



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, approximately one third of all plastics produced are single-use plastics; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 100 billion single-use plastic carryout bags and 25 billion Styrofoam plastic coffee cups are thrown away in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, most single-use plastics are disposed of in landfills, are incinerated, or become litter in our waterways; and

WHEREAS, eight million tons of plastic end up in the oceans annually; and

WHEREAS, plastics released in the environment do not biodegrade, but instead become microplastics; and

WHEREAS, microplastics have been found in many human consumables and within the human body; and

WHEREAS, microplastics have been found in State waters and may cause negative health effects to the wildlife that accidentally ingest or consume them; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2020, P.L. 2020, c.117 was signed, an act concerning single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use paper carryout bags, polystyrene foam food service products, and single-use plastic straws to reduce consumer consumption of single-use plastic, single-use paper, and polystyrene foam food service products in New Jersey's; and

WHEREAS, after November 4, 2021, single-use plastic straws may only be provided only upon the request of the customer; and

WHEREAS, beginning May 4, 2022, retail stores, grocery stores, and food service businesses in New Jersey may not provide or sell single-use plastic carryout bags, and polystyrene foam food service products; and

WHEREAS, beginning May 4, 2022, grocery stores larger than or equal to 2,500 square feet in New Jersey may not provide or sell single-use paper carryout bags; and

WHEREAS, it is important that residents and businesses learn more about the effect of plastic pollution and take an active role in incorporating sustainable practices to prevent plastic pollution in our environment which degrades our valuable natural resources, communities and our quality of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phillip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 2022 AS GET PAST PLASTIC MONTH

in New Jersey and encourage all New Jerseyans to renew their commitment by doing all they can every day to reduce the use of single-use plastics, single-use paper, and polystyrene foam products in our State.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fifth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-two, the two hundred forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR