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For nearly thirty years, Toxics Action Center has worked side-by-side with community groups in Massachusetts to clean up and prevent pollution. Many of the groups we've worked with were formed to stop pollution from a leaking landfill or incinerator in their community.

The health impacts of our waste disposal are clear. The EPA says that all landfills will eventually leak, and what they leak is toxic. Incinerators are not much better, essentially creating a landfill in the sky of pollutants which we breathe in and they leave behind highly concentrated toxic ash that then needs to be landfilled. Babies born to mothers that live near landfills and incinerators have higher rates of birth defects and rates of cancers are higher for all residents nearby. In Massachusetts, dozens of communities have had their wells contaminated by landfill leachate.

The good news is that we have the solution: reduce, reuse recycle. This is why we strongly endorse efforts to reduce or ban the use of single-use plastic bags as part of the solution. It will lessen the amount of waste we send to landfills and incinerators. We are encouraging **Meeting Representatives to vote YES on Article 6**

In 2012, Brookline led the way on this front. Today, 40 communities in Massachusetts have passed regulations on plastic bags. Brookline should follow suit and raise their standards to join others' statewide.

Toxics Action Center

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