



Presentation for City Council

Recommendation to Establish a Retail Checkout Bag Ordinance
Rye Sustainability Committee

November 16, 2011

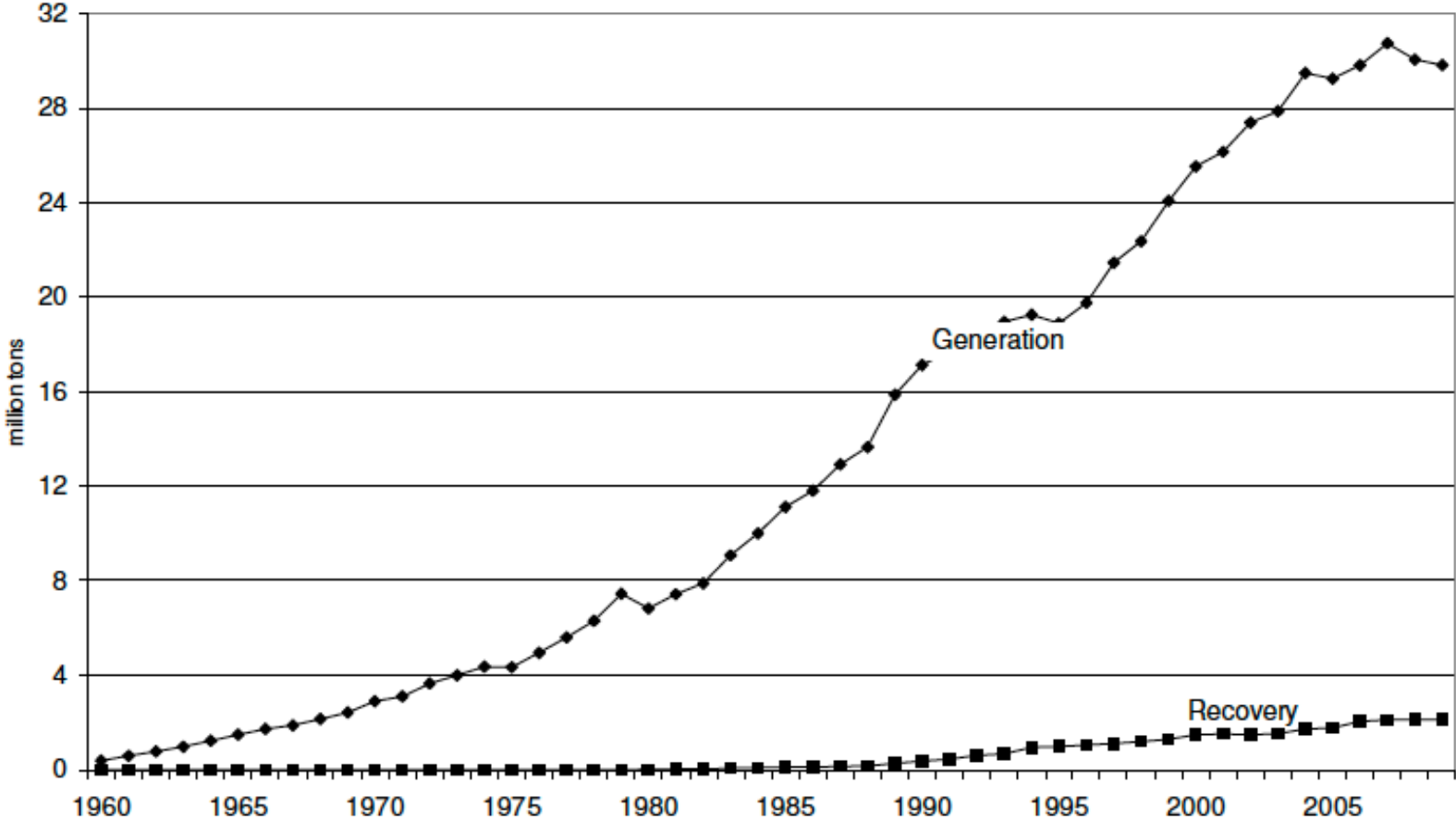
Why Do We Need an Ordinance?

Bag Facts



- Plastic bags were first introduced in 1975
- Today, between 500 billion – 1 trillion plastic bags are used annually world-wide
- Plastic litter stats
 - ▣ Impact on coastal communities
 - ▣ Litter cleanup costs
 - ▣ Doesn't biodegrade

Figure 9. Plastics generation and recovery, 1960 to 2009



Source: 2009 MSW Facts & Figures Full Report published by the EPA

Why Do We Need an Ordinance?

Recycling

- In 2009, only 7% of total plastic waste generated was recovered:
 - ▣ Plastic bags have a high contamination rate
 - ▣ Not cost efficient to recycle due to lack of suitable markets
 - ▣ Plastic bags jam sorting machinery
- Curbside recycling doesn't work:
 - ▣ Extremely costly and ineffective

Why Do We Need an Ordinance? Waste Disposal

- Where does the waste go?
 - ▣ Unstable after-market
 - ▣ Usually sent overseas: cheaper labor and lax regulations
 - ▣ Ends up in the ocean, waterways and clogging storm drains



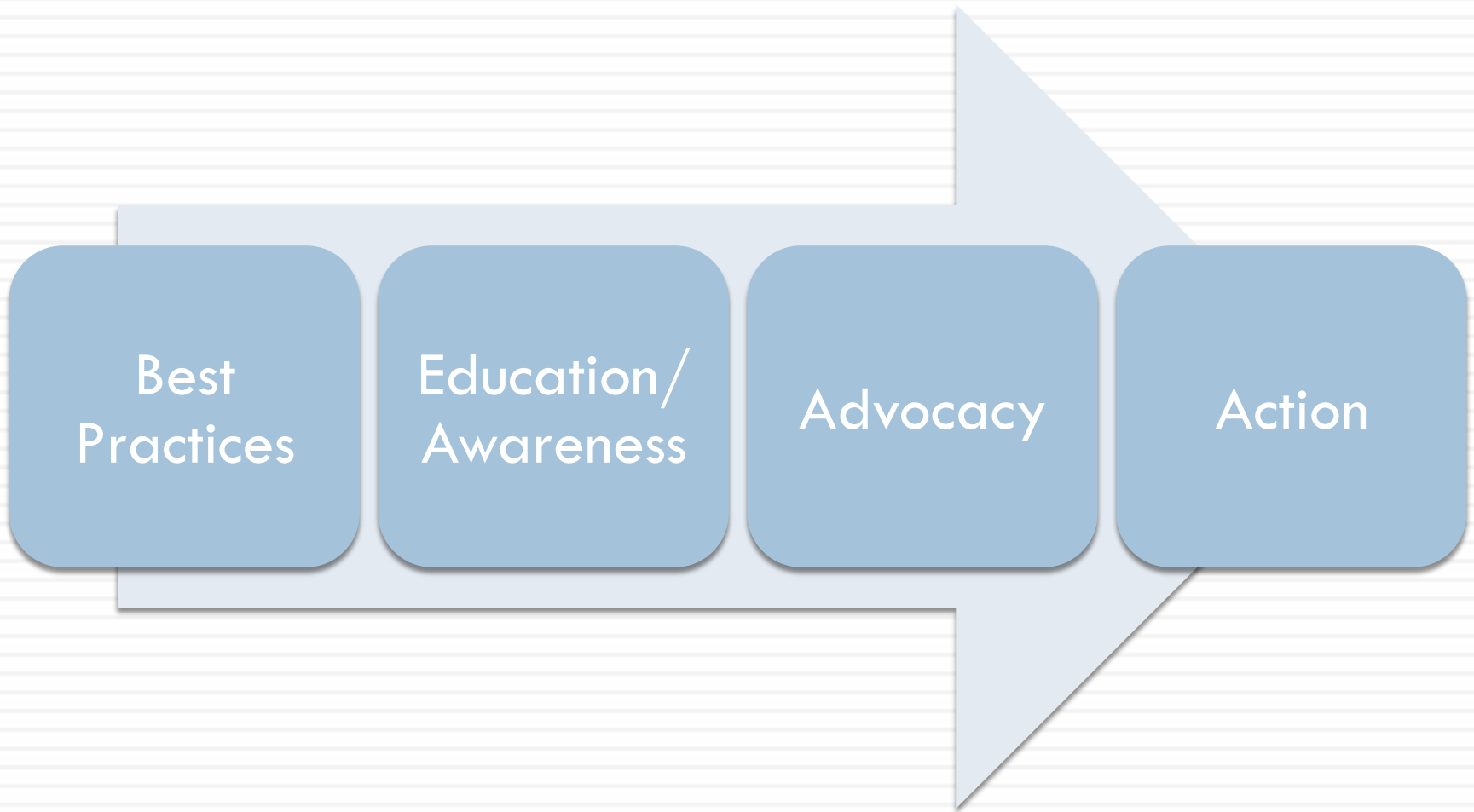
Other Disposables

- Paper bags:
 - ▣ They have a higher recyclable rate – 55%
- Biodegradable Plastic Bags:
 - ▣ They do not fully biodegrade

➡ These alternatives still waste valuable natural resources and add to the waste stream

**SINGLE-USE
DISPOSABLES ARE
COSTLY.
RECYCLING DOESN'T
SOLVE OUR
LITTER PROBLEM!**

Approach



Best Practices - Recent Local Activity

Town/City	Type of Action	Date Enacted
Westport, CT	Shopping Bag Ordinance	2008
Southampton Village, NY	Shopping Bag Ordinance	2011
East Hampton, NY	Shopping Bag Ordinance	2011
Chestertown, MD	Shopping Bag Ordinance	2011
Southampton Town, NY	In progress	
Sag Harbor, NY	In progress	
Darien, NY	In progress	
Wilton, CT	Exploring options	
White Plains, NY	Exploring options	
Norwalk, CT	Exploring options	

Best Practices: Reusable Bag Initiatives

- Effects of legislation on the community:
 - 2008 Westport Ordinance
 - 2011 Southampton Village Ordinance
- ➔ Legislation has had a positive influence on neighboring communities
- Industry Efforts
- National/International Efforts

**REUSABLE BAGS
ELIMINATE THE
NEED FOR COSTLY
DISPOSABLES**

Westport Stop & Shop Sign



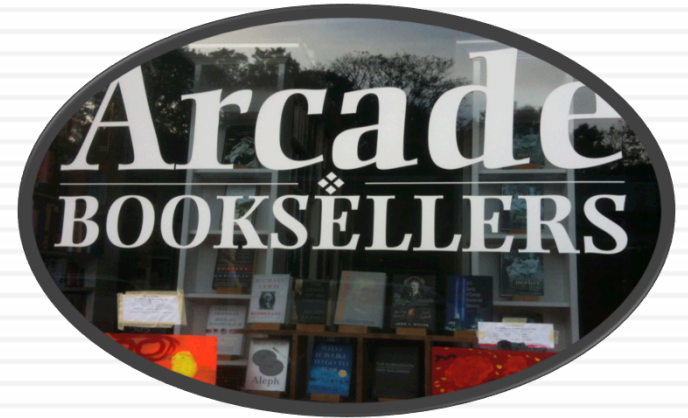
Westport CVS Shopping Bag



Awareness: Rye Merchants

SUNRISE  PIZZA

- Meetings with Chamber of Commerce
- 77 Pledges of Support
- Support signatures from most Chamber of Commerce Officers

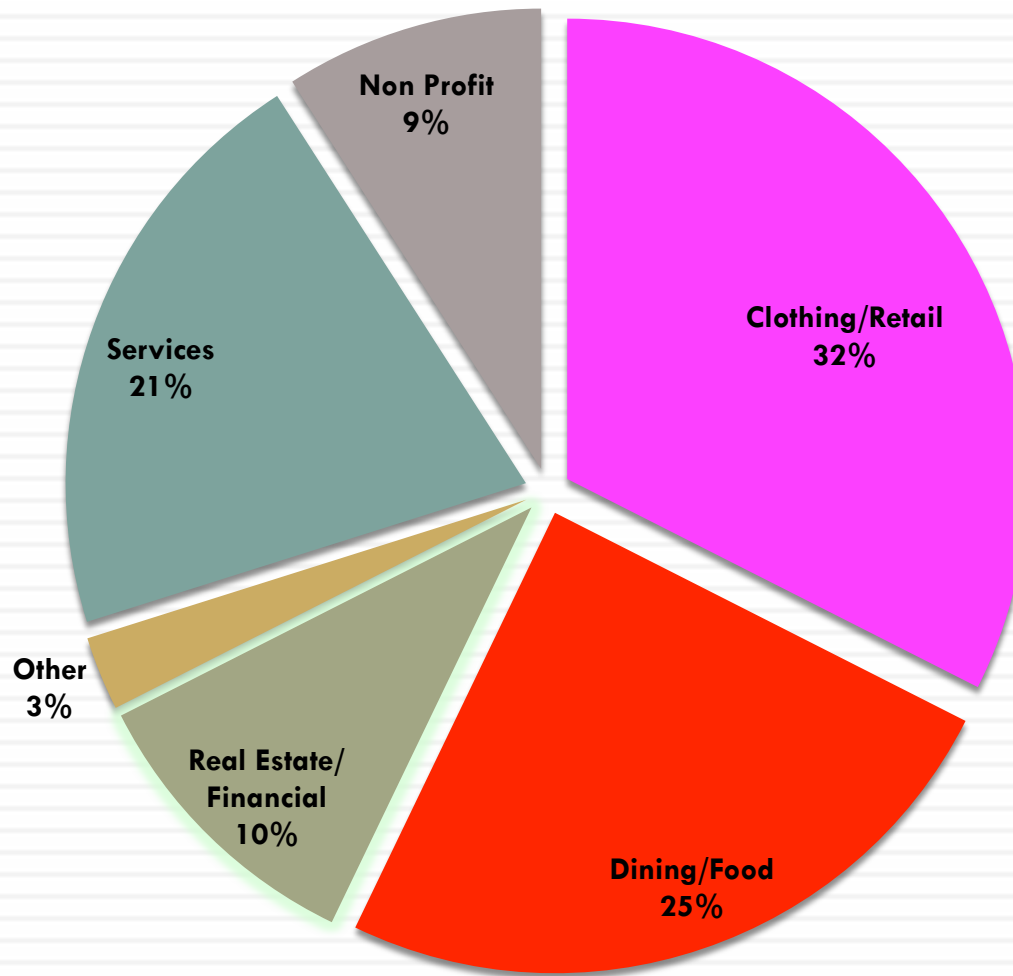


CORNER
STONE
CATERERS
OF RYE NEW YORK

JUNE & HO
LA MAISON DES GOURMETS



Rye Merchants by Category



Public Awareness



- “Bag It” Film and Discussion
- Community Events
- FAQ sheet
- Media
- Post Ordinance

Advocacy



- City Council presentations
- Endorsement from NY State Assemblyman, George Latimer
- Support from our neighboring towns
- Support from local civic organizations

**A RYE ORDINANCE WILL
MAKE RYE A LEADER IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS AND A ROLE
MODEL FOR OTHERS**

Action: Proposed Ordinance



- Similar to other successful ordinances
- Role of Government
- Enforcement
- Timing

Remember...



RECYCLE

REUSE

REDUCE

RETHINK

Rye

