

Why Part With Plastic?

What's The Fuss? Concerned citizens of MDI are proposing town ordinances to ban single-use carryout plastic bags. This effort is part of a worldwide movement to protect the environment from dangerous plastic materials.

What Damage Is Done By Plastic Bags? Plastics breaks up over time and never biodegrade. The tiny pieces (microplastics) contaminate streams and eventually oceans, killing ocean life, and entering our food chain and causing health problems.

What Will Our Ordinances Do? The MDI plastic bag ordinances will reduce plastic waste that we generate. The intent is to encourage the use of reusable bags.

What Is Happening Elsewhere? Communities around the world – and even some countries – have instituted similar ordinances, leading to great reductions in plastic litter.

How Can I Help? Use reusable bags. Keep them in your pocketbook, car, by your front door. Tell your friends about them. Give one to a friend.

Wait A Minute! What about...

...Fruits & Vegetables? The ordinances won't affect those small bags. But could you do without or bring your own?

...If I Forget My Bags? Paper bags will be available, but will carry a small fee.

...Paper bags? Aren't they worse than plastic bags? In some ways, yes, but in the long run, no. They have a much shorter life cycle and biodegrade. We need to reduce both.

...How It Will Work? Fifteen Maine communities, and others in New England, already have similar ordinances that work well.

...The Ordinance's Effect On Tourism? This hasn't been a problem in the other Maine communities; many tourists come from places with such bans and are accustomed to reusable bags.

...The Burden On Low-Income Folks? The Citizen's Initiative will be making free and low-cost reusable bags available to help with the transition.