

## Township Passes Plastics Ordinance



The Township Committee recently adopted Ordinance #22-2020, "*Limitation on Plastic Bags*" which reflects the Township's commitment to environmental quality, addresses a significant global problem relating to the sale and use of single-use plastics, and incentivizes the use of reusable bags at businesses. Ultimately this will help the environment and wildlife, as well as public health, welfare and safety.

The ordinance includes a ban on single-use plastic bags, polystyrene foam containers for and/or plastic straws. Paper bags can be made available, with or without a fee, at the discretion of the business.

Businesses include, but are not limited to, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, clothing stores, dry cleaners, food marts, and food service establishments. Take-out food containers shall only be grade #1 and #2 or biodegradable.

The effective date of this ordinance is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The statewide ban does not take effect until May 2022. The early implementation date allows Readington businesses to make good-faith efforts to comply prior to the state-wide restrictions.