



PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT

Jennifer Coffey



8.8 million tons of plastics enter our oceans every year



Plastic Pollution: Triple Threat



Fossil fuels are: coal,
oil and gas.



Today, mostly made from a by-product of gas: ethane



Photo credit: J.Enck BeyondPlastics.org



BAGS



STRAWS



POLYSTYRENE

THE PLASTIC TRIFECTA

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Plastic Pollution Reduction Law



The Basics

- **Straws upon request – November 2021**
- **All single-use plastic bags banned, with sanitary exceptions, May 2022**
 - IF store size ABOVE 2500 square feet - paper bags banned**
 - IF store size UNDER 2500 square feet – paper bags free**
- **All polystyrene foam food service products banned, May 2022.**
 - 2 year extension for long handled spoons, meat trays, pre-packaged foods, May 2024**

What's Allowed?

- Reusable plastic carryout bags with stitched handles
- Bags used solely to contain or wrap uncooked meat, fish, or poultry
- Hemp bags
- Bags used solely for loose items such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, grains, baked goods, candy, greeting cards, flowers or small hardware items
- Bags used solely to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores
- Bags used solely to contain food sliced or prepared to order, including soup or hot food
- Laundry, dry cleaning, and garment bags
- Bag provided by a pharmacy to carry prescription drugs
- Newspaper bags



Common Questions



- **Does the State law override local ordinances?**
 - *Local ordinances are in effect until the implementation of the state law for each product type. Existing ordinances for single-use bag and polystyrene food foam service products are active for next 18 months. Straws upon request existing local ordinances are active for next 12 months.
- **What are the penalties?**
 - ❑ *Any business violating the bill would get a warning on first offense, a fine up to \$1,000 for a second offense and a fine of up to \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense.
 - ❑ *70% of the penalties will be remitted to the State into the Clean Communities Fund
 - ❑ *30% of the penalties will be remitted to the municipality
- **What is the funding source for education/reusable bag giveaways?**
 - *NJ Clean Communities funding of \$500,000 will be set aside for the first three years to help local governments with educational efforts and the purchasing of reusable bags for



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