

# Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

180 High Street  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
Tel (401) 789-9331 x1244

### Important Information Regarding the Newly Adopted Plastic Reduction Ordinance in South Kingstown

October 10, 2018

Dear South Kingstown Retailer,

On June 25, 2018 the South Kingstown Town Council adopted a Plastic Reduction Ordinance (Section 9-182 of the Town Code of Ordinances, attached) which bans the use of plastic carryout bags for the retail checkout of goods, and encourages the use of reusable bags to reduce the overall use of plastic bags. Plastic carryout bags create a burden to solid waste collection and recycling facilities and adversely impact the environment. As a community that takes environmental stewardship seriously, South Kingstown is joining the movement to encourage the use of environmentally friendly alternatives by your customers. I'm writing today to let you know that your Town government has resources to help kick the single-use plastic bag habit.

Beginning January 1, 2019 *"No business establishment shall provide or make available any plastic carryout bag (either complimentary or for a fee) to members of the public for any sales transaction or other use."* A plastic carryout bag is defined as a plastic bag provided by a business establishment, typically at the point of sale, for the purpose of transporting purchases. However, the ordinance does exempt the following types of plastic bags from the prohibition:

- Plastic barrier bags (thin, single-opening plastic bags used to transport fruits, vegetables, other small food items, and other protective bags such as for plants, floral arrangements or newspapers) and double-opening plastic bags (bags with openings at each end used to protect clothing and other items such as laundry dry cleaning)
- Packages of multiple bags intended for use as containers for garbage, pet waste, or yard waste
- Bags provided by pharmacists or veterinarians to contain prescription drugs or other medical necessities, provided that the bags are recyclable within the state's recycling program.

The Town stands ready to help all South Kingstown retail businesses in their efforts to promote a healthy and sustainable environment. Complying with the new ordinance will require changes to how you interact with your customers. However, doing so will ensure that our natural resources are available for the generations to come. The Town is providing the enclosed flyer for use at your discretion. Please feel free to display the flyer in a readily available location to help advise your customers and patrons of this ordinance. Please be advised that this ordinance will be taking effect on January 1, 2019, and non-compliance with these requirements will result in enforcement action.

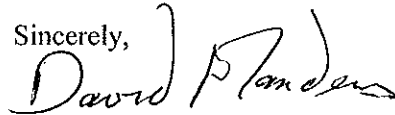
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Other communities have successfully transitioned away from the use of plastic bags, and the Town of South Kingstown is confident that our community can do the same. Your attention to this matter is appreciated. Please feel free to contact Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager, at 789-9331, ext. 1201 with any questions regarding the ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Flanders". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

David Flanders, Chair

South Kingstown Conservation Commission