

## **To: New Hampshire Grocery Store Owners and Managers**

We, the undersigned residents of New Hampshire, are petitioning New Hampshire's major grocery store chains to voluntarily eliminate the practice of providing free single-use plastic bags at checkouts.

### **Why This Petition is Necessary:**

- New Hampshire grocery stores distribute millions of single-use plastic bags annually, with each bag being used for an average of only 12 minutes but persisting in our environment for up to 1,000 years.
- Retailers report saving \$50-100 per 1,000 customers after eliminating free plastic bags.
- 64% of shoppers prefer environmentally responsible retailers.
- Significant decreases in waste management costs occur with the elimination of single use plastic bags.
- Stores in Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts have successfully implemented plastic bag reductions mandated by law, and customers have adapted.
- Plastic bags are one of the top five items found in our coastal cleanups, from Hampton Beach to the Great Bay, threatening our marine ecosystems.
- Plastics don't decompose, they break down into "microplastics." Studies show microplastics in our lungs, liver, heart, brain increase our chances of heart attack, stroke or death.
- Scientists from the Green Mt. Conservation Group Carroll County, New Hampshire have discovered microplastics in well water, backyard snow, and in every river and stream they have sampled since 2022.
- Our tourist economy depends on natural beauty. Discarded plastic bags detract from our scenic landscapes and harm our wildlife.

### **We respectfully request that your stores:**

1. Phase out free single-use plastic bags at checkout by the end of 2025.
2. Implement an immediate "opt-in" policy where cashiers ask if customers need bags.
3. Install prominent displays offering customers the choice to purchase a reusable bag option that is NOT made of plastic.

### **How we can help:**

1. We can use our extensive network to promote bag collection and recycling events at your store.
2. We can recommend vendors for durable, locally branded reusable bags.
3. We can write letters to newspapers statewide celebrating your store's decision to voluntarily reduce single use plastic in New Hampshire.

### **ENDORSED BY THESE ORGANIZATIONS:**



**NEW HAMPSHIRE NETWORK**  
for Environment • Energy • Climate





[Living A Sustainable Lifestyle: Tea & Talks](#)



**Tamworth Recycling Project**



## **Petition to phase out free single-use plastic bags at grocery store checkouts in New Hampshire by the end of 2025**

We, the undersigned, urge you to protect the health and environment of New Hampshire by ceasing to offer plastic bags at grocery store checkouts.

**PETITION EXPLANATION:** Americans are using 100 billion plastic bags, which are used on average for 12 minutes but last in the environment as much as 1,000 years. Less than 9% of all plastic gets recycled; the other 91% ends up in our oceans, streams, lakes, gutters, parks, forests, landfills, and incinerators where it goes on to pollute our air, water, soil, wildlife – and our bodies.

We can do without these bags altogether, and affordable reusable alternatives are readily available.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Collector: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name	Street Address	Zipcode	Email
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