

Plastic bag snags

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<https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/plastic-bag-snags/>

Dear Editor:

In view of Ellsworth's current recycling crisis and the possibility in the hands of Ellsworth City Council to adopt a local ordinance with regard to single-use plastic bags and such, I want to applaud the businesses in Ellsworth that have adopted a voluntary "no single-use plastic bag" policy. In the spirit of the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle motto, sometimes I accepted the heavy duty plastic Renys bags so I could take them to the Ellsworth Public Library for those rainy days when patrons could reuse them. The interesting thing is that these businesses that voluntarily went "plastic bag-free" have never offered paper bags before.

These businesses did not wait for a town-driven policy to enact the first R of the 3Rs motto and they deserve recognition for doing their part from us who shop there. We can only hope that other Ellsworth establishments will follow this lead so that we can look forward to a winter and spring without the negative advertising these businesses garner as their plastic bags and other containers get snagged in trees, and the general landscape, all the way to compromising the health of our streams and shores. Perhaps Ellsworth will become the 20th town in Maine to take a positive action toward a cleaner environment. Other towns have taken steps with ordinances, full recycling and education programs, and the city of Ellsworth should not want to stay behind.

Christa Little-Siebold
Ellsworth



(photo courtesy of Dick Atlee, not in the original letter)