



Weaver Street Market will celebrate Earth Day by shifting exclusively to reusable bags

Co-op is the first grocer in North Carolina to eliminate all single-use paper and plastic checkout bags

HILLSBOROUGH, NC (April 15, 2019) — Paper or plastic? It's a question that thousands of Triangle grocery customers are asked every day. But that will soon change at Weaver Street Market.

The Triangle co-op is launching a bold initiative to eliminate all single-use paper and plastic checkout bags at its stores in Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Raleigh (opening in June 2019). The new policy will take effect on Earth Day (Monday, April 22) to celebrate Weaver Street's continued commitment to protecting our environment.

"This is an opportunity for us to make a meaningful difference in our community through collective action," said General Manager Ruffin Slater. "We recognize that bold steps are needed to address climate change, and this is one way we can work together with our customers to make a real impact and reduce the pollution caused by single-use bags."

Customers who do not carry their own bag to the store will have the option to purchase a reusable bag for 99 cents or an insulated bag for \$1.99, or use a "Bring it Back Sack" made of recycled plastic sturdy enough to be re-used up to 125 times. New sacks can be purchased for 15 cents, or customers can pick up a free sack from a stash of returned bags.

A typical Weaver Street shopper uses about 150 bags each year, enabling the Triangle co-op to eliminate the use of more than one million single-use bags each year. During 2018, Weaver Street customers used 601,000 plastic bags, 509,000 paper bags, and 390,000 reusable bags.

"Orange County Solid Waste Management recognizes that reducing and reusing are the most cost-effective and environmentally sound strategies to reduce solid waste," said Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste Planner and Weaver Street owner for more than 30 years. "Single-use plastics, like checkout bags, can often be readily replaced or eliminated, especially when complemented by the kinds of strategic initiatives in which Weaver Street Market is leading the way in our community,"

Weaver Street Market is the first grocer in North Carolina to eliminate all single-use bags. Kroger, the nation's largest grocery chain, announced last year that it will phase out the use of plastic bags in its stores by 2025.

About Weaver Street Market

Weaver Street Market is a co-op market created for the community, by the community. We sustain healthy communities together — through the goods that we sell and the good that we do. Weaver Street Market carefully selects high-quality products from sources we trust. Our partners include more than 100 local and independent food producers.

Founded in 1988, Weaver Street Market is owned by 20,000 consumer owners and 200 worker owners. We operate thriving downtown stores in Carrboro, Chapel Hill's Southern Village, and Hillsborough, as well as a Food House in Hillsborough that provides fresh deli, bakery, and meat products to its stores twice each day. Our newest market will open in Downtown Raleigh's Warehouse District in June 2019. Learn more at www.weaverstreetmarket.coop.

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