plan to introduce the ordinance to the Radnor BOC

Addressing Questions from The Public

Question/Concern	Response
What about produce bags?	Produce bags and bags used to hold bulk foods are exempt.
Can I still buy a plastic bag if I prefer?	You may bring plastic bags to any establishment for your personal use, but retailers will not be allowed to offer plastic bags for free or for purchase.
What about restaurants?	Restaurants are subject to the ordinance.
Does the ordinance include other single-use plastics like Styrofoam containers?	No, this ordinance only covers single-use plastic bags.
I use plastic grocery bags for pet waste. What are my options?	There are great alternatives to single-use plastic bags for this purpose including smaller plastic bags that are specifically designed for pet waste (use less plastic than large shopping bags). You will still have access to produce bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, etc. The EPA recommends flushing pet waste.
Will this make my groceries more expensive?	If you bring reusable bags with you, there will be no cost difference. If you chose to purchase a recyclable paper bag, there will be a cost of 10 cents per bag.



The Ordinance

- Prohibit single use plastic bags and non-recyclable paper bags typically given at the point of sale
- Require commercial establishments to charge for distribution of recyclable bags
- Exempt from the ordinance: laundry, dry cleaner, and newspaper bags; bags without handles used to protect perishable items (produce, bulk goods).
- \$0.10 minimum charge for recyclable paper bags, proceeds retained by retailer



Implementation

- Beginning six (6) months after the Effective Date, Commercial Establishments are prohibited from distributing Single-Use Plastic Carry-Out Bags or non-recyclable paper bags to any customer either at the Commercial Establishment, off-site, or in conjunction with a delivery.
- Beginning thirty (30) days after the Effective Date, and for six (6) months thereafter, Commercial Establishments are required to post at all points of sale conspicuous signage regarding the upcoming ban.

We Will Join our Neighbors!



- Philadelphia City, West Chester, Haverford, Narberth and others have already adopted plastic bag bans. Others, such as Tredyffrin Township are in the process of approving similar ordinances.
- Delaware state's plastic bag ban took effect July 1, 2022.
- The United Nations passed a resolution in March to negotiate an international legally binding agreement to "*end plastic pollution*" by the end of 2024.

