



Mother Earth is Asking Us for Help!

Single-use Plastic

Eliminate Plastic Pollution at the Source

What's the Issue?

- ❖ Prior to the 1960s, 33% of families in the U.S. opened their doors early in the morning to bring in the recyclable, glass milk bottle. The plastic milk bottle appeared on the scene and thus began a transformation in consumer habits.
- ❖ Plastic was a wonder package. It was lighter than glass, didn't break, and was clear which made it easy to see what was left in the jug. Everyone won with the plastic container, everyone except the milk man and the planet!
- ❖ More than 40 % of plastic **is used just once** and then tossed in the trash.
- ❖ “Consumers in Washington (state) are rightly frustrated by the amount of plastic packaging used in consumer products—from food to electronics. Single-use plastics end up in landfills—or worse—along our roads and in our waterways... “The packaging industry has the ability to innovate and offer consumers more environmentally friendly options” (Sen. Christine Rolfes, D-Bainbridge Island, Washington, May 2019, [www.http://wastateleg.org](http://wastateleg.org))
- ❖ We know that cleaning up plastics from our beaches and oceans is vital but this does not stop the tide of plastic entering the oceans each year. We need to move upstream to the source of the flow. (Dame Ellen MacArthur)
- ❖ Today companies sell consumers **both the product and the packaging**. However, new companies are attacking the “single-use” only packaging. Producers are thinking outside the plastic container. Are consumers (you) willing to pay more for innovative packaging, service, and delivery for the sake and future of Mother Earth?

Acting on our Corporate Stand: What Can We Do to Help?

- ❖ Look inside your recycle bin. Think outside the plastic container. Can you purchase products currently packaged in single-use-plastic, in non-plastic or reusable containers?
- ❖ Support producers, brands, retailers, and recyclers that are committed to reducing single-use plastic.
- ❖ Look for and encourage companies in your area that are committed to changing the way they deliver products.
- ❖ Look up and read about “Loop,” a modern day “milk man” delivery system.
- ❖ As often as possible, refuse to purchase products in single use plastic containers!
- ❖ Never underestimate the “power of the pen!” Write to companies and advocate for change in the way they package their products. See a list of the largest companies who produce the most plastic packaging here: <https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/assets/doc/GC-Report-June19-Summary.pdf>.



Other resources for eliminating plastic pollution:

- ❖ <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news/a-line-in-the-sand-ellen-macarthur-foundation-launch-global-commitment-to-eliminate-plastic-pollution-at-the-source>
- ❖ <https://www.UNenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/what-are-businesses-doing-turn-plastic-tap>
- ❖ <https://newplasticseconomy.org>
- ❖ <https://www.unilever.com>
- ❖ <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>
- ❖ <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/01/business/loop-reusable>
- ❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahE8IbdtgSY>

