

Mayor
Council
Thomas Papaleo

Ellen Busteed
Administrator

Dario Chinigo
Lissette Aportela



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Joseph Gautier
Michelle Kaufman
Indira Kinsella
Lissa Montisano-Koen

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE
705 Kinderkamack Road
River Edge, New Jersey 07661
(201) 599-6300 Fax (201) 599-0997

September ---, 2021

Dear River Edge Business Leaders,

Governor Murphy signed into law on November 4, 2020, a ban on single use plastic and paper carry-out bags, polystyrene foam food service products and single use plastic straws. Implementation of the ban is scheduled for November 2021 for straws and May 2022 for the bags and polystyrene.

River Edge along with the state is committed to protecting our environment. A tangible way to do this is to embrace this ban and limit use of these disposable items that do not biodegrade but end up as smaller pieces that accumulate in our landfills or clog our waterways, harming our wildlife and even entering the food chain.

Beginning May 4, 2022, NJ stores or food service businesses may not sell or provide single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers. Businesses may sell or provide REUSEABLE carryout bags, but these must meet certain criteria. There are exceptions to the ban on bags, for example bags used to wrap uncooked meat or loose vegetables and fruit, dry cleaning bags, bags for prescriptions and newspapers, etc. Similar restrictions and exceptions apply for polystyrene products. Complete information can be found by accessing the NJ DEP website, under law P.L. 2020, c117, at <https://nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law/docs/plastic-bag-law-c117.pdf>. The law provides definitions of types of bags and polystyrene, size and types of businesses affected, dates for implementation, exceptions to the ban, enforcement, and penalties, etc. Businesses are encouraged to review this law in its entirety and determine how this ban affects your everyday dealings.

The state has also developed online resources for businesses to prepare for this ban. The state's business focused website Business.NJ.gov as well as the DEP website (www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/plastic-ban-law/) features the latest information on the law and assistance. Future resources for businesses on the website will include a listing of vendors who sell reusable carryout bags that meet the new requirements. Plus the business experts on the NJBAC website's Live Chat and at 1-800-Jersey-7 are available 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri, for the information you need to comply with the new law.

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In addition, to the state's resources, the River Edge Administration through the River Edge Environmental Commission would like to be of assistance in your efforts to meet these new requirements. We are planning to set up a meeting during the fall to provide additional information and to give you an opportunity to ask questions or request assistance. We will post information on this meeting and other resources on the Environmental Commission section of the Borough of River Edge webpage and the "River Edge Environmental Commission and Green Team Facebook page". Please monitor these pages for the latest info, however we encourage all businesses to read the law and begin to plan now, May 2022 is just around the corner. In the interim, if you have any questions, please post them on the Facebook page and we will try our best to answer them.

Sincerely,

Thomas Papaleo
Mayor