



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** The City of Dover is committed to being a leader in sustainability, as demonstrated by the passage of a Resolution in April 2019 and a Proclamation in July 2021 and July 2022 calling for a voluntary reduction of the use and distribution of single-use plastics throughout the City; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Dover aims to conserve resources, minimize waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate pollution to protect the well-being of residents and wildlife, thus contributing to an enhanced quality of life in Dover; and
- WHEREAS:** The production and disposal of plastic significantly contribute to pollution, posing health risks throughout its lifecycle, from fossil fuel extraction to production to deterioration, and contaminating surface and groundwater supplies with microplastics, thereby compromising drinking water and food chains; and
- WHEREAS:** The excessive amounts of plastic accumulating in landfills is a growing concern, as plastic can take up to 500 years to degrade and less than 9% of plastic is recycled, resulting in a substantial environmental burden; and
- WHEREAS:** The escalating costs associated with plastic waste transport and landfill expenses for Dover residents are expected to lead to significant tax increases for average taxpayers; and
- WHEREAS:** Residents and businesses in Dover have access to a wide range of cost-effective alternatives to single-use plastic, including cloth bags, paper cups and plates, reusable water bottles, silicone storage bags, and compostable containers; and
- WHEREAS:** The City actively supports resilience initiatives and endeavors to disseminate information on reducing reliance on single-use plastics to the Dover Community; and
- WHEREAS:** Numerous restaurants and cafes in Dover have voluntarily joined the nationwide “Skip-the-Stuff” initiative, providing plastic take-out utensils and condiments only upon request, resulting in substantial cost savings and the elimination of thousands of pounds of plastic and food waste annually; and
- WHEREAS:** The City is determined to mitigate the adverse effects of plastic pollution mentioned above and align itself with international efforts to combat plastic-related pollution and health risks.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT CARRIER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND THE ENTIRE DOVER CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM JULY 2023 TO BE:

PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION MONTH

in the City of Dover, NH, and encourage all citizens and businesses to reduce their plastic consumption and waste and to choose more sustainable alternatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Dover to be affixed this **12th day of July, 2023.**

Robert Carrier, Mayor,
City of Dover, New Hampshire