

Town of Windham
Council Agenda Article Cover Sheet

I. Council Action Requested.

To adopt a resolution regarding single-use plastic shopping bags and paper shopping bags containing less than forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled content.

II. Basis for Council Action.

Council approval of this item is required because;

- a.) the Council has the authority to act as the legislative body of the Town pursuant to Article II, Section 3(I) of the Charter.

III. Issue Summary.

Please refer to the attached resolution and proclamation.

A
RESOLUTION
of the
TOWN COUNCIL



Town of Windham, Maine

Whereas the Town of Windham has a duty to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, which includes the community's environment and economy,

Whereas single-use plastic shopping bags have been banned in cities and countries around the world as a result of their adverse environmental impacts,

Whereas single-use plastic shopping bags have a noteworthy negative impact on the environment, including land and marine animals,

Whereas single-use plastic shopping bags represent an unnecessary use of non-renewable resources,

Whereas the plastic used in most single-use plastic shopping bags is not biodegradable,

Whereas there is a lack of effective recycling programs for single-use plastic shopping bags,

Whereas paper shopping bags containing less than forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled content further deplete natural and non-renewable resources, and

Whereas reusable shopping bags aid in reducing litter, protecting land and marine animals and habitat, protecting and conserving natural resources, and reducing the use of non-renewable resources,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council pursuant to Article 2, Section 3(I) of the Charter,

1. To call upon all establishments engaged in retail sales located in Windham to cease the use of single-use plastic shopping bags and paper shopping bags with less than forty percent (40%) post-consumer content,

2. To encourage Windham residents to make use of recycled-content reusable shopping bags whenever and wherever possible, and
3. To seek support from the town's legislative delegation, other Maine cities and towns, and the Maine Municipal Association for a statewide ban on single-use plastic shopping bags and paper shopping bags with less than forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled content, or to pass enabling legislation allowing municipalities to enact and enforce local ordinances imposing a charge for each single-use plastic shopping bag or paper shopping bag with less than forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled content.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the Town of Windham, Maine to be affixed at Windham, Maine this 22nd day of May, 2012.

Town Council of the Town of Windham, Maine:

Scott Hayman, Chairman

Matthew Noel, Vice Chairman

Kevin Call

Thomas Gleason

David Nadeau

Dennis Welch

SEAL

Attest: Linda Morrell, CMC
Town Clerk