



The **Town of Cortlandt** and its all-volunteer **Conservation Advisory Council** are deeply committed to the environment and to making sure that our Town and our residents are doing their part to reduce harm to our planet. For Earth Day 2016, the Town would like to draw attention to the impact that single-use plastic shopping bags have on our waterways, our wildlife, and our own health. **It is our hope that through these education efforts we can encourage more Cortlandt residents to carry reusable bags when they do their shopping, thereby reducing their use of single-use plastic bags!**

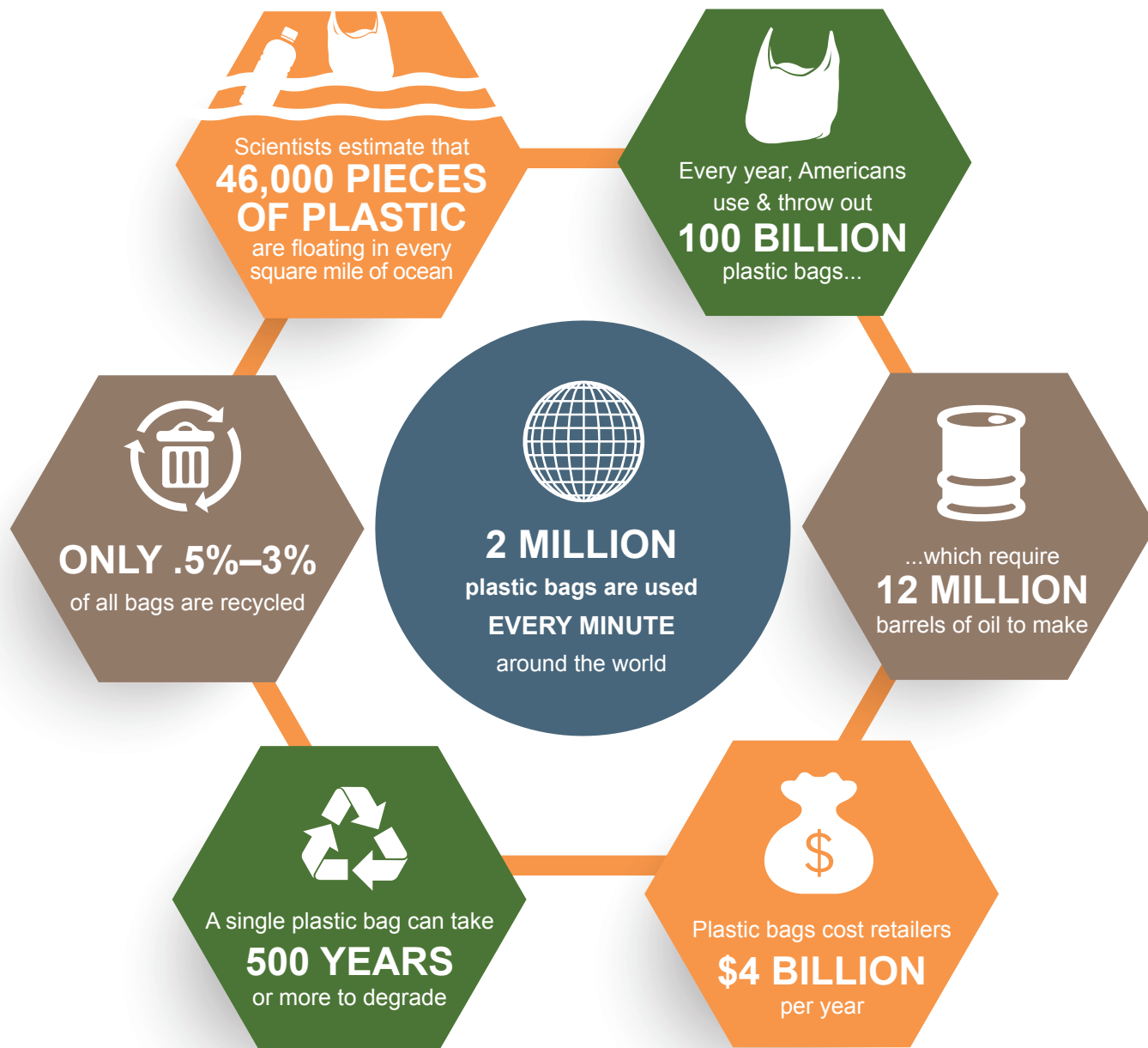
## 5 TIPS FOR REDUCING PLASTIC BAG WASTE

**Be part of a shift away from the use-and-toss culture!**

- 1 Bring reusable bags each time you go shopping.** Each reusable bag can eliminate hundreds (if not thousands) of plastic bags. You can reduce the earth's landfills and prevent harm from being done to our precious wildlife by choosing reusable over paper or plastic.
- 2 Keep reusable bags in your car** so they are available when you go shopping.
- 3 Reuse the plastic bags you have.** Take them with you on future shopping trips, use them to pick up after your dog, or line your small trash cans with them.
- 4 Don't automatically take a plastic bag.** Only buying small items that are easy to carry? Tell the cashier that you don't need or want a plastic bag.
- 5 Encourage your friends, family, and community to do all of the above!**

The **Conservation Advisory Council** was formed to ensure the preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment in the Town in the face of urbanization and the accompanying demands on natural resources. To learn more, you can visit us at <http://www.townofcortlandt.com/cit-e-access/webpage.cfm?TID=20&TPID=4234>.

# PLASTIC BAGS BY THE NUMBERS



## AND DID YOU KNOW...?

**Plastic bags don't biodegrade; they photodegrade.** This means that sunlight breaks down the bags into smaller fragments which readily soak up toxins. They then contaminate soil, waterways, and animal and marine life, which mistakes them for food. Humans who consume these animals and fish may also ingest these toxins.

**Paper bags are not an eco-friendly alternative to plastic.** According to the Environmental Protection Agency, paper manufacturing is a highly energy-intensive process. Converting hard wood into paper requires a resource-heavy pulping process; the entire process from beginning to end requires large amounts of water, energy, and chemicals, and can emit toxic and hazardous chemicals into air and water.