

Excerpts of Key Definitions

Establishment/Food Establishment: Any operation that provides goods – including food and/or beverages – and/or services directly to consumers, with or without charge; sporadic, temporary, part- or full-time; commercial, non-profit, religious, educational, foundation-related, or governmental; whether on private, public, religious, or school property.

Recyclable Paper Bags: Paper bags with or without handles provided...for...transporting food or merchandise from the Establishment and that (1) are one-hundred percent (100%) recyclable, (2) contain a minimum of forty percent (40%) postconsumer recycled paper content, and (3) have all the following information printed in a visible manner on the outside of the bag: the word “recyclable,” the name and country of the manufacturer, and the percentage of post-consumer recycled paper content.

Reusable Shopping Bags: Sewn bags with stitched handles that (1) are... designed and manufactured for multiple reuse; (2) can comfortably carry 25 pounds over a distance of 300 feet; (3) can hold a minimum of 15 liters; (4) can be readily washed or disinfected by hand or machine; and, (5) are made of either (a) natural fibers (such as cotton or linen); or (b) durable, non-toxic plastic other than Polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride that is generally considered a food-grade material and is more than 4 mils thick. The following information must be printed in a visible manner on the outside of the bags or on permanent tags: the name of the distributor or manufacturer; the country of manufacture; a true statement that the bag does not contain lead, cadmium, or other heavy metals in toxic amounts; the percent of post-consumer recycled material used in the bag, if any; and a statement recommending regular cleaning or disinfection.

Contact Information

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Lee Recycling Committee

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Be Prepared: Purchase Our Reusable Shopping Bags Here



Carr Hardware

Karen Keenan Gifts and Interiors

Lee Hardware

Papperdilly

Zabian's



and the

Lee Greener Gateway Committee*

**A GUIDE TO THE PLASTIC
BAG AND POLYSTYRENE
BYLAWS GOING INTO
EFFECT MAY 12, 2017**



SUMMARY OF THE PLASTIC BAG AND POLYSTYRENE BYLAWS ADOPTED AT THE 2016 TOWN MEETING*

At their May 2016 meeting Lee Town Meeting Representatives adopted bylaws regulating the use of thin-film, plastic shopping bags and polystyrene drink and food containers, in order to reduce their impacts and to make Lee more sustainable and attractive to residents, tourists, and businesses. The bylaws maintain consumer flexibility and help those who can least afford to make changes. We are encouraging people to use reusable bags and containers, which will help the environment, save money over the long term, and help local businesses. The bylaws require businesses and others providing food, drinks, and goods that have not already stopped using the regulated items to use different products. The following table highlights the bylaws' key provisions. If you have questions, please contact Jim Wilusz. **To see the bylaws, a list of approved alternatives, and FAQs, please go online to www.tritownhealth.org.**

Thin-Film Plastic Shopping Bags	Polystyrene Drink and Food Containers
Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers may use whatever bags or other containers they want. • At checkout, Establishments may only provide, with or without charge, reusable shopping bags, recyclable paper bags (defined in the bylaw), or cardboard boxes. • Establishments may not provide any bags made of polyethylene. • Raw food and bulk item bags must be made of compostable bioplastics, cellophane, wax paper, or recyclable paper. 	Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers may use their own containers. • Food establishments – broadly defined – cannot use or provide food and drink containers made of foam or rigid polystyrene.
Alternatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting six months before the bylaw goes into effect), the Lee Board of Health or its designee will publish a list of approved alternatives, and periodically update it. 	
Exemptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants in the WIC or SNAP programs and non-profits or charities that distribute goods to clients do not have to pay for recyclable paper bags or, at the establishment's discretion, reusable bags. • Non-profits and charities that distribute goods to clients are exempt. • Establishments may sell plastic bags contained in packages of multiple units intended for customers' personal use. 	Exemptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents and visitors may purchase pre-packaged food and drink containers made of polystyrene for their personal use. • Food or drink prepared or packaged outside of Lee are exempt.
Exemptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific applications of Establishments are exempt for as long as the Lee Board of Health or its designee has not approved a suitable alternative. • The Lee Board of Health or its designee may grant deferments in six month increments for up to two years to food establishments that demonstrate compliance would cause an undue hardship. 	
Enforcement, Violations, and Penalties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lee Board of Health or its designee will be the enforcing agency. • Citizen complaints may trigger investigations. • The sequence of penalties: first violation–warning; second violation–\$50; third violation–\$100; fourth and subsequent violations–\$200 • Repeat and flagrant violations may lead to license/permits denial, suspension, or revocation. 	
Effective Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 12, 2017 	