



# State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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**PHILIP D. MURPHY**  
*Governor*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
*Lt. Governor*

**SHAWN M. LATOURETTE**  
*Commissioner*

April 8, 2022

Dear Mayor,

As you may know, on November 4th, 2020, New Jersey adopted P.L. 2020, c. 117, the “Get Past Plastic Law” (Law) which prohibits the sale/provision of single-use plastic carryout bags from stores and food service businesses, and single-use paper carryout bags from grocery stores larger than or equal to 2,500 square feet. The Law also imposes a ban on polystyrene foam food service products. The prohibition on single-use bags and food service products becomes effective on May 4, 2022. Additionally, per the Law, as of November 4, 2021, food service businesses may only provide single-use plastic straws to a customer upon request. A copy of the Law can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/docs/plastic-bag-law-c117.pdf>.

The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in helping your local businesses (large and small) learn about, and achieve compliance with, the Law. While many news sources have been sharing information about the Law, the NJDEP notes that some of the information available to the public is not entirely accurate. Therefore, we are asking for your assistance in communicating the correct information to your local business community and helping to raise awareness of the upcoming prohibition on single-use paper bags, single-use plastic bags, and polystyrene foam food service products, as well as the already active single-use plastic straw provision of the Law. The NJDEP, in collaboration with the New Jersey Business Action Center (NJBAC) and the New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC), developed several resources to help educate businesses and assist them with compliance. Below is a list of resources available to assist your outreach efforts.

The NJDEP developed a website (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/get-past-plastic/>) with helpful information for regulated entities, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, a list of establishments, an explanation of how the Law impacts them, a copy of the Law, and more.

The NJBAC's webpage (<https://business.nj.gov/bags/plastic-ban-law>) includes a vendor registration and courtesy list of reusable bag wholesale vendors and a live chat feature for questions.

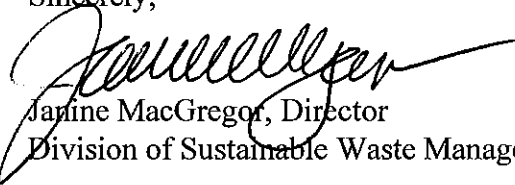
The NJCCC created the BagUpNJ campaign which encourages NJ residents to bring their own reusable bags when shopping. The campaign's website (<https://bagupnj.com/>) has free resources for businesses to educate their customers. The free resources include graphics for window clings,

sandwich boards, signage, and much more. There are also designs for webpages, promotional items, and access to the downloadable BagUpNJ logo. Finally, pursuant to the Clean Communities Program Guidelines at II.B.22, local government units can use program funds to purchase reusable grocery bags in support of New Jersey's "Bag Up NJ" campaign. As always, materials made from recycled content are encouraged. Additional information related to NJCCC is available at: <https://www.njclean.org/images/grants/Grant-Guidelines.pdf>).

Municipalities are essential to the successful and efficient implementation of the Law, as municipalities, along with any entity certified pursuant to the "County Environmental Health Act" (CEHA), the NJDEP and the NJ Department of Health, share the responsibility of enforcing the Law. Pursuant to the Law, a municipality or entity certified pursuant to the CEHA may retain 30 percent of any penalty it collects as a result of enforcement of the Law. For your information, the remaining 70 percent is remitted to the Clean Communities Program Fund at the NJ Department of Treasury. The NJDEP will be following up shortly with more details on how enforcement will be handled at all levels.

Should you have any questions, please contact Erin Jensen or Julia Rossi of the NJDEP, Division of Sustainable Waste Management, at [singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov](mailto:singleuseplastics@dep.nj.gov) or (609) 984-4250.

Sincerely,



Janine MacGregor, Director  
Division of Sustainable Waste Management

