

# Mother Earth is asking us for help!

## Eliminating Plastic Straws

### What's the Issue?

- Plastic straws (like all plastics) let out harmful toxins when they are breaking down which can cause cancer and immune system and fertility failure.
- Plastic straws break down into small pieces which could then be ingested by marine life. They pose a real danger to animals like sea turtles, albatross, and fish who can eat them.
- Plastic straws are made out of type five plastic also known as polypropylene. Although polypropylene can be recycled, most recycling facilities do not accept plastic straws because they are small and flexible and can fall between the cracks of machinery, or get stuck in machinery. <https://get-green-now.com/recycle-plastic-straws/>
- Americans use 500 million plastic straws every day. The average person uses 1.6 straws per day or about 38,000 straws between the ages of five and 65. Because of our carelessness they are thrown on land and sea and are swept by the wind or blown by the current into the ocean.
- Straws are one of the top 10 items on the annual list of concerns for the International Coastal Cleanups and was a central focus for Earth Day 2018.



**U.S. CONSUMPTION = ENOUGH STRAWS  
TO WRAP AROUND THE  
EARTH'S CIRCUMFERENCE  
2.5 TIMES A DAY!**



### Acting on Our Corporate Stand, What Can We Do to Help?

- Join in a global movement to eliminate plastic drinking straws from our landfills, our streams, our oceans, and our beaches. In February 2011, Milo Cress (then nine-years-old) founded the "Be Straw Free" project, to work together with members of the straw industry, restaurants and other businesses, schools, environmental groups, and concerned citizens to reduce the use and waste of disposable plastic straws.
- Don't Suck. Simply request "no straw" at bars and restaurants.
- Share your commitment with others.
- Join the "National Skip the Straw Day" on February 22, 2019.
- Take the pledge (<https://onelessstraw.org/individuals-signup>). Encourage others to do the same (i.e. stop using straws). If 25,000 people pledge to skip the straw we could save 5,000,000 straws—and prevent a lot of them from entering the ocean and possibly harming wildlife.
- Seattle, Washington, and Washington, DC, have already banned single-use plastic straws. You can encourage your local legislators to act. Starbucks plans to phase out straws by 2020. McDonalds is doing the same in its UK and Ireland restaurants. Can you encourage others to join in the action?
- If you really like using a straw, think about purchasing a reusable straw. These can be used over and over while still reducing your plastic use. There are many types—this website shows you at least five options: <https://www.skiptheplasticstraw.com/alternatives>.
- Educate yourself and share your knowledge with others.
  - <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/07/news-plastic-drinking-straw-history-ban/>
  - <https://strawfree.org/>
  - <https://thelastplasticstraw.org/>
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=174&v=571y\\_E901sY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=174&v=571y_E901sY)
  - <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/no-straw-please/>

