



Reducing Our Environmental Impact



Reusable Grocery Bags – In the past year Nature’s Bin has given away or sold over 6,000 reusable cloth grocery bags. In so doing we are encouraging our customers to move away from paper and plastic bags to carry their groceries. All signs are positive! Since beginning the reusable grocery bag initiative, Nature’s Bin has reduced the number of plastic bags used by more than 4,000 bags per month. Additionally, last year Nature’s Bin switched from the blue poly bags to green degradable bags that are made from 30% recycled plastic and paper bags made from 100% recycled paper. **Nature’s Bin discontinued the use of plastic shopping bags altogether In May 2009.** The store provides brown paper bags for those who forget their reusable bags. Reusable bags will continue to be available for purchase as well.

As an extra incentive Nature’s Bin shoppers can receive a discount on their purchases when they use their reusable bags. Nature’s Bin offers a “Go Green” card that the cashiers will mark each time a customer uses their reusable grocery bag. When all of the “leaves” on the card are marked, the shopper can exchange the card for 10% off of their purchase.



Support for Local Farmers - Continuing a decades-long tradition, Nature’s Bin in Lakewood continues to support the area’s family farmers and provide shoppers with the best local produce available.

The local produce program at Nature’s Bin goes beyond providing delicious, fresh, local food to customers. It contributes to the ongoing efforts to reduce Nature’s Bin’s environmental impact. The local Amish farms that Nature’s Bin supports use sustainable farming methods to grow their crops including horse-drawn plows and hand harvesting. These methods give off no fuel emissions. With the help of local distribution companies all local products are picked up at central locations and delivered to the store. Many times one truck will haul produce, grains, maple syrup and other items from one particular county. Fuel emissions are significantly decreased when buying local products that are traveling fewer miles to reach store shelves.





Re-Lamping the Store – In 2009 Nature’s Bin re-lamped the entire retail store. This effort was supported by a generous grant from The Cleveland Foundation. By re-lamping the store, Nature’s Bin replaced Halogen fixtures that were 17 years old. The new high-efficiency fixtures use small fluorescent light bulbs and provide a much brighter shopping and working environment. Local electricians at Clock Electric estimate that the fixtures are providing a 17% improvement in efficiency.



Recycling, Recycle, Recycle – Employees at Nature’s Bin work to recycle paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastics. Recycling containers are conveniently placed in the office space upstairs, in the employee break room and in the kitchen to collect recyclable items. All glass and plastic bottles as well as aluminum and metal cans are recycled from the deli/bakery. Cardboard boxes and office waste paper are also recycled. Deli grab and go containers are a number “5” plastic which is recyclable in Lakewood. In addition, Nature’s Bin Catering offers biodegradable dishes and utensils. Finally, “distressed” produce is given to the Lake Erie Nature Center in Bay Village for their animals.



Bulk Products – Nature’s Bin offers a large assortment of foods in bulk including cereals, flours, grains, trail mixes, snacks and more. Buying in bulk reduces product waste allowing consumers to purchase only as much as they need. In addition, Bulk purchases are economically priced and reduce excessive packaging.



Gardening Supplies – During the spring and summer months Nature’s Bin’s Garden Center offers gardeners several earth-friendly options. Organic Sweet Peet, manure, organic herbs, organic plant care products, Good Nature Organic Lawn Care Products, annuals and perennials and more are available in May as weather permits.

Nature’s Bin is operated by Cornucopia, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing vocational training and job placement for people with disabilities.

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