

Egg Harbor Township

Resolution No. 146

2018

Resolution encouraging the use of reusable cloth type shopping bags or biodegradable bags as opposed to single use plastic bags

WHEREAS, non-biodegradable, single use plastic bags are often discarded into the environment and end up polluting our waterways, clogging sewers, endangering marine wildlife and causing unsightly litter; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags don't biodegrade, they do photodegrade, meaning that when exposed to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight, plastic bags break down into smaller and smaller pieces making them easily ingestible by marine mammals and birds; and

WHEREAS, in the ocean, plastic debris injures and kills fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Marine plastic pollution is estimated to impact at least two hundred and sixty seven (267) species worldwide, including 86% of all sea turtle species, 44% of all seabird species and 43% of all marine mammal species. The impacts include fatalities as a result of ingestion, starvation, suffocation, infection, drowning, and entanglement. Each year, one (1) trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide, nearly two (2) million plastic bags used per minute. In addition, plastic bags are among the twelve (12) items of debris most often found in coastal cleanups, according to the nonprofit Center for Marine Conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township for Egg Harbor, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey that:

1. We strongly encourage the residents of Egg Harbor Township to use re-usable, cloth type shopping bags or biodegradable bags as opposed to single use, plastic bags and further; and
2. We encourage our residents to educate others about how detrimental plastic bags are to our marine life in an effort to increase compliance through awareness; and
3. We encourage business owners in the Township, to offer re-usable, cloth type shopping bags or biodegradable bags as opposed to single use, plastic bags.

Dated: March 21, 2018

Eileen M. Tedesco, RMC
Township Clerk