

# DID YOU KNOW?

- We produce 380 million tons of plastic each year worldwide, half of which are for single-use items. That's nearly equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.
- Plastic usage has increased 84% between 2002 and 2020. By the year 2050, it is estimated that production will increase by another 150%.
- Approximately 40% of plastic produced is for single-use.
- By weight there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans by 2050.
- Every minute one garbage truck of plastic waste enters the oceans.
- About 90% of single-use plastics are NEVER recycled, they go into landfills, incinerators or dumped. The United States is the largest generator of plastic waste in the world.

# RESOURCES

- [NJNoplastics.org](http://NJNoplastics.org)
- [Get Past Plastic](http://GetPastPlastic.com)  
<https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/>
- [BeyondPlastics.org](http://BeyondPlastics.org)
- Break Free from Plastic Act -  
<https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act/>
- [Prevent Balloon Litter.org](http://PreventBalloonLitter.org)
- [Rethink Disposable.org](http://RethinkDisposable.org)



# NJ LAWS

- In the 1st year of the Plastic Pollution Reduction law - **8 Billion** plastic Bags & **110 Million** paper bags eliminated from waste stream:  
<https://tinyurl.com/3uzp73rr>
- Recycled Content Law  
<https://tinyurl.com/mryn timer pv4a>

- ✉ [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)
- 🌐 <https://anjec.org>
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# WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION?

Plastic is connected to health, climate change and wildlife. Single-use plastics take an enormous amount of water, energy, and chemicals to produce and dispose, yet are only used for mere minutes and can persist in our environment for more than a millennium.



## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- **Eliminate Single-Use Plastic:**  
Say “No, thanks” to unnecessary straws, condiments and utensils
- **Stop buying bottled water:**  
Say “Yes” to reusables
- **Buy in bulk and refill:**  
Choose waste-free products
- **Recycle right and prevent litter:** Only recycle items that are eligible
- **Don't release balloons and aerial lanterns** into the natural environment
- **Don't replace one single-use item for another one-time use item** i.e., replace plastic straw for a compostable straw
- **Support strong plastic pollution reduction policies**
- **Share your knowledge!**

## PLASTIC AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Plastic generates greenhouse gas emissions at every step of its life cycle, from extraction to waste. The United States plastics industry's contribution to climate change is on track to exceed that of coal-fired power by 2030. As plastic breaks down in landfills through sunlight and heat, it releases powerful greenhouse gases such as methane that warm up the Earth's atmosphere.

## PLASTIC AND YOUR HEALTH

Exposure to chemicals from plastic production, usage and disposal can cause cancer, diabetes, reproductive disorders and neurological impairments. Thousands of toxic, carcinogenic or endocrine disrupting chemical additives are used during production, such as styrene and vinyl chloride.

## PLASTIC AND WILDLIFE

Plastic pollution is an animal rights issue. Plastic does not decompose; it breaks up into smaller pieces called microplastics. It endangers more than 1,200 species from ingestion or entanglement: from seals with their necks slashed by fishing line, to turtles with straws stuck in their noses, to seabirds who starve to death with their bellies full of plastic. It's in the food, water and air of all living creatures.

