

# The Campus Green



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## Potential Plastic Bag Ban in Providence's Future

According to the City Council, over 95 million plastic bags are used every year in Providence. Plastic bags can cause serious problems for the workers at the recycling center and the environment posing a huge threat to wildlife, especially marine animals. Groups including the Providence Office of Sustainability, the citizen group Zero Waste Providence, and Clean Water Action, crafted an ordinance to ban the use of plastic bags here in Providence. There will also be a fee on other bags, including paper bags, of at least ten cents. City director of sustainability, Leah Bamberger wants to "shift consumer behavior so that we get in the habit of bringing our reusable bags with us. We don't want to just shift people to paper bags."

Barrington lead the way with the first RI plastic bag ban in January of 2013, followed by Newport and Middletown at the end of 2017. Jamestown, Block Island, Portsmouth, and Bristol have all passed their own ordinances but they are not yet in effect. The proposal in Providence was advanced without opposition at the first hearing on March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Providence has one of the worst recycling rates in the state of Rhode Island. In 2016 alone, the city recycled only 8.6% of its waste and paid about \$820,000 in fines and tipping fees for rejected loads that had to be sent to the landfill instead. The proposed ordinance could help save the city from paying future fines by keeping plastic bags out of both the recycling and the trash.



**BRING YOUR BAG.**

**NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS.**



**Enough is Enough!**



**1 TON OF PLASTIC BAGS = 11 BARRELS OF OIL**



Mark your calendars!  
 Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>  
 6:30-9pm in '64 Hall  
 An Inconvenient Sequel  
 With food and a lively discussion!

## Dunkin to Phase Out Styrofoam by 2020

Dunkin Donuts has pledged to phase out Styrofoam by 2020! The alternative hot cup material is a double-walled paper cup, to be used without a coffee sleeve. The majority of Dunkin's international stores already use paper cups, but Dunkin is only now finally bringing the concept to the states. Dunkin says this change will save one billion cups from being sent to the landfill. Among the first stores to initiate this change is the Dunkin in Quincy, Massachusetts and stores in New York and California. Either the new paper hot cup or the PC koozies you can find in Harkins LL18, are both great alternatives to the



Styrofoam hot cups! Say no to Styrofoam and make this one change in your habits to help make the environment a cleaner, safer place for all living things.

## ThredUp

Getting bored with shopping at the same stores for clothes that everyone else has? Check out [thredup.com](http://thredup.com) to shop for unique secondhand items at a huge discount! Shopping at secondhand stores instead of buying new clothes decreases demand for new clothing and goods and keeps virgin resources from being used.

Did you know that 10.5 million tons of used clothing are sent to landfills every year? Consider donating your used clothing to charity or secondhand stores to help keep them out of landfills.



If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us at the Office of Environmental Health & Safety.  
401.865.1881  
[recycle@providence.edu](mailto:recycle@providence.edu)  
<https://recycling.providence.edu>

## Go Green This Saint Patrick's Day

**Sustainable tips to help you go green this Saint Patrick's Day!**

- ❖ Support small businesses! Drink locally sourced beverages and eat locally sourced foods-- it cuts down on the pollution associated with transporting these goods long distances
  - Use Farm Fresh RI's guide to [Restaurants that Buy Local in RI](#) or [YELP](#) to locate nearby restaurants that cook with locally sourced ingredients!
- ❖ Shop at farmer's markets! Support local farms!
  - [Pawtucket Wintertime Farmers Market, Saturdays: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Hope Artiste Village](#) 1005 Main St, Pawtucket, RI. You can also drop off your veggie scraps at the market to be composted!
  - Contact Michael Bradlee at [Earth Appliance Organics](#) operating out of Frey's Florist on Radcliffe to get your own compost bucket!
- ❖ Walk, or check out a bike, lock, and helmet for a day for free from the PC gym, or take the [RIPTA](#) or [Amtrak](#) to the parade instead of driving.
- ❖ Create decorations out of recycled materials instead of buying new ones—check if the PC Copy Center in Feinstein 102 has scrap paper at 401.865.2436.
- ❖ Get outside and plant something green! Check out [Farm Fresh RI](#) for a complete list of community gardens in the area and take a look at their events calendar too!
- ❖ Participate in events related to the environment in RI by checking out the [ECRI calendar!](#)
- ❖ Trade in your old inefficient light bulbs and swap them for new, green, energy efficient LEDs!
  - Find cheap light bulbs at your local [ReStore](#) while supporting Habitat for Humanity!
- ❖ Phase out paper towels by transitioning to reusable kitchen towels!
- ❖ Wash only full loads of laundry & try hanging clothes to dry!
- ❖ Take short showers instead of baths! Showers use much less water than baths as long as you keep your shower under 10 minutes! If you already shower, consider turning the water off when shampooing, conditioning, or washing your body!



## Recyclebank

Looking for free magazine subscriptions and other free prizes? Check out Recyclebank! Read articles and take quizzes about recycling to earn points that go towards free rewards!

