



The Coronavirus is Unbanning Plastic Bags, Unnecessarily

Original Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty2TNHOJAY8>

Waste-Free Wednesday

Plastic Bags

Today's Plastic Free July challenge is to **stop using plastic bags**...again! This video, made by a student at Emerson College, discusses the re-usable bag ban imposed in response to COVID-19, a decision urged by the plastics industry. It is now coming under intense scrutiny across the US, in part thanks to a letter (link below) signed by over 160 organizations, including CCS.

Pandemic or not, it is always possible to reduce our plastic bag use. Plastic bags have been the target of environmental campaigns for over a decade, and the harm they cause to marine and terrestrial habitats and animals is well documented. According to the EPA, **Americans use roughly 662 BILLION plastic bags each year, or close to 2 billion each day.** If you're local to Cape Cod, you may already know that plastic bags have been banned at most Barnstable County grocers since 2016. Many of you likely already **bring your own re-usable bags** to the market. But when bringing reusable bags into the grocery store is not an option, consider rolling your un-bagged groceries out to your car to bag them in your own bags.

Letter: https://coastalstudies.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020Letter-from-163-Organizations-SUP.pdf?fbclid=IwAR37_N3WIBO9NQFuUGhNod9lBw24CJ5fAfifojsOt6xoU6uoXv9RRdE1f4