



Go Green Galloway

Green Tip of the Week:

Plastic bag litter is a growing problem. Just look around, and you are sure to see plastic bags hanging from trees, stuck in storm drains, nestled in shrubs, and floating in waterways. The bags are responsible every year for the deaths of many birds, land animals and marine mammals. They can take from 15 to 1000 years to decompose. IN ADDITION: Plastic is petroleum-based; so the more bags that are made the more oil is wasted. The bags are photo-degradable, so, if left out in the open, they break down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers.*

We can all do our part to reduce the plastic bag problem. The easiest solution is to carry reusable bags in your car at all times. These bags have become very prevalent and are available for a small fee at most grocery stores and "big box" stores (Target, Lowes, etc.). These bags are not only more sturdy than plastic bags but they also hold more! And, some stores will give a small discount if you have your own bags.

If you do accumulate plastic bags, please recycle them...our ShopRite Supermarket and Smitty's Foodtown Market have bins for recycling. But the best rule to follow is to reduce first, reuse second and then recycle.

This tip is courtesy of the Task Force for a Sustainable Galloway.

For more information, call the Galloway Township Department of Community Education at 652-9265 or email bfiedler@gallowaytp-nj.gov

*CNN.com/technology November 16, 2007

