

Stop & Shop/Giant Launch Reusable Shopping Bag Program

Earthwise Bag Company, Inc., announced that The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company and Giant Food will make Earthwise's reusable bags available in all 565 of their stores throughout New England, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The reusable shopping bag program is part of a corporate-wide initiative by Stop & Shop and Giant to promote environmental conservation, and encourage consumers to "reduce.reuse.recycle." The Earthwise bags offer a durable, environmentally-friendly alternative to the costly and wasteful plastic and paper shopping bags typically used in grocery stores. At Stop & Shop and Giant, they will retail for \$.99 each...BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc., Natick, MA, reported that sales for November 2006 increased by 4.9 percent to \$652.5 million from \$621.8 million in November 2005. Comparable club sales increased by 0.6 percent for the month, including a negative impact from gasoline sales of 1.3 percent. Excluding the impact of gasoline sales, comparable club sales for the four-week period increased by 1.9 percent. On a comparable club basis, food sales increased by approximately 3 percent and general merchandise sales increased by approximately 1 percent. Categories with strong comparable club sales increases compared to last year included electronics, paper products, produce, small appliances, soda & water and televisions.