

Big Y Foods, Inc

April 3, 2015

Dear Mr.

Thank you very much for your interest in such an important subject as Paper vs Plastic. There are Pro's and Con's for each side of the argument and you have made a very compelling argument for the side of Paper.

Your argument against Plastic due to its effect on animals is a very strong and emotional argument. No-one wants to see animals hurt because of something that we have inadvertently caused in our environment. I like how you came up with some additional ways to utilize plastic bags over and over again so that they do not end up in landfills or littering our environment.

There are many sides on this universal question of Paper vs Plastic. We at Big Y understand the dilemma that we are up against in choosing to utilize paper or plastic bags or both. I will share some things that we have done to hopefully mitigate the environmental impact.

1. Promote the use of re-usable bags with our customers
  - a. Sell them at a discount
  - b. Talk them up with customers, so that they bring them in each time that they come shopping.
    - i. Cons for this is the production of these bags do cause environmental issues as well as food safety issues from residue/bacteria left from prior shopping trips.
2. Have recycling stations in our entrance ways to recycle the plastic bags.
3. Utilized different plastic bag manufacturers over the years to have the strongest plastic bag with the least environmental impact

4. Continually train our Baggers and Cashiers to put as many items as possible into the bags.
  - a. Currently we average a little more than 5 items per bag, but we think we can do better.
  - b. If we are able to bring this to 7 items, then we will have a significant impact on the number of bags that we use. (40% less)
5. We do offer Paper bags for those customers that would like them.

Some other initiatives that we do in our store to reduce our carbon footprint are the following.

1. Solar Panels – which help to reduce our use of fossil fuels by over 15% or power up to 500 homes.
2. Offer Free Electric car chargers at our store – promote use of electric vehicles
3. Recycle card-board - We send out over 600 lbs of cardboard each day to be recycled.
4. Composting- We have a compactor that we use strictly for food waste. (estimated 1000 lbs per week) This goes into composting, which provides nutrients for future food production, which also reduces waste that goes into Land-fills.
5. Reduction of water used in our flushing system in our bathrooms. Savings of 100's of gallons of water each day.

Thank you very much for your interest and your strong argument. Job well done. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Store Director