



Westwood Environmental Action Committee

April 21, 2019

May is “Bring Your Own Bag Month” in Westwood

“Paper or plastic?” is a question we have become accustomed to when we shop at Roche Brothers. Most other retailers in Westwood offer plastic bags only. Whole Foods in Dedham and Trader Joe’s in Needham offer paper bags only. While it’s nice to have a choice, both paper and plastic pose problems for our planet.

Most people are aware of the damage to waterways and wildlife caused by carelessly disposing single-use plastics. The bags clog up recycling equipment as well and should never be placed in recycling carts. Paper bags are perceived by many of us as a benign alternative to plastic. However, the destruction of forest habitats and the large amount of energy and chemicals used to produce, distribute, and even recycle paper bags leave an even heavier, though less obvious, environmental footprint.



To raise awareness about the impact of single-use bags and reduce their use, the Select Board, in collaboration with the Westwood Environmental Action Committee (WEAC), proclaimed May “Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Month”! WEAC will be running some fun and educational programs to help our neighbors get in the habit of bringing reusable bags whenever they go shopping. WEAC will also donate hundreds of 100% recycled bags that scrunch up into an attached pouch to fit in a purse or pocket. These may be picked up for free at the Westwood Libraries and the Senior Center.

For the kids, WEAC has partnered with the Children’s Department of the Westwood Library to host a hands-on workshop by Tidal Shift to demonstrate the damage of plastic bags to sea life. This event will take place on May 11 at 2:00 pm at the main branch. Please contact the library for registration. Details about the participating retailers and BYOB-related activities will be announced soon.