

# DID YOU KNOW?

- We produce 430 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 production has grown dramatically: more than half of all plastic ever produced has been manufactured since 2002.
- Approximately 40% of plastic produced is for single-use.
- Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes — and that number is projected to nearly triple by 2040.
- 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

- [NJ DEP Get Past Plastic](https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/)  
<https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/>
- [BeyondPlastics.org](https://beyondplastics.org)
- [Rethink Disposable.org](https://rethinkdisposable.org)
- [Prevent Balloon Litter.org](https://preventballoonlitter.org)



## NJ LAWS

- Get Past Plastics Law- Banned single-use plastic and Styrofoam food service products, banned single-use paper bags in large grocery stores: —  
<https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic>
- Skip the Stuff Law (STS) - Strongest STS law in the country. Restaurants may only provide single-use utensils and condiments for take out/delivery only when requested. Full service restaurants with 10+ seats must use reusable utensils for dine-in customers.
- Recycled Content Law - Requires minimum recycled content in plastic products sold in NJ - <https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content>

✉ [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)  
🌐 <https://anjec.org>  
f @anjecpage  
📺 @anjecviews  
📷 @anjecposts



## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION?

Plastic is connected to health, climate change and wildlife. Single-use plastics require energy, water, fossil fuels, and chemicals to produce, yet many are used for only minutes before being discarded. Once in the environment, plastic can persist for hundreds of years—sometimes 1,000 years or more—while breaking down into smaller microplastics rather than fully disappearing.



## 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.

