

# Food & Drink

## Restaurants adapt 'Straws by Request Only' policy

Patricia Talorico Delaware News Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Slipping a drink through a straw at a restaurant could soon seem as boorish as blowing your nose at the table. A ban on plastic drinking straws in eateries has been picking up steam in cities across the U.S.

Several Delaware restaurants have begun a straws-by-request-only approach to help combat plastic pollution.

On Thursday at one of those restaurants, Plastic Free Delaware will be hosting screenings of a new, 30-minute documen-

tary which shows how plastic litter impacts the planet. "Straws," is a film narrated by Academy Award winner Tim Robbins and directed by Linda Booker. It claims that every day more than 500,000,000 plastic straws are used once and tossed in the U.S. alone.

Ocean Conservancy ranks straws as the No. 5 most found litter item on beaches. According to the film, straws are non-recyclable, wind up in landfills, litter streets and add to the esti-

mated 8.5 million metric tons of plastic debris in oceans. A screening will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at Dogfish Head Brewing & Eats at 320 Rehoboth Ave. in Rehoboth Beach. A panel discussions on plastic pollution will follow after the documentary is shown. Earlier, the organization held a screening documentary at Grain H2O at 3006 Summit Harbour Lane in Bear.

Grain owners Lee Milkles and Jim O'Donoghue adapted a straws-by-request policy last summer at the restaurants they own in Newark, Bear and Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

The events is free, but a \$10 donation is suggested. Appetizers will be provided and drinks are available at a cash bar. Free reusable straws and reusable bags will be available until supplies last.

For more information on Plastic Free Delaware, visit [www.bringyourrownbag.us](http://www.bringyourrownbag.us).

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A documentary being shown this week at two Delaware restaurants shows how plastic straws pollute the planet. JASON MERRITT, GETTY IMAGES