

# CHOOSE REUSABLE!

## THE REUSABLE BAG INITIATIVE



*Don't forget to  
bring your Reusable Bag*

Effective March 1st 2020, New York State law will prohibit the distribution of single use plastic carryout bags by retailers.

The purpose of the law is to encourage consumers to use their own reusable bags when shopping to reduce the waste and environmental impacts associated with single use plastic and paper bags.

### Important Facts:

- Americans consume more than one hundred billion plastic and ten billion paper bags each year.
- Both plastic and paper bags have a serious impact on the environment.
- Single-use plastic bags are a source of litter on land and in waterways & harmful to marine habitats and wildlife.
- They are problematic and costly to recycle.
- You can make an impact!

**For more information visit: [www.harrison-ny.gov](http://www.harrison-ny.gov)**

**Follow the Harrison Sustainability Committee**  

*THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO COST YOU A DIME!*



PAPER = 10 cents



= 0 cents



**Retail Single-Use Carryout Bag Public Hearing will be held at the Town/Village Board Meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building**



With inspiration from our friends at Small steps make a difference.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the proposed Town of Harrison Re-useable bag law?**

A: The law will require stores to charge at least ten cents (\$0.10) for paper bags and encourages people to bring re-useable bags to their local stores.

**Q: When does the law take effect?**

A: This is yet to be determined but hopefully prior to the enactment of the NY State regulation banning single use plastic bags on March 1st, 2020.

**Q: Why will there be a charge for carry out bags?**

A: Studies show that a fee on single use bags will encourage shoppers to bring their own bags and decrease the amount of disposable plastic and paper bags causing harm to the environment.

**Q: Will merchants have help with the transition?**

A: Yes, the Town of Harrison Sustainability Committee will work with retailers on education and outreach in the community.

**Q: Is the bag ordinance unfair for people of lower socioeconomic status?**

A: Anyone who does not want to pay the fee may obtain a free reusable bag. Prior to the law's effective date, reusable bags will be distributed through stores, at Community Centers in Harrison and Purchase, at Churches and Synagogues and at community events. People can look for a "Joey Bin" with signs "Leave a Bag - Take a bag".

**Q: What other towns in Westchester have bag laws?**

A: City of Rye, Village of Bedford, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Village of Larchmont, Village of Pleasantville, Village of Rye Brook, Town of Mamaroneck and Town of New Castle.

**Q: Aren't there other things to worry about?**

A: Yes, but small steps can make a big difference and this law will encourage reuse and greatly reduce the number of disposable bags distributed in Harrison which become unsightly garbage.