

Newtown Township
County of Bucks Pennsylvania

A Resolution to Reduce the Distribution of Single Use Plastics

DRAFT

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution provides that people have the right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment; that Pennsylvania 's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come, and that as a trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Second Class Township Boards of Supervisors are charged with the responsibility to ensure the sound health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the township. (Article VI, Section 602, Act of May 1, 1933, P.L. 103, No. 69, Second Class Township Code);

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Second Class Township Boards of Supervisors are authorized to make and adopt ordinances, bylaws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with or restrained by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth necessary and proper for the health and welfare of the township and its citizens. (Article XV, Section 1506, Act of May 1, 1933, P.L. 103, No. 69, Second Class Township Code);

WHEREAS, there is a preponderance of research indicating concern for potential effects of use and disposal of plastic materials upon human health;

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene food containers have the potential to pollute the environment, harm wildlife and natural landscapes in Newtown Township, clog storm drains and drainage systems and enter into the waters of the Commonwealth creating further damage to aquatic life and ecosystems;

WHEREAS, plastic film from single-use plastic bags binds and clog sorting equipment and become an operational and financial burden on recycling facilities and polystyrene containers do not biodegrade;

WHEREAS, reusable bags and containers and straws made from environmentally-friendly materials are readily available alternatives to single-use plastic bags, polystyrene food containers and plastic straws and are both cost effective and help to preserve the natural environment;

Whereas, plastic fragments less than 5 millimeters, known as Micro-plastics, pollute the waterways, contaminate aquatic species, are digested and cause harm to seabirds and livestock

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the residents of Newtown Township to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and plastic straws and polystyrene food containers to protect the public health and natural environment of the surrounding area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newtown Township Board of Supervisors encourages businesses, residents and visitors to voluntarily participate in reducing the distribution of single-use plastic bags, straws and polystyrene containers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Newtown Township Board of Supervisors encourages the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council and other volunteers to educate and inform Township businesses, residents and visitors about the need for voluntary single-use plastic reduction.

RESOLVED this ____ day of _____ 20__

NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Attest:

Date: _____