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Friday, December 4, 2009

Giant to offer 250K reusable bags

Washington Business Journal - by [Tierney Plumb](#) Staff Reporter

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Giant Food Stores LLC's D.C. locations will offer up to 250,000 reusable bags to shoppers for a week starting Jan. 1 as part of a plan to get residents to stop using disposable plastic and paper bags.

The Landover-based grocer announced its self-funded initiative and its partnership with the Anacostia Watershed Society on Friday. The new partners were joined by D.C. Department of the Environment reps at the Camp Simms Giant Food store.

“This partnership will give Giant associates environmental knowledge that they can share with customers throughout the Anacostia Watershed,” said Jim Foster, president of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “In addition, the society will gain access to Giant associates and customers to engage in stewardship and educational programs.”

This summer D.C. created a new 5-cent disposable bag fee — that starts Jan. 1 — aimed at keeping trash out of the city’s waterways, such as the Anacostia River.

Last month, **Safeway Inc.** and **CVS Caremark Corp.** announced a partnership with D.C. to provide 122,000 reusable bags to city residents before the law goes into effect. D.C. is producing 100,000 of the beige-and-blue bags with the slogan “Skip the Bag, Save the River” printed on them and CVS and Safeway are producing the rest.

Giant said it is helping to distribute the reusable bags to D.C. residents starting this month.

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