



TOMPKINS COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Resolution No. 01-2018

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE BAN ON LIGHTWEIGHT
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC RETAIL BAGS**

WHEREAS, Americans use an estimated 100 billion lightweight single-use plastic retail bags annually, and less than 5% are recycled; the remaining 95% end up as trash, litter or contaminating recycling, and

WHEREAS, consumers pay for lightweight single-use plastic retail bags embedded in their purchases; as they cost retailers \$4 billion annually, and The Wall Street Journal estimates \$18-\$30 per customer per year would be saved with a ban on plastic bags*, and

WHEREAS, the presence of lightweight single-use plastic retail bags with sorted recyclables and organic materials create equipment problems at local material recovery facilities and composting facilities, respectively, and this increases operational costs at these facilities, and contaminates sorted recyclables and compost products, and

WHEREAS, plastics, once released into the environment, never fully break down, and, in addition to potentially becoming unsightly litter, plastic bags cause harm to fish and wildlife through ingestion and entrapment, and

WHEREAS, the most effective solution to reduce plastic bag pollution is to reduce the amount of lightweight single-use retail plastic bags and to promote the use of reusable bags to customers to carry out groceries and other retail purchases, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council strongly supports a statewide ban on retailers providing lightweight single-use plastic bags and adoption of a fee for recyclable paper bags, which are energy intensive to produce and transport; and urges Governor Cuomo's Plastic Bag Task Force to recommend legislation toward that end, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council hereby expresses its strong support for a statewide ban on lightweight single-use plastic retail bags and a fee on recyclable paper bags and urges the Governor to seek approval for this proposed legislation in the FY 2018 Budget and for the New York State Assembly and Senate to adopt this

(FN Source) *Wall Street Journal

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10000872396390444165804578006832478712400>

proposal into legislation. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to state and local officials. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution Adopted Date: February 8, 2018

Vote: Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 1