



East Pikeland Environmental Advisory Council E-newsletter, Edition #2

Visit us at the Kimberton Fair! The EAC will have a table inside the Covered Bridge Room. We're looking for our next workshop/event idea, so come by and tell us what you're passionate about or what you would like to learn! If you can't make it, please feel free to reply to this email with topics you're interested in learning more about.

Pesky Plastic:

Lately plastic use has been a big topic in the news. From floating plastic islands in the middle of the ocean; to people, cities, businesses, and companies saying “no thanks” to straws, bottles, and bags; plastic use has been gaining world-wide attention.



One of the most eye-opening pieces about this issue was the “Planet or Plastic” issue of National Geographic (June 2018). The article called our attention to the impact of plastics on the environment, particularly in our bodies of water. According to the article, “18 billion pounds of plastic ends up in the ocean each year.” Because it takes at least 450 years to biodegrade, plastic will choke our oceans, rivers, streams, and the wildlife that resides in them for many years to come.

Photo: Vaughn Wallace / National Geographic



61% of plastics produced are single use (meaning that they get used once and then thrown away).

Luckily, there are some pretty simple ways of saying “bye bye” to certain pesky plastic options.

- Buy reusable shopping bags and keep them in your car so they’re always there when you need them! A trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every YEAR!
- Carry a reusable bottle. Nearly a million plastic bottles are sold every MINUTE! A sobering statistic.
- Stop litter! If you see litter in your yard, along the road, or at work, stop and pick it up! It may seem like a small thing to do, but every piece of litter that is picked up is one less that will enter our storm drains and waterways.
- Educate yourself about your trash and recycling. Make sure your own trash and recycling are being properly disposed of by talking to your trash/recycling collector.

Something else you can do is to say “no” to plastic straws. Millions of plastic straws are used and discarded every DAY, a fact that has caught people’s attention lately.

It turns out there are some truly creative Straw-ternatives:

- *Pasta Straw?? You bet!*
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/shortcuts/2018/jul/23/suck-it-up-can-pasta-straws-really-replace-plastic-ones>
 - *Purchase an alternative that fits your life:*
<https://www.strawlessocean.org/alternatives/>
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Volunteer:

Keep your eye out for local clean ups happening near you:

- **East Pikeland Township** hosts road cleanups each year in the spring. Removing roadside trash prevents its migration to storm drains and waterways.
- **French Creek and Schuylkill River** clean ups are performed each year, usually on Earth Day.
- **Clean Up the beach you love or Start a Clean Up:** International Coastal CleanUp Day is September 15, 2018 - <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/>

For more information about the global water plastic crisis:

<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters>
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/planetorplastic/>
<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/>