

# SKIP THE PLASTIC BAG



## DON'T TRASH OUR WATERWAYS

### Plastic pollution and the plastic bag ban

- Most frequent material found during local shoreline cleanups
  - Large pieces breakdown over time on land and in water
  - Tiny pieces (microplastics) can be ingested by humans and wildlife
- Come March 2020, New York State will be the 2nd state in the country to ban plastic shopping bags
- Cities and counties have the option to further reduce their environmental impact and incentivize reusable bag use by adopting a 5 cent surcharge on paper bags
  - Erie County has yet to come to a final decision

### What's the problem with paper?

- Paper bags are a disposable item, often used 1 time
- Many consumers will choose to use paper bags provided by stores increasing the number of paper bags made and shipped to stores. This puts more pressure on forests and increases emissions from shipping.

# CREATE YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAG

Reusable bags do not need to be purchased. You can make one with a T-shirt you already own!

## STEP 1

Cut sleeves off a t-shirt.

## STEP 2

Cut the neck line off in an oval shape (this will be the opening of the bag).

## STEP 3

Turn the shirt inside out. Cut slits along the bottom of the shirt (about 3 inches long and about 1 inch apart). Cut front and back layers together so they line up.

## STEP 4

Tie matching front and back fringe strands together in a double knot. Once they are all knotted, tie each knot strand to the ones next to it (this will eliminate small holes in the bottom of the bag).

## STEP 5

Turn the shirt right side out - enjoy using your re-purposed and reusable bag!

To learn more visit: [www.erie.gov/BYObag](http://www.erie.gov/BYObag)

