

Clearing the Path: Tackling Litter at the Source

May 14, 2024

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Commissions*



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@anjecposts

@ANJEC



Before We Begin

- This program will be recorded and available afterwards to all registrants.
- We welcome your questions and comments. Please place them in the Q&A box and we will address them during and/or after the webinar.
- Email us at info@anjec.org if we do not have time for your question.



How is our work made possible?

It's all thanks to supporters like you!

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ANJEC.ORG/MEMBERSHIPS



Our work is funded by:

- Memberships
- Individual donations
- Foundation support
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FIGURE 1

Emissions from the Plastic Lifecycle

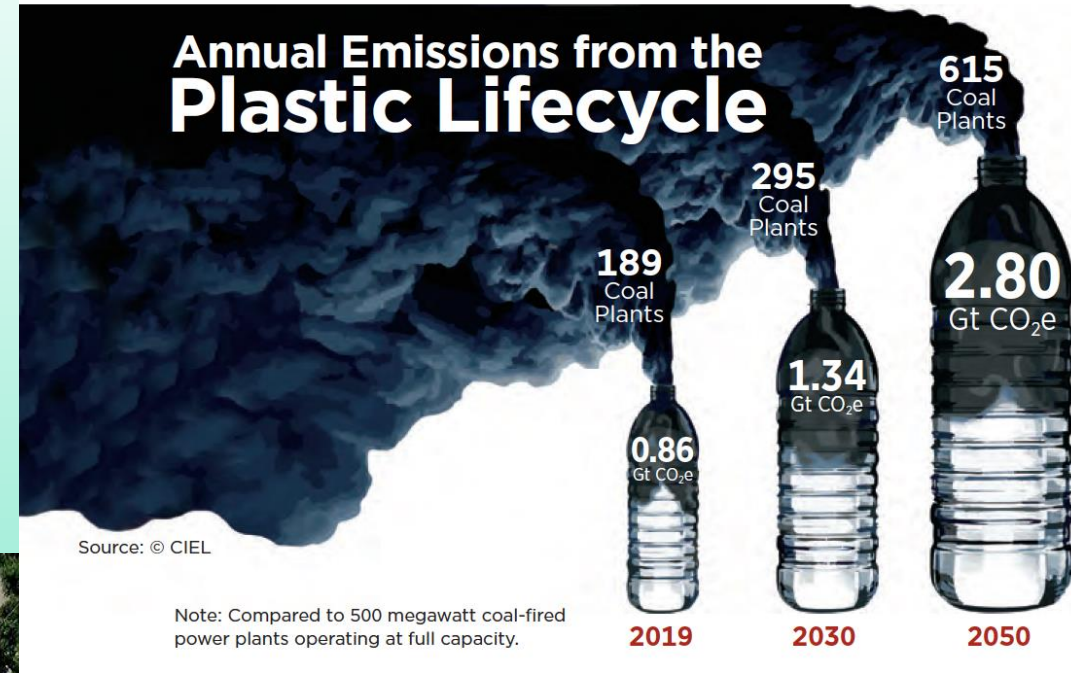


Photo credit: BeyondPlastics.org, CIEL.org

Waste by the Numbers

- New Jerseyans dispose **3.7 pounds of solid waste and 2.2 pounds of recycling per person per day!**
- Nearly 1 trillion disposable food service products are used each year in the U.S. -which weigh about 9 million tons - equivalent to the weight of 25 Empire State buildings!
- Roughly 20 billion pieces of litter are from disposable food-service packaging
- \$ 6 billion is spent annually by businesses and city governments on solid waste management costs attributable to disposable food packaging.
- The use of reusables significantly reduces climate pollution, energy use, water consumption, resource extraction, waste generation, litter generation and plastic pollution.





- **The Green Brook – Impaired Waterway**
- **Crossing multiple towns and counties on its way to the Lower Raritan River**
- **Tremendous volume of trash**



GREEN BROOK CLEAN UP

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH, 2024

9:30AM-12:00PM

MULTIPLE SITES!

GREEN BROOK REGIONAL CENTER
MCCOY PARK
MOUNTAINVIEW PARK
GREEN BROOK PARK

REGISTER AT LOWERRARITANWATERSHED.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Plastic Pollution Reduction Law May 4 -2nd Year Anniversary!!



Plastic Bag Bans Work

- Comprehensive national study by Environment America, cited by the World Economic Forum, recognizes New Jersey's plastic bag ban [as the most effective of the 10 states in America with such bans.](#) - January 2024
- Year 1 – **5.5 BILLION** single use plastic bags and 110 Million single use paper bags removed from waste stream
- Year 2 – **Approx 11 BILLION** plastic bags and 220 Million paper bags
- Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps - First time since 2007, plastic bags were NOT included in Clean Action Ocean's 2022 Beach Sweep Dirty Dozen list
 - 37% - fewer plastic bags
 - 39% - fewer plastic straws
 - 37% - fewer Styrofoam


*** Litter data critical!



Waste Reduction

- ❑ It's not enough to recycle, we must reduce consumption and waste!
- ❑ Who's in your network? environmental commissions, green teams, schools?
- ❑ Use your town's clean communities funds to build hydration stations.
- ❑ Data is critical in helping to achieve our goals for a LitterFree NJ!



 **Litter Survey & Data Form**

DEAR CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS:
Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to a litter free NJ. In addition to your cleanup efforts, NJCCC appreciates your time and attention in helping to quantify today's litter data. Numbers are the only valid form of data, so please DO NOT use words or check marks in the boxes next to each trash item.

DATE: _____ NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

CLEANUP SUMMARY

Cleanup Site Location: _____
Total # of Volunteers at this site: _____ Total Hours of Cleanup: _____
Total # of Trash Bags Filled: _____ Total Weight of Trash Collected: _____ lbs. or _____ cubic yards
Estimated Distance Cleaned: 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 2 3 4 5 Other: _____ miles


TRASH COLLECTED: Please only enter NUMBERS in the field next to each trash item

TOTAL #	MOST LITTERED ITEMS:	TOTAL #
_____	Balloons	_____
_____	Plastic Bags	_____
_____	Straws/Stirrers	_____
_____	Cigarette Butts	_____
_____	E-Cigarettes	_____
_____	Bottles	_____
_____	Cans	_____
_____	Nips/Mini Alcohol Bottles	_____
_____	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	_____
_____	Bottle Caps (Plastic/Metal)	_____
_____	Lids (Plastic)	_____
_____	Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic)	_____
_____	Take Out/Away Containers (Foam)	_____
_____	Cups & Plates (Plastic/Foam)	_____
_____	Forks, Knives, Spoons	_____
_____	Fishing Gear (line, nets, traps)	_____
_____	Tires	_____

ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN: _____

MOST UNUSUAL ITEM(S) COLLECTED: _____

Email your survey to: njccc@njclean.org





Plastic Advisory Council: Focus on Reuse & Refill

- Major focus on **waste reduction** – 4, 2-hour stakeholder sessions held:
 - January 9, 2024 – Disposal free dining, take-out dining and zero waste events;
 - January 17, 2024 – Plastics waste reduction in schools;
 - February 8, 2024 – Plastics waste reduction in businesses;
 - February 21, 2024 – Plastics waste reduction in government facilities/municipalities
- 35 Local and National Experts Participated
- Both Short-Term & Long Term Recommendations Included in the PAC Report in June
- A “Straw Proposal” for a Governor’s Executive Order on Waste Reduction may be Included
- Focus Areas for Consideration:
 - Stop Purchasing Single-Use Plastic Beverages;
 - Stop Purchasing Single-Use Plastic Cups and Cutlery
 - Water Refill Stations at State Owned/Operated Venues
 - Green Procurement
 - Zero Waste Events



SKIP THE STUFF ORDINANCE

- WIN** - Business – Save \$ & labor costs
- WIN** – Customer – Save trash costs & clutter
- WIN** - Environment – Reduce waste
- WIN** – Municipality – Proposed for SJ points

Engage with business community and township council to get started. Join other towns such as Maplewood, Red Bank, Stone Harbor, Cranford and Garwood.

*Model Ordinance available on <https://njnoplastics.org/resources>

* Beyond Plastics STS Toolkit <https://www.beyondplastics.org/campaign-toolkits/skip-the-stuff>



Zero Waste Events

- Minimize waste Upstream

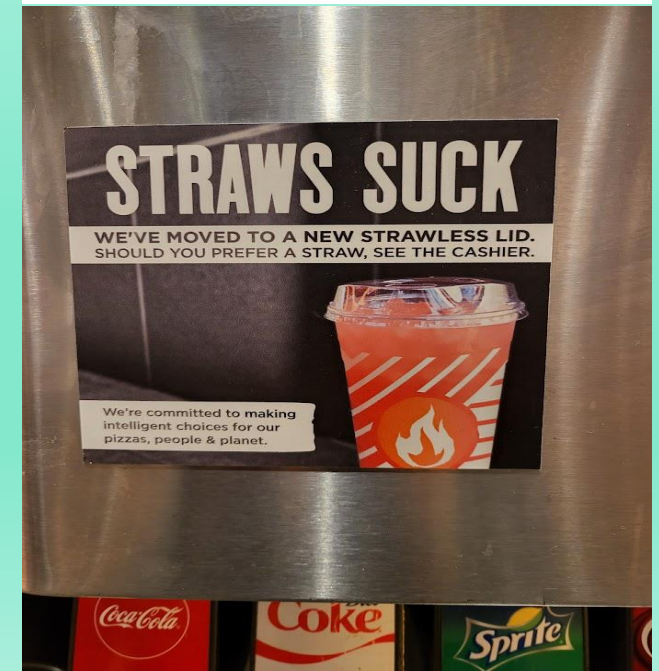
- Don't sell single-use water bottles (check vendor contracts)
- Encourage folks to bring reusables
- Use deposit system for reusable cups
- Engage with a food waste hauler
- Have clearly designated recycling, trash, and food waste sorting bins
- Train staff, volunteers and vendors

** Proposed for SJ points



What Can I Do?

- **Vote with your wallet** – Choose products, businesses, restaurants that are actively working on reducing plastic pollution
- **Say NO** to utensils when ordering takeout, Use reusables whenever possible
- **Educate** your family & friends – Plastic pollution is a public health crisis, climate change & environmental justice issue
- **Workplaces** – Search and engage in opportunities for waste reduction
- **Call NJDEP** about non-compliance – 1-877-WarnDEP
- The LAW is working! **Spread the message.**



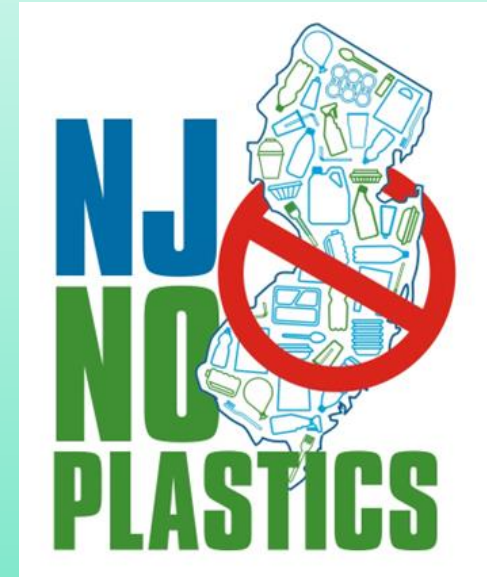
Thank You!

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<https://njnoplastics.org/resources>

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/get-past-plastic>

<https://litterfreenj.com>