

I have been a Connecticut resident for 30 years and a teacher in this area for 10 years. And I have enjoyed living in a beautiful coastal town and being a part of all that Connecticut has to offer. I have also loved the education that my family and teachers provided for me. Part of that education was the idea of taking care of this area. It became second nature as I grew from a child into an adult and I continue to learn from others about the environment and our vital role in maintaining our beautiful state.

I have seen many changes in Connecticut since I was a young girl but reducing, reusing, and recycling has held its position and I have always respected the responsibility that comes with that position. It is not always easy to be responsible but for the welfare of the state, I continue to try and teach others to try and change one small thing about their environmental habits. As much as I have learned through my family, friends, and my own research, I am always glad to obtain more information and change one more thing about my own habits. While it may seem difficult, I am open to the idea, as are many others who live here.

Connecticut is due for a change, as our world, country and the times are changing anyway. We have seen other cities and states make small changes which barely alter their day to day lives but certainly create a positive impact on the future of the state of Connecticut. Many people have fought the plastic bag ban. Perhaps because the word ban is scary or antiquated. Perhaps they dislike the idea because it means changing a habit, or maybe they just don't want change. Connecticut and its residents do support change, do enjoy living in this beautiful state and I believe they can live without the plastic bag. The thin, doesn't hold much, costly to make, difficult to recycle, and seemingly superfluous item that is the plastic bag.

For a long time, we have grown accustomed to our conveniences but now I think that we are overdue for a change and can easily do without this item. I see Connecticut as a pioneer for the environment as Westport and many other cities have already taken a part of. Connecticut can do better than sticking with the plastic bag. I have faith that what Connecticut has taught me will transfer to the next generation, if only those in power will help make it happen. Connecticut will be cleaner, our water will be better, and our trees will once again be filled with the sound of rustling leaves, not remnants of rustling plastic.

No one will regret getting rid of this but we may regret it if we don't.

We may be a small state but we are strong and I think we can pull together and show everyone that we are stronger than a plastic bag. We may be small but I think our choices will have a big impact. Some may be scared of change but I think we are all brave enough to spearhead an idea that is already changing America. Connecticut may be small but it can have a loud voice and it is not necessarily an environmental voice, a political voice, an emotional or invasive voice. It is the voice of reason and this is reasonable.

Victoria Holdt
Resident and teacher, Connecticut