



Single use plastics in Vermont

The Problem: The packaging for most of the food we consume here in Vermont must be discarded after it is used which creates over 642,000 tons of waste statewide every year and this can pollute the surrounding environment.



Why does this matter?

Single use-plastic waste can pollute the local environment, disrupt the food chain, and decrease the quality of life for humans and animals. It is also a major contributor to climate change due to the air pollution from production, resource extraction, and improper waste removal.

Social Effects:

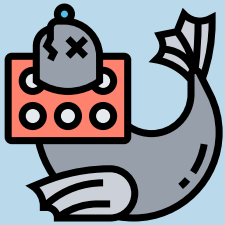
Ecological Effects:

Economic Effects:

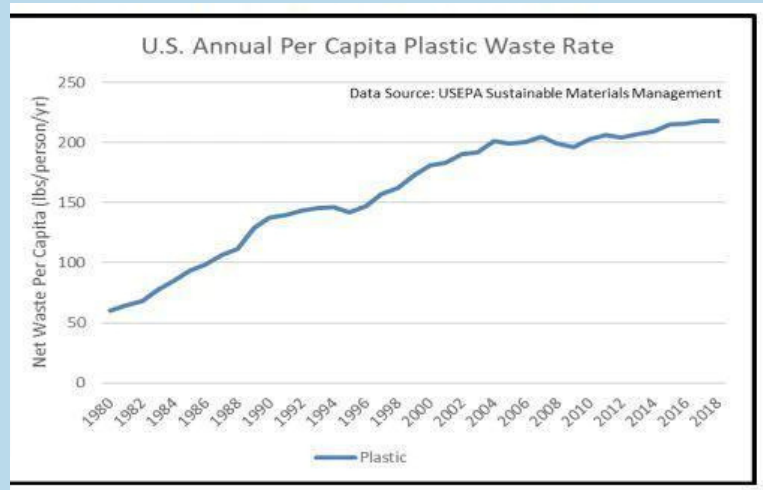
- Higher quality of life for humans and animals
- Cleaner drinking water
- Better air quality

- Less plastic waste in nature, resulting in cleaner ecosystems
- Fewer animals becoming ensared or directly consuming plastic
- Less microplastic in the bodies of humans and animals

- Less money to oil mega-corporations that manufacture plastic
- New jobs from sustainable alternatives



Single use items, paper, and packing makeup 1/3 of Vermont's trash. Reducing our usage of these items will help preserve our environments and even have positive economic impacts.



Per capita production of plastic waste in the U.S has been steadily increasing since 1980



How can we solve this issue?

- Education on how to reduce waste and how single use plastics harm our environment
- Properly labeling recyclable materials
- Government-funded research to find sustainable alternatives
- Financial incentives for reusable packaging



- Shop with reusable containers
- Bring your own shopping bag
- Shop with companies that use sustainable and reusable packaging like compostable bags and glass jars