

Making a real difference in the fight against plastic pollution

- David E. Corbin, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Health Education & Public Health, UNO
- Energy Committee Chair, Nebraska Sierra Club
- dcorbin@me.com
- 402-690-9134

<https://davidecorbin.info/green-bellevue-plastics>



GREEN THE Stream OF SOLID WASTE



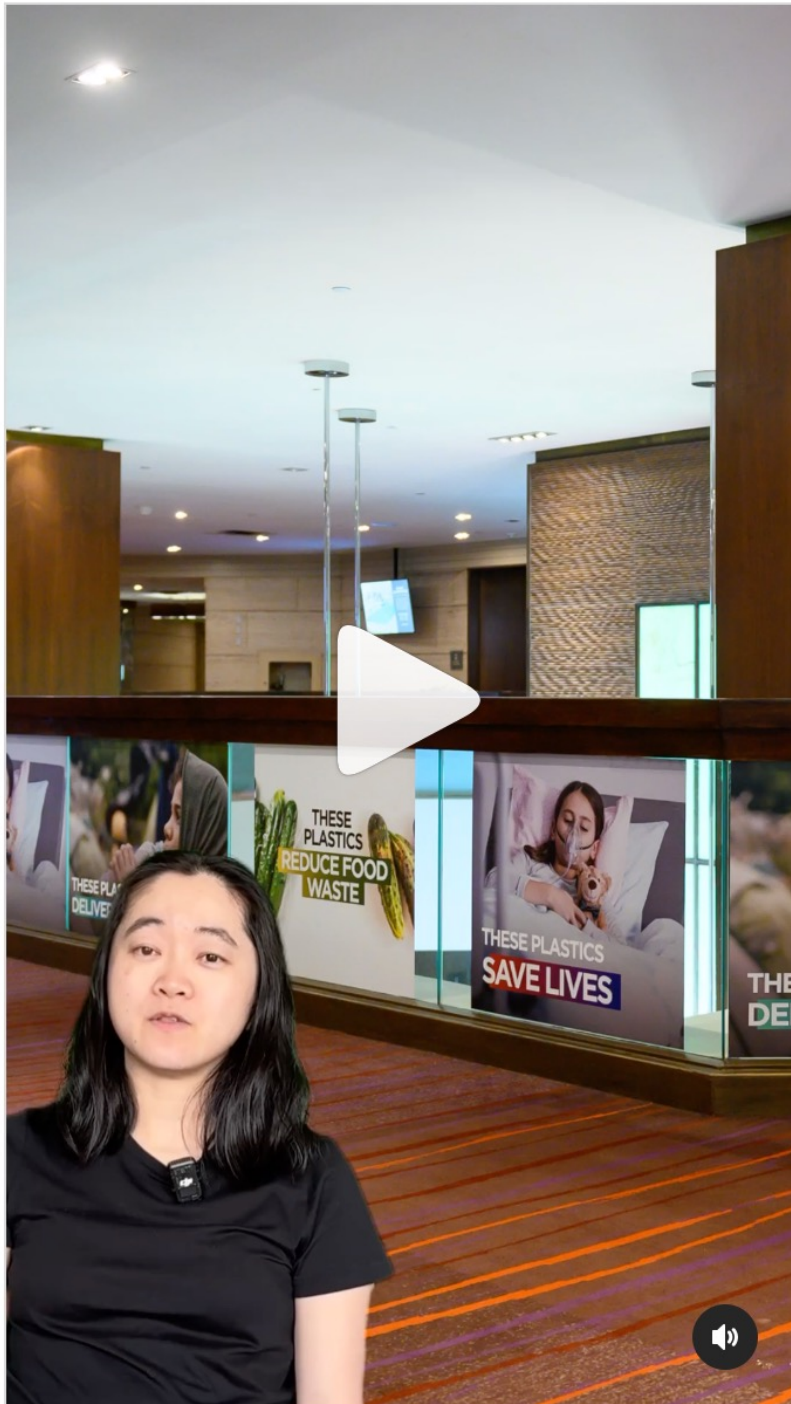






“If it can’t be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production.”

– Pete Seeger



propublica · Following

Original audio



propublica 1w

When ProPublica environment reporter Lisa Song attended this “plastic free” United Nations conference in April, where plastics treaty negotiations were taking place, she didn’t even get a see-through sleeve for her name tag. She’d have to reuse an old lanyard, they told her.

After all, representatives from roughly 170 countries were gathering to tackle a crisis: The world churns out 400 million metric tons of plastic a year.

But as the conference progressed, Song came to understand just how hard it would be for attendees to achieve any meaningful action on the world’s plastic pollution crisis. In fact, some attendees



825 likes

July 2

[Plastic, Plastic Everywhere — Even at the UN’s “Plastic Free” Conference](https://www.instagram.com/p/C87i1xzP6FL/)



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<https://www.instagram.com/p/C87i1xzP6FL/>



Some hospital leaders are showing that cutting single-use plastic use is possible. One bright spot is the switch from disposable plastic gowns to those that can be laundered and reused 75 to 100 times. One study found reusable gowns reduced solid-waste generation by 84 percent and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 66 percent. Another found that these gowns are clinically superior to disposable ones; they are less likely to break and tear and increase infection protection for the wearer.

Many hospitals are making this switch. UCLA Health was using 2.6 million disposable isolation gowns every year, generating more than 230 tons of landfill waste. By switching to reusable ones, it dramatically reduced waste and saved an estimated \$450,000 annually.



A gown and gloves at the bottom of a trash can outside an ICU room at the Stillwater Medical Center in Stillwater, Okla., on Sept. 17, 2021. (Michael S. Williamson/The Washington Post)

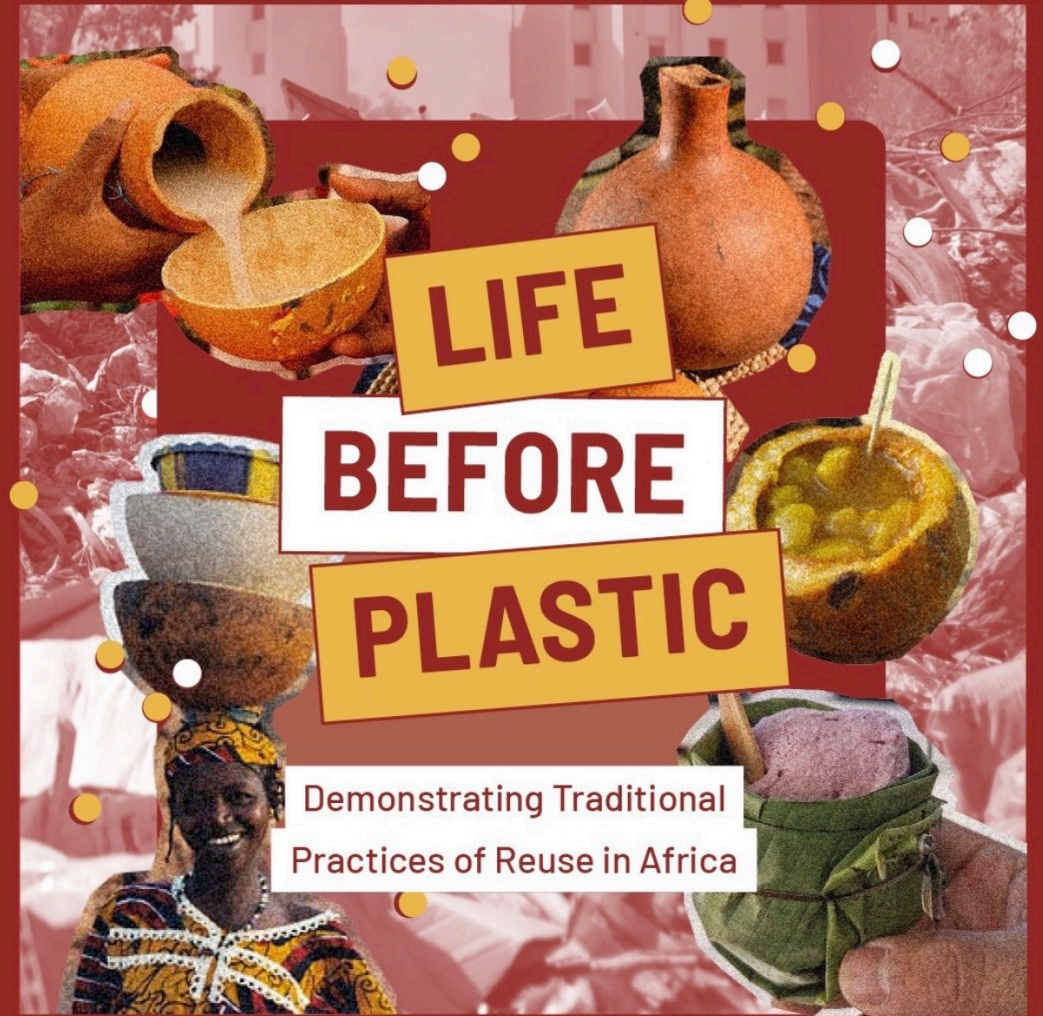
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/06/15/health-care-hospitals-plastics-reusable-environment/>

PLASTIC FREE *July*

Let's push for **REAL SOLUTIONS** to the plastic crisis, starting at the **SOURCE.**



breakfreefromplastic



LIFE

BEFORE

PLASTIC

Demonstrating Traditional Practices of Reuse in Africa



BEYOND PLASTICS

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Demystifying Compostable and Biodegradable Plastics

JULY 2024 | BEYOND PLASTICS

Trying to reduce your own use of plastics or that of your business can be daunting with so many products marketed as being safer and more sustainable than regular plastic. Many manufacturers claim their bioplastics products break apart faster in the environment, are made from safer materials, and have smaller climate change impacts. With no federal standards defining or regulating bioplastics, companies have free rein to label whatever they want as “biodegradable” and “compostable.” As you can imagine, this lack of regulation has led to misleading marketing meant to falsely convince the public that certain products are environmentally friendly.



https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eda91260bbb7e7a4bf528d8/t/668c538db0b8217404104272/1720472462367/071124_Compostables+Brochure.pdf

The Lancet is a weekly [peer-reviewed general medical journal](#) and one of the oldest of its kind. It is also one of the world's highest-impact academic journals. It was founded in England in 1823.

Our environment, our health

The Lancet Public Health

Open Access • Published: June 12, 2024 •

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(24\)00127-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(24)00127-0) •

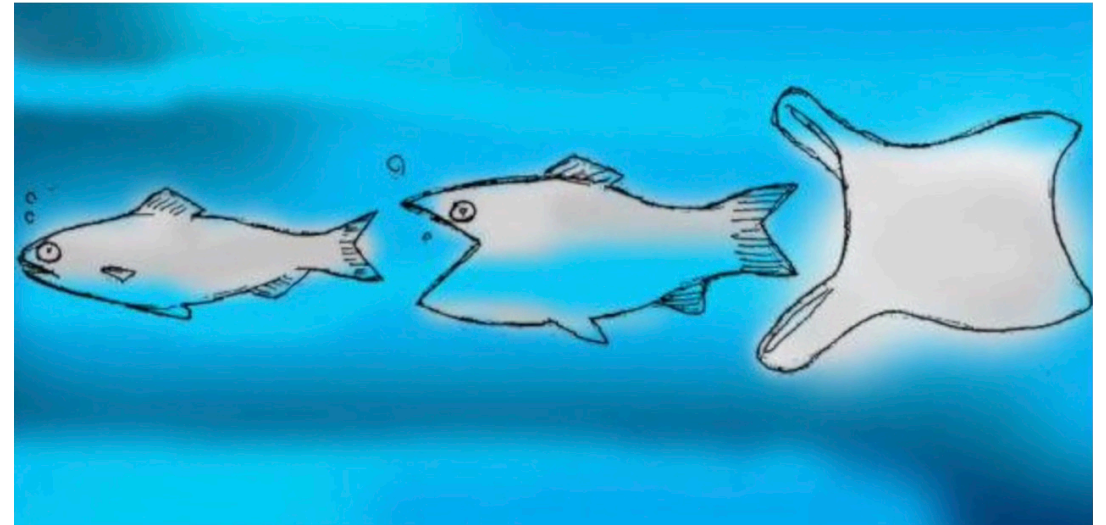


As we marked World Environment Day on June 5, it is an opportunity to reflect on the links between public health and the environment, including climate change, air pollution, plastic pollution, water, and food safety, the challenges but also the opportunities ahead. In this issue of *The Lancet Public Health*, [the 2024 Europe report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change](#) assessed 42 indicators to track progress on health and climate change. It highlighted an upward trend in health-related hazards, exposures, vulnerabilities and risks from climate change. Increasing temperatures were related to many health issues, including increased climate suitability for infectious diseases, food insecurity from increased droughts, and increased heat-related mortality. The summer of 2022 resulted in an estimated 60 000 heat-related premature deaths in Europe. The Countdown not only highlighted the negative impacts of



According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in 2019, fossil fuel conversion into new plastic and the open burning of plastic waste produced 1·8 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases. Reducing plastic production, use, and waste is part of preventing further contributions to climate change and pollution, and therefore protecting health. World Refill Day on June 16—a global campaign to prevent plastic pollution and help people live with less waste—aims to reduce plastic waste by promoting reuse, but innovations and investment in alternatives for single use plastics are also desperately needed. Plastic pollution requires a global effort and the development by the UN of a treaty to end plastic pollution could be an important step.

Globally, an estimated 9 million people die annually from pollution, the majority from air pollution. Plastic production and burning plastic waste generate harmful emissions. Plastic takes hundreds of years to degrade in the environment, but soon breaks down into microplastics, which pollute the food chain and water supply. Plastic contains thousands of chemicals—including carcinogens and endocrine disruptors—which can leach into food and be ingested; plastic-packaging alone contains 63 human health hazards. Microplastics have been found in human lungs and blood. Due to the more recent rapid introduction of plastic, the long-term exposure risks are not fully known.



- <https://youtu.be/nzBrCy91VJM?si=hZc6o2KnMo6-d3T9>

Mayor follows through with veto on plastic bag ban

City Council approves sweeping ban on plastic bags, but it may not be able to override a promised veto

Share



Updated: 3:39 PM CDT May 22, 2019

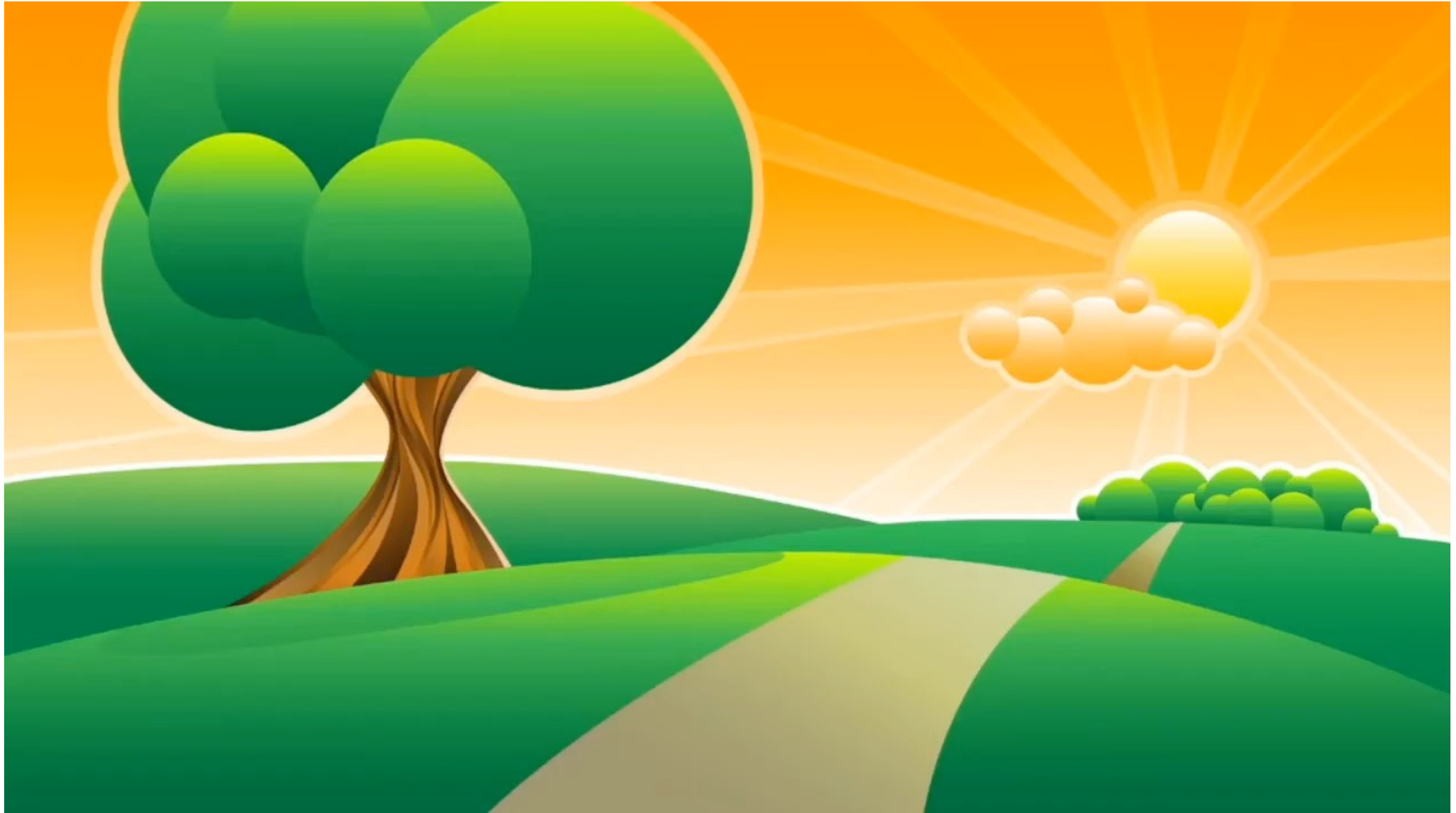
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1 NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

LB632 - Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the regulation of containers, and utility discontinuance and reconnection and to develop a state flood mitigation plan



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPVPaG6gQb0&t=6s>



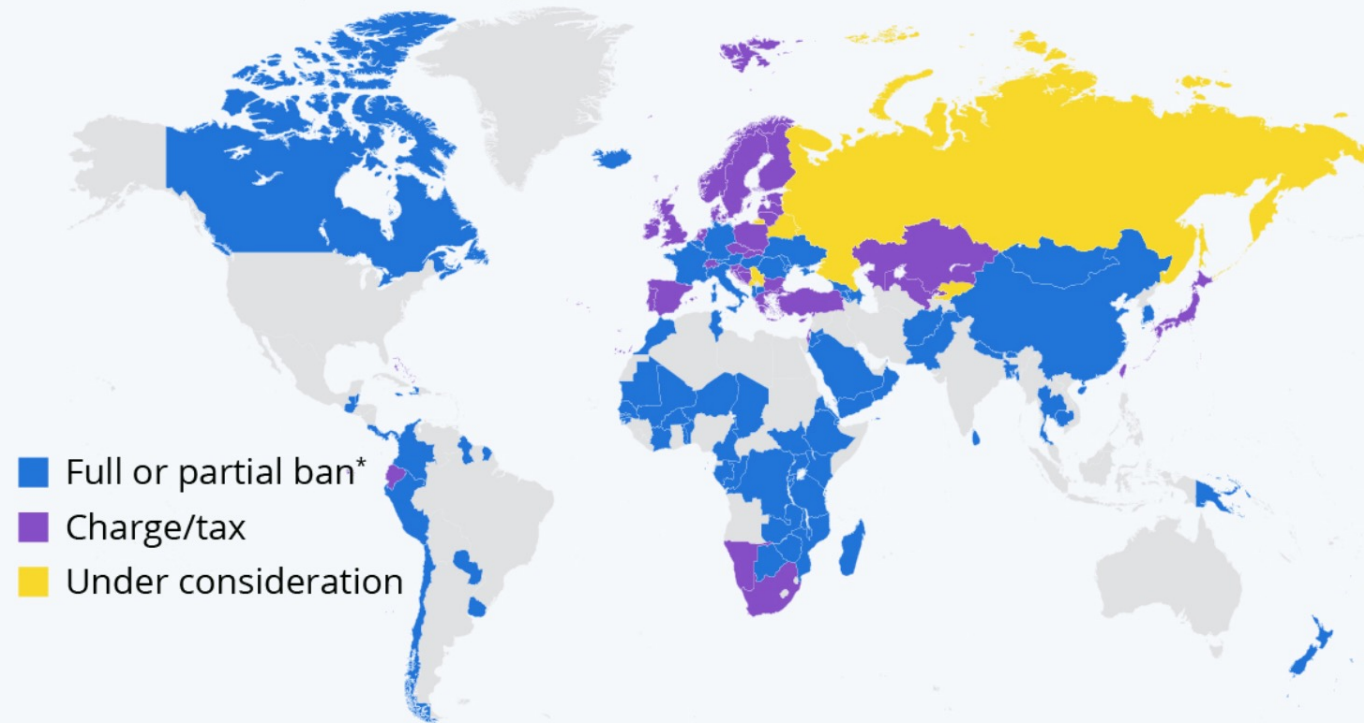
These are plastic straws I found on my daily walks. I pledge against plastic straw pollution.





The Countries Banning Plastic Bags

National-level regulation to ban/limit the use of plastic bags (2021)



* Can also include charges. Some bans not in effect yet
Sources: United Nations, media reports

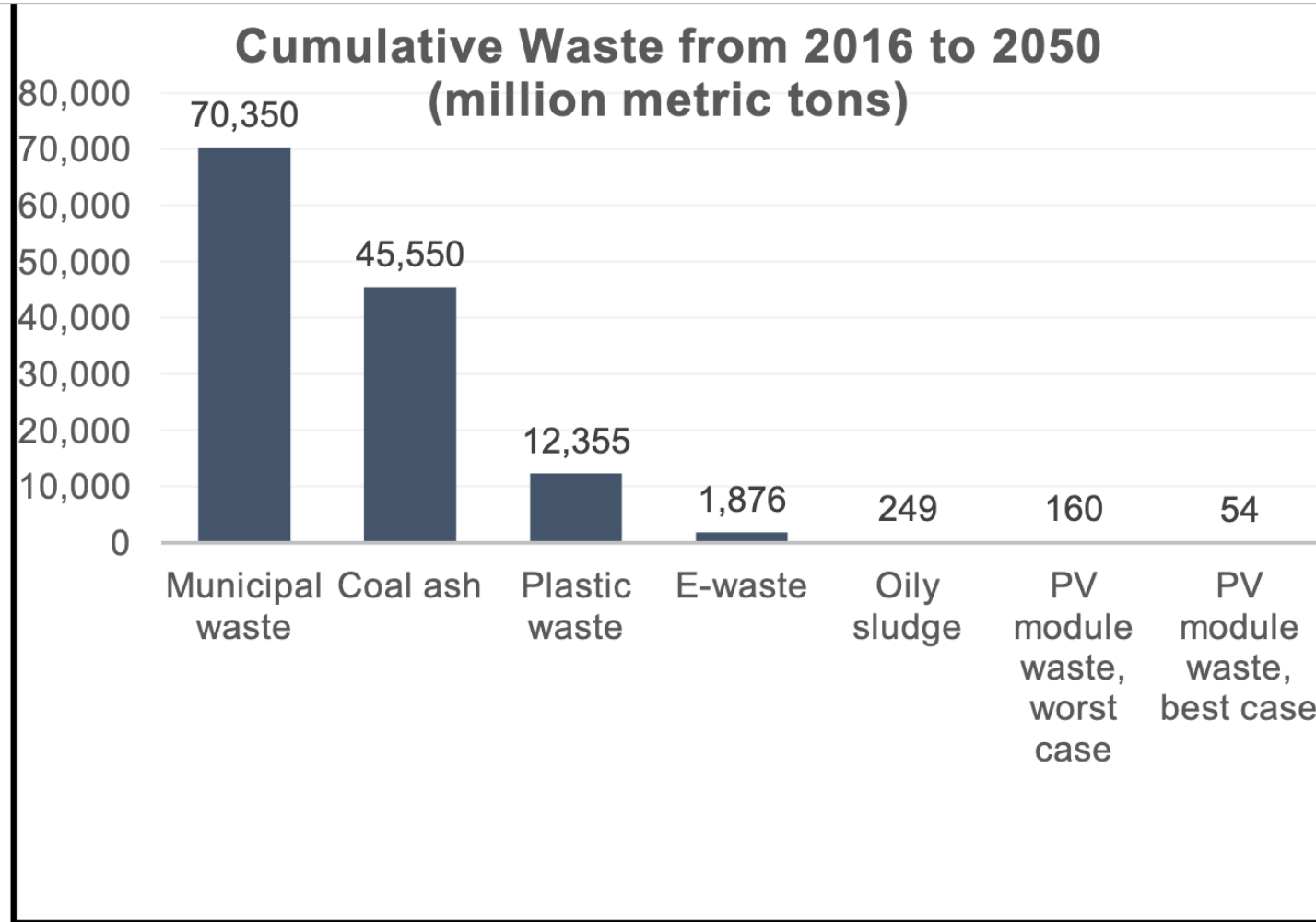
Plastic bag bans and recycling policies in the United States a

Search:

Records: 13

Characteristic	Characteristic
Number of states with plastic bags banned statewide	2
Number of states with mandatory recycling or reuse programs in place	4
Number of states with preemptive bans on banning plastic bags	10
Number of municipalities with bans or taxes on plastic bags	200
Countries worldwide where plastic bags are banned	32

Showing entries 1 to 5 (5 entries in total)



*Figure 1: PV module waste from 2016-2050 compared to other sources of waste.
Source: The Sabin Center for Climate Change Law (visualizing data from Heather Mirletz et al.).⁵⁷*

THE 10 WORST PLASTIC POLLUTERS

Numbers of countries
in which waste was
found and pieces of
waste recorded



Inside Climate News

Justice & Health

Declaring an Epidemic of ‘Toxic Litter,’ Baltimore Targets Plastic Makers and Packaging in the Latest Example of Plastics Litigation

“Every community has the same problem,” a lawyer representing Baltimore says about plastic waste. It’s one of the first cities to sue companies that create the waste.



By James Bruggers 

June 24, 2024

“Every community has the same problem,” Mason said Monday in an interview. “It’s just that Baltimore is one of the first cities to file a lawsuit to try to make the originators of this pay the price” of cleaning up and preventing plastic waste pollution. “We hope this litigation will inspire other cities to pursue similar litigation.”

Amazon shifts from plastic air pillows to recycled paper

How a Florida balloon release ban could curb plastic pollution

May 13, 2024

By [Deepa Fernandes](#) and [Gabrielle Healy](#)

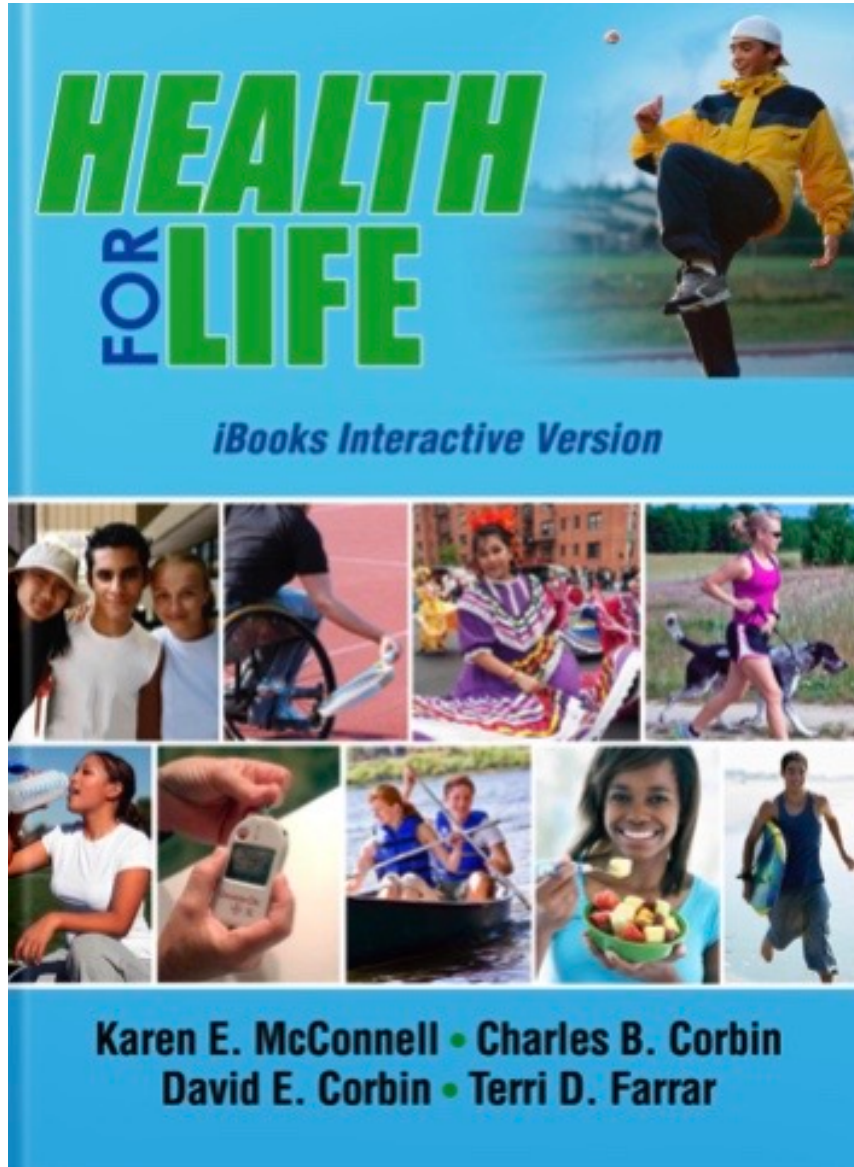


Balloons float at Publix grocery store in Florida. (Catherine Welch/Here & Now)

Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to sign a bill making Florida one of several states where it's illegal to [release balloons](#).



Aquatic animals often mistake balloons for jellyfish and feel full after eating them, essentially starving from the inside out, and their ribbons can entangle turtles and manatees. They even pose a threat to land animals. Bipul Haldar/[Alamy](#)



The Four Rs

The four Rs refer to actions we can take to support a healthy environment (see figure 19.1):

FIGURE 19.1



The four Rs.



Producers should disclose the environmental impacts of their materials publicly.

[Subscribe](#)

Plastic Wars (full documentary) | FRONTLINE

PLASTIC WARS

Plastic Wars (full documentary) | FRONTLINE



>> Modern-day miracles that were made with the help of petrochemicals.

Plastic Wars (full documentary) | FRONTLINE



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>> Modern-day miracles that were made with the help of petrochemicals.

that a degradation of resin properties and performance occurs during the initial fabrication, through aging, and in any reclamation process. As a result they distrust the uniformity of reclaimed plastics and are generally unwilling to risk adding another variable to their conversion processes. However, the technology for purification and upgrading of contaminated, degraded, and colored plastics is now being developed.

Municipal sources of plastic waste (i.e., finished plastic products discarded after use) contribute the largest portion of plastics that have to be disposed of. Most of these are packaging materials. Recycling of plastics from these sources poses the greatest challenge since, there are no effective market mechanisms for trade in contaminated, mixed plastics. Sorting by the homeowner over any sufficiently practical period of time has been shown to be infeasible. Techniques for separating plastics from

recycled if the circumstances are such that clean material of one kind can be obtained in volume quantities. However, the recovery of large quantities of ~~completely sorted plastics~~ may never become a broadly practiced procedure at the consumer level and there is serious doubt that it can ever be made viable on an economic basis.

The plastics industry is continuing to experiment with and test degradable forms of plastics while keeping in mind the potential problems which could

<https://youtu.be/rJd38RA4ybk?si=bIYzjTx-tNYYdg9x>

Discover the power of sustainable change in this captivating television commercial by America's Plastic Makers. From recycling initiatives to eco-friendly practices, we're committed to a greener future. Join us on this journey—watch the full commercial now!



Making Sustainable Change | America's Plastic Makers TV Commercial | Watch Now! #tvcommercials #tvad

Recycling Plastic Is a Dangerous Waste of Time

The recycling industry—and the world at large—has yet to fully reckon with a bombshell study that dropped last year.



Frank Celia

17 Jun 2024 · 17 min read





The Delusion of “Advanced” Plastic Recycling

by Lisa Song, Illustrations by Max Gunther, special to ProPublica

The plastics industry is heralding pyrolysis as nothing short of a miracle: The “advanced” type of recycling uses heat to break plastic all the way down to its molecular building blocks.

Given the high stakes of this moment, I set out to understand exactly what the world is getting out of this recycling technology. For months, I tracked press releases, interviewed experts, tried to buy plastic made via pyrolysis and learned more than I ever wanted to know about the science of recycled molecules.

Under all the math and engineering, I found an inconvenient truth: Not much is being recycled at all, nor is pyrolysis capable of curbing the plastic crisis.

Not now. Maybe not ever.



The Hefty® ReNew® Program

The Hefty® EnergyBag® program now has a new name: Hefty ReNew™.

Residents who participate in the program should be aware they will see this new name around the community and in local stores. While the name has changed, the program remains the same and continues to bring residents a simple, convenient way to convert hard-to-recycle plastics into a variety of valued resources.

Here are a few simple steps for anyone looking for an easy way to collect and recover hard-to-recycle plastics like bubble wrap, grocery bags, foam packaging, and more:

- Simply look for the bright orange bags under a new name, Hefty ReNew™, in the trash bag aisle at your local store or online at HeftyReNew.com, Target.com, and Walmart.com.

Nebraska plastic-to-lumber operation comes on-line

Published: April 4, 2023

Updated: April 4, 2023

by [Marissa Heffernan](#)



Residents in the Omaha, Neb. area can participate in a program to divert plastics not accepted in the normal curbside stream. | Courtesy of Hefty

4. Plastic Lumber

Our Plastic Lumber facility will be generating approximately 700,000ft of plastic lumber boards in both dimensional lumber and decking boards. Made from 100% hard-to-recycle plastic, this technology generates an attractive high quality board while also targeting plastics that were previously destined for the landfill.

For more information, or to enquire about purchasing, please [contact us here](#).



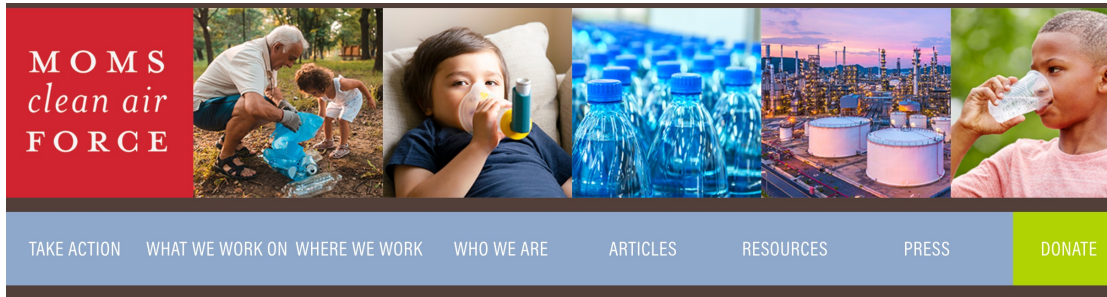
SIGN UP TO GO
BEYOND PLASTIC POLLUTION
WITH JUDITH ENCK

Register for Judith's virtual class offered through
Bennington College on Zoom on Wednesdays from
7-9 pm ET from September 4 - October 16

\$100 audit fee

https://admissions.bennington.edu/register/BeyondPlasticPollution?link_id=2&an_id=75281c32c70c4203dd93b80f4bfeb1a6

<https://www.momscleanairforce.org/issues/plastics/>



PLASTICS AND PETROCHEMICALS

Plastics are everywhere, and the industry that makes them is booming. Plastics are produced from fossil fuels. They are the biggest category of "petrochemicals."

HEALTH IMPACTS

The ubiquity of plastics and other petrochemicals comes at a steep cost to our health, especially for those living near production and processing facilities. Health impacts include higher risk of cancer, asthma and respiratory illness, kidney disease, and preterm birth, low birth weight, and other adverse birth outcomes.

WHAT MOMS IS DOING ABOUT PLASTICS AND PETROCHEMICALS

Moms Clean Air Force fights pollution from the petrochemical industry on a national level by demanding protections from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Our current campaigns push for the strongest possible pollution protections for "advanced recycling," waste incineration, and petrochemical manufacturing facilities and a ban on vinyl chloride.


GET INVOLVED

Moms across the country also work to strengthen state laws that limit pollution from the petrochemical industry and protect the health of our families. Visit our **state pages** to find out what's happening in your state and how you can get involved.

EARTHLYEDUCATION

**WE NEED TO
STOP BUYING
SO MUCH
STUFF**



A photograph of a plastic bottle lying on a beach. The bottle is partially buried in a pile of white foam. The background is filled with driftwood and other debris. The text "Plastic Pollution Facts" is overlaid in white on the image.

Plastic Pollution Facts

Plastic pollution is an urgent global crisis.

Even if you don't see discarded plastic in your community, tiny pieces of plastic have been found everywhere around the world.



June 2024 Edition



<https://papillion-sanitation.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/June-2024-Newsletter.pdf>



<https://www.abestrash.com/services/recycling/>



<https://www.hillside.solutions/blog/2024/5/6/is-it-really-recycled-what-we-know>



<https://www.firststarrecycling.com/recycling-guide>

Hillside Solutions
33 minutes ago · 🌐

Does recycling in Omaha actually work?
Good news: yes. But only if you have the right recycling hauler and they take it to the right place.

If all you do is read the headlines, it looks as though the recycling system is broken. There are some naughty numbers floating around that are horribly discouraging. In a recent PBS article, it says, "Only about 5 to 6 percent of plastic in the U.S. is recycled."

Many people read it as if only 5-6% of the plastic they place inside their recycling bin actually gets recycled. That's not the case.

The 5-6% refers to all plastics sent to recycling centers and tossed in landfills combined. Including plastics that were never meant to be recycled.

For example, carpet isn't supposed to be sent to your recycling center. It's extremely difficult to recycle, so it usually winds up in a landfill. If we're talking about recyclable plastics sent to a recycling center, the percentage is much more encouraging.

The Verify This article says, "The OECD says 60% of plastic collected for recycling worldwide in 2019 was actually recycled."

So yay! That's better. But when it comes to Omaha, where does it go, what does it become, and how can we know the whole process is actually legit?

Go to our blog section on our website for the full scoop.

DOES RECYCLING ACTUALLY WORK IN OMAHA? Inside scoop from industry experts

NEW BLOG HILLSIDE SOLUTIONS



About BFFP

#BreakFreeFromPlastic is the global movement working to achieve a future free from plastic pollution. More than 13,000 organizations and individuals around the world have come together to demand reductions in single-use plastics and to advocate for lasting solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. BFFP members work together to bring about systemic change by tackling plastic pollution across the whole value chain - from extraction to disposal - focusing on prevention rather than cure.



Put Your Reusable Bag to Good Use...Over and Over!

Why Should You Reduce Your Plastic Bag Usage?

Americans use on average **500** single use plastic bags per person every year.

Altogether, we throw away **5 trillion** single use plastic bags per year!

Plastic bags are manufactured from **99%** fossil fuels, which pollutes the environment.

In the United States only **13%** of plastic is recycled, leaving **87%** winding up in landfills, waterways and public places.

It takes **1,000** years for plastic bags to degrade. They don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming micro plastics that absorb toxins, which continue to pollute the land, air and water. These toxins are also being ingested by both humans and wildlife.

How Can You Help to Make a Difference?

Make a commitment to become an active participant in helping our environment.

Break your habit of choosing single use plastic bags at the store checkout counters.

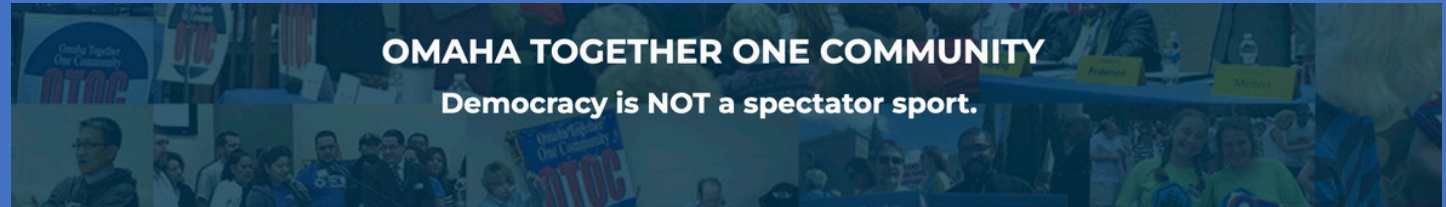
Choose to use reusable cloth or propylene bags sold at many stores for around \$1.00.

Remember to keep reusable bags in your car. If you forget them, choose paper bags!

Reusable bags
generously donated
by
OPPD and
paleBLUEdot



Reusable bag
information
provided to you by
Omaha Together One
Community
www.otoc.org



News

**In Memory of Fr
Dennis Hamm**

Connie Kollasch
Nov 30, 2023

**Say NO to
Plastic Bags and
YES to a
Sustainable
Future!**

Rhonda Stuberg
Sep 20, 2023

**Help Wanted ...
Help is here**

Denise Bowyer
Sep 04, 2023

Service Form

Vape Recycling Made Convenient and Responsible!

Transforming Vape Pollution into Positive Energy

As a company that cares about the environment, we offer innovative solutions to reduce waste and pollution while protecting future generations and the environment. Vape cartridges and batteries are hazardous materials that are not biodegradable and pose a threat to the environment. We take this issue seriously, and that's why we started Positive Energy Environmental Solutions. Our vape recycling program is designed to help customers dispose of their vapes and batteries safely and in an eco-friendly way. We believe in providing outstanding customer service and prompt solutions to protect the planet. We partner with national leaders in order to maximize efficiencies and provide **safe, sustainable** and **transparent** services. Currently only serving the **Greater Omaha** Metropolitan and surrounding areas. Inquire for details!

- <https://www.recyclevapes.com/>



Plastics used for the vape device body cannot be recycled because the heavy metals found in the heating element and the nicotine in the e-juice make them hazardous waste.⁵¹ So these discarded vapes not only contribute to a growing plastic pollution problem but release these toxic chemicals into our ground and water when thrown out.⁵²

cigarette butts

Lodged in a sidewalk crack? Chances are you're not alone; **cigarette butts** are far and away the most littered item in the world, with roughly 4.5 trillion being tossed each year.

Cigarette filters are made of a plastic called **cellulose acetate**. When tossed into the environment, they dump not only that plastic, but also the nicotine, heavy metals, and many other chemicals they've absorbed into the surrounding environment. Aug 9, 2019



Each synthetic turf field loses 0.5 to 8.0% of its blades annually, yielding 200 to 3200 pounds of plastic waste to our environment per year. These microplastics migrate off the field into air, soil, waterways and oceans.

Apr 28, 2024



<https://www.beyondplastics.org/fact-sheets/synthetic-turf>

Plastic!

DRASTIC



**PHOTO OF
PLASTIC BAGS
LITTERED IN OMAHA**



Plastic Drastic

Written (book and lyrics) and Directed by
Elena Araoz Music composed by Aaron Markley,
Annamarie McClellan, and Graham Ulicny
The Rose Theatre, Omaha

Music composed and live performed by Aaron Markley, Annamarie McClellan, and Graham Ulicny
Set and Lighting: Justin Townsend
Costume Design: Sherri Geerdes

Puppet Design: Jessica Scott

Cast: Molly McGuire
Timothy Siragusa
Joshua Lloyd Parker

Robby Stone
Anna Jordan, Kimberlee Stone, Shannon Wade

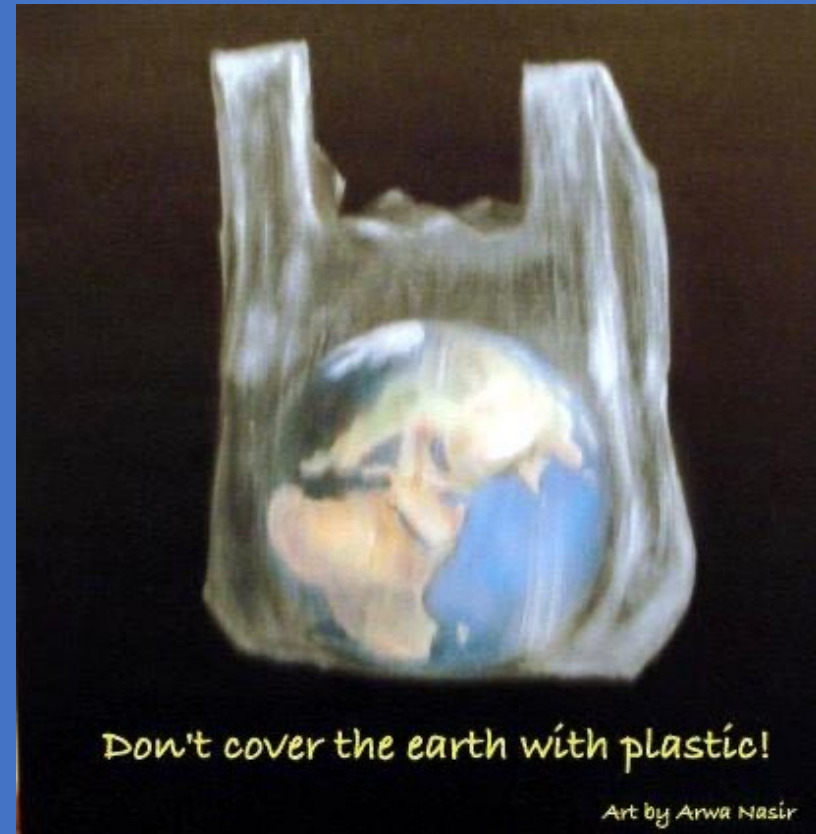




save the planet

It's not drastic

To give up plastic



Don't cover the earth with plastic!

Art by Anwa Nasir

No More Plastic Waste, Ekō

To: Me ▾



How amazing is this — scientists have discovered **mushrooms that can devour plastic waste in a matter of weeks ...** plastic that would otherwise remain in the ocean forever.

91% of plastic isn't recycled, and every *minute* another truckload is dumped into the ocean suffocating sea life and spreading pollutants across shores. But magnificent mushrooms could change that.

Plastic-eating mushrooms!?

How amazing is this — scientists have discovered **mushrooms that can devour plastic waste in a matter of weeks ...** plastic that would otherwise remain in the ocean forever.

91% of plastic isn't recycled, and every *minute* another truckload is dumped into the ocean suffocating sea life and spreading pollutants across shores. But magnificent mushrooms could change that.





Making a real difference in the fight against plastic pollution”

https://quillette.com/2024/06/17/recycling-plastic-is-a-dangerous-waste-of-time-microplastics-health/?utm_medium=flipdigest.ad.20240618&utm_source=email&utm_content=article&utm_campaign=campaign

<https://www.beyondplastics.org/learn>

https://admissions.bennington.edu/register/BeyondPlasticPollution?link_id=2&can_id=75281c32c70c4203dd93b80f4bfeb1a6

<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/learn/plastic-pollution-facts>

<https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/about/>

<https://www.momscleanairforce.org/issues/plastics/>

<https://www.firststarrecycling.com/plastic>

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=37812

<https://existgreen.com/>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1015481/plastic-bag-bans-recycling-policies-us/>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062024/baltimore-lawsuit-targets-plastic-maker/>

Plastics music video

<https://youtu.be/iDcWtGCNE5U>

“We Don’t Own the Sky” music video

<https://youtu.be/Cqjso1ppzOE>

Plastic Wars (full documentary) | PBS FRONTLINE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dk3NOEgX7o>