

Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Ordinance Business Checklist

Cambridge Public Works created this checklist for business owners and retail managers to comply with the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Ordinance, effective March 31 2016. Please contact us if you need assistance. We appreciate your help making Cambridge a sustainable city!

To be compliant, has your retail establishment:

- ☐ Discontinued single-use plastic bags
- ☐ Found a compliant bag (reusable, paper, compostable, or NO BAG AT ALL!) and ensured that the bag meets criteria:
 - a. **Reusable bag**—a bag with handles and at least 3.0 mils thickness.
 - b. **Recyclable Paper Bag**—100% recyclable and contains at least 40% post-consumer recycled content. The bag must display both.
 - c. **Compostable Bag**—must be BPI certified.
- ☐ Determined what your retail establishment will charge for the checkout bag (minimum \$0.10/bag)
- ☐ Added “Checkout Bag Charge” to cash register or POS system to display on receipt and to collect the checkout bag charge
- ☐ Trained cashiers to charge for each checkout bag and to ask, “Would you like a bag for \$.10?”
- ☐ Placed a checkout sticker near the point of sale (contact us to request stickers)
- ☐ Informed your customers that you’re partnering with the City to help reduce waste, protect marine life, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that customers should bring reusable bags when shopping.
- ☐ (If applicable) Applied for an exemption at CambridgeMA.Gov/BYOB. Options for exemptions are:
 - a. No reasonable alternatives to providing Recyclable Paper Bags, Compostable Bags, or Reusable Bags.
 - b. Deprives a person of a legally protected right.
 - c. Retail Establishment needs time to draw down existing inventory. Monthly reporting mandatory.

Please visit CambridgeMA.Gov/BYOB for more info

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