

Reducing Waste in Wellesley

Why non-reusable bags are not the best option

- Plastic bags are no longer recyclable in Wellesley
- When you cut down trees it requires using fossil fuels to produce paper which releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. This impacts global warming.
- Plastic bags can take over 1000 years to break down. Plastic bags never actually decompose staying forever in our environment, making a buildup of waste.
- Animals can ingest the plastic bags or plastic fragments, which can be toxic, and then contaminates the food chain.
- Animals can also be strangled when the plastic bags wrap around their necks.
- Polyethylene is in the plastic which is a very harmful chemical.

Positives to using a reusable bag

- Reusable bags can be used over and over again, which saves money, causes less waste, and is more environmentally friendly.
- Some grocery stores offer money back for bringing a bag.
- You can make your own reusable bags!

You can inspire others by leading by example

- You can encourage your friends and family to use reusable bags.
- Make a New Year's resolution to use the reusable bags you have and to remind others to use them.
- Give reusable bags as a gift.
- Educate people around you about the environmental impact of using non-reusable bags.



Wellesley RDF – Pre bag ban



**WELLESLEYNATURAL
RESOURCESCOMMISSION**

**This reusable bag was generously donated
by the Wellesley Natural Resource Commission and
Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility**