

State Plastic Bag Fee and Glastonbury Ordinance Community Reference Guide July 2019

Connecticut Department of Revenue Services Single-Use Plastic Bag Fee

What is the State of CT Single-Use Plastic Bag Fee?

Enacted by PA 2019 19-17 355, a new statewide single-use plastic bag fee will go into effect on **August 1, 2019**, requiring Connecticut retailers to assess a \$0.10 per bag fee at the point of sale for single-use checkout bags. Additionally, these same bags will be banned statewide as of July 1, 2021.

Who enacted and will enforce this fee?

The CT Department of Revenue Services (DRS) passed, and will be responsible for enforcing this fee.

Who does the fee affect?

Retailers and consumers. **Retailers** who issue single-use plastic checkout bags will now be required to charge \$0.10 per bag at the point of sale. **Consumers** who shop at any retail location in Connecticut will be required to pay the \$0.10 per bag fee for every single-use plastic bag they need to carry their goods out of the store. Consumers can avoid the \$0.10 per bag fee by bringing their own reusable bags to any retail establishment they shop at beginning August 1, 2019.

May municipalities pass their own ordinances regarding checkout bags?

Yes. Municipalities may enact or enforce an ordinance concerning single-use plastic checkout bags, provided the ordinance is as restrictive, or more restrictive, as the state legislation. In addition, municipalities may enact or enforce an ordinance concerning paper checkout bags, including, but not limited to, enabling each store to charge a fee for any such bag distributed to a customer. Any municipal charges for a bag are subject to sales tax. If a municipality were to charge its own plastic bag fee, it would be in addition to the state plastic bag fee. (See Glastonbury Ordinance details on next page.)

Who can I contact for questions regarding the State fee?

For state fee questions, please contact the DRS Legal Division at legal.division@po.state.ct.us.

Additional Information:

Please visit the state web page dedicated to this new law at <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Legislative-Summaries/2019-Legislative-Updates/Single-Use-Plastic-Bag-Fee>. They also have their own FAQ sheet available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DRS/Publications/OCG/OCG-9-BagFee.pdf?la=en>.

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How does this relate to and/or affect the Town of Glastonbury Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance?

Additionally, and independently of the newly enacted State legislation, the Town of Glastonbury adopted a new ordinance in June 2019 regarding single-use plastic bags. As noted above, this is permissible under the state single-use plastic bag fee legislation. The following provides some frequently asked questions regarding the Town ordinance.

What does the Glastonbury Ordinance require of businesses and consumers?

The Glastonbury Single-Use Plastic Bag ordinance requires retail establishments to provide ONLY reusable and/or recyclable paper checkout bags as checkout bags for its customers. Single-use plastic bags are NOT permissible through this ordinance. ([View the entire Town ordinance here.](#))

When does the Town ordinance go into effect?

The ordinance will be effective January 1, 2020 and retail establishments are encouraged to comply by this date. However, to allow retailers the opportunity to deplete their existing inventory of single-use plastic bags, citations and penalties for non-compliance will not be issued until July 1, 2020.

What bags are banned through the Town Ordinance?

Single-use plastic checkout bags that are less than 6 mils thick and provided by retail establishments at the point of sale are prohibited through the Town ordinance. This does NOT include plastic bags without handles typically used to collect loose produce, meat, seafood, bakery items, or other unwrapped food items, as well as newspaper, laundry, and dry cleaner bags.

What retail establishments does the ordinance apply to?

Any location where goods are transferred to customers in exchange for payment are subject to the rules of this ordinance. This includes, but is not limited to; retail stores, restaurants, pharmacies, grocery and convenience stores, grocery delivery services, liquor stores, seasonal & temporary businesses, food trucks, and household goods stores.

What can I do as a consumer?

Bring your own reusable bags when shopping at any local retailer. Such bags are available for sale in many retail locations including grocery stores, super stores, and gift shops, or a wide variety of online retailers. Both the Glastonbury ordinance and the State of CT single-use plastic bag laws are part of a larger, global effort to reduce the amount of waste generated in our state. Do your part to reduce waste by participating in the Town's numerous recycling programs, which can be reviewed at www.glastonbury-ct.gov/recycle. If you're not certain how to recycle a certain item, please refer to the state's universal list and search wizard, available at www.recyclect.com.

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Who can I contact with questions about the GLASTONBURY ordinance?

Please contact the Glastonbury Refuse Division at **(860) 652-7772** for Town ordinance specific questions. Questions regarding the state fee should be directed to legal.division@po.state.ct.us.

Timeline for both regulations:

Date	Details and Requirements
June 11, 2019	Glastonbury Town Council passed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance.
August 1, 2019	State of Connecticut fee goes into effect requiring all Connecticut retail establishments to charge \$0.10 per single-use bag issued to customers at the point of sale.
January 1, 2020	<p>Town of Glastonbury Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance goes into effect. The ordinance <u>requires all Glastonbury retail establishments to issue only reusable and/or recyclable paper checkout bags and PROHIBITS the issuance of single-use plastic bags</u> at the point of sale.* To allow retailers the opportunity to deplete their existing inventory of single-use plastic bags, citations and penalties for non-compliance will not be issued until <u>July 1, 2020</u>.</p> <p><i>*Excludes produce, newspaper, laundry, and dry cleaner bags.</i></p>
July 1, 2020	Town of Glastonbury may begin issuing citations for any retail establishment who is not in compliance with the Town Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance.
July 1, 2021	All single-use plastic bags are “scheduled to be banned statewide” in all retail establishments per the CT Department of Revenue Services (DRS) legislation PA 2019 19-17 355.