



TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

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May 16, 2017

Dear Framingham Retailer:

This is the first of several communications you can expect from the Town as we begin implementing the Plastic Bag Reduction By-law recently enacted by Framingham Town Meeting. I have enclosed a copy of the by-law for your review.

As you will see, effective January 1, 2018, single-use plastic bags will no longer be allowed in connection with checkout merchandise at any retail store or grocery store in Framingham. The by-law pertains to so-called "thin film single-use plastic bags", which are plastic bags with a thickness of 2.5mm or less, intended for single-use.

The by-law encourages retailers to make reusable bags available as an alternate means of handling merchandise at checkout. Replacing single-use bags with reusable bags has several benefits, including reduced costs for retailers, a cleaner community, and reduced solid waste impacts on the environment. If you are considering the use of paper bags as an alternative, we'd encourage you to consider paper bags produced using a high percentage of recycled materials and post-consumer products.

Although restaurants are not specified in the by-law, we hope that all establishments will consider eliminating the use of these thin-film, single-use plastic bags.

I will continue to communicate over the months ahead and hope I can count on your support and cooperation to ensure a smooth implementation of the Plastic Bag Reduction By-law.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Halpin
Town Manager