Workshop #7: "Life with Less Plastic"

Sustainability Series | Town of Windsor & Community Partners

With special guests:

Barbara McChesney -
McSisters Tackle Plastic

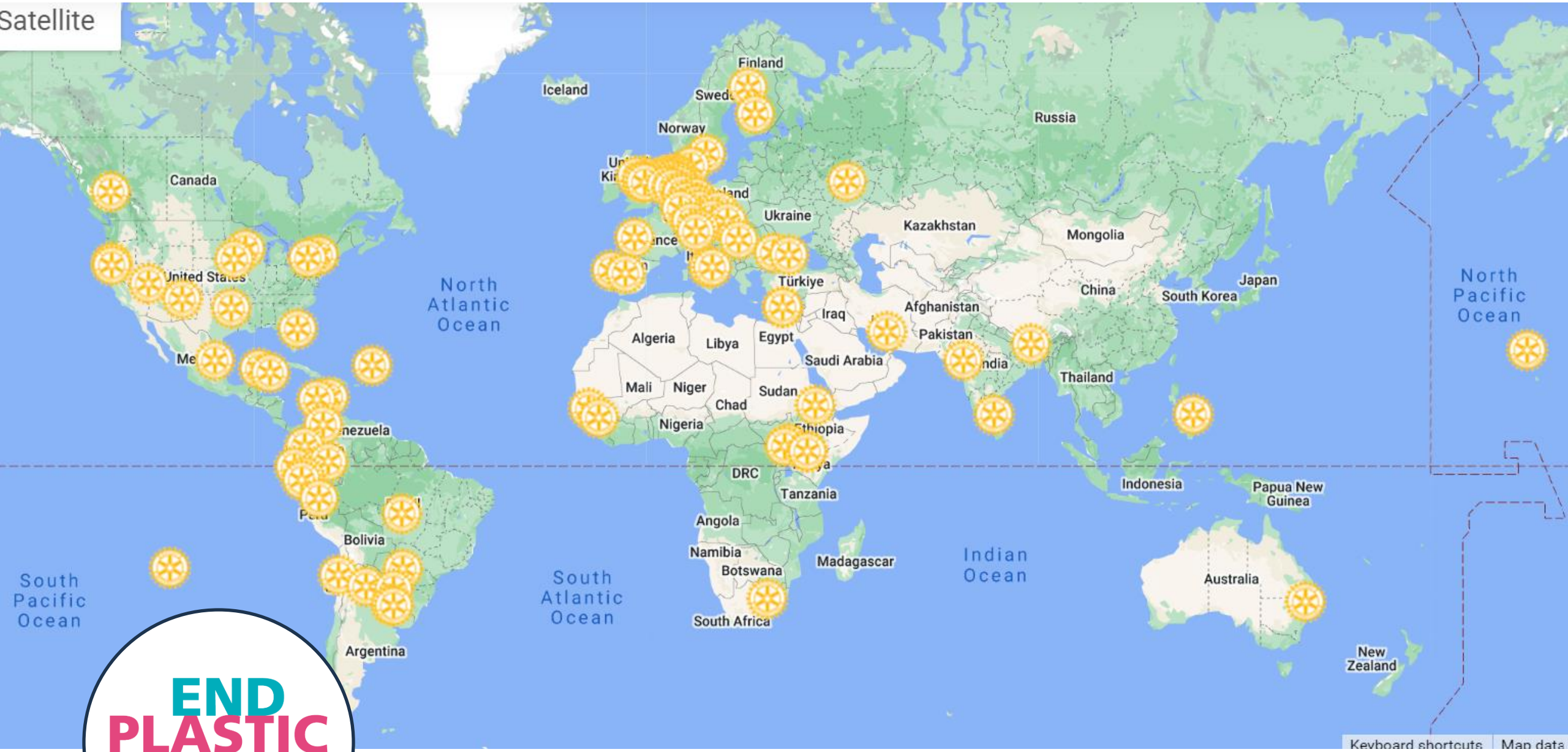
Amanda Rivers - Sonoma County Resource Recovery (SCRR)

Town of Windsor
CALIFORNIA



Organizer contact: Chloe Ballard
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707-838-1026


END
PLASTIC
SOUP
CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT
Rotary
How will you show up in your Grandchildren's future?
END
PLASTIC
SOUP
CREDIT: Justin Hofman



END PLASTIC SOUP

www.endplasticsoup.org



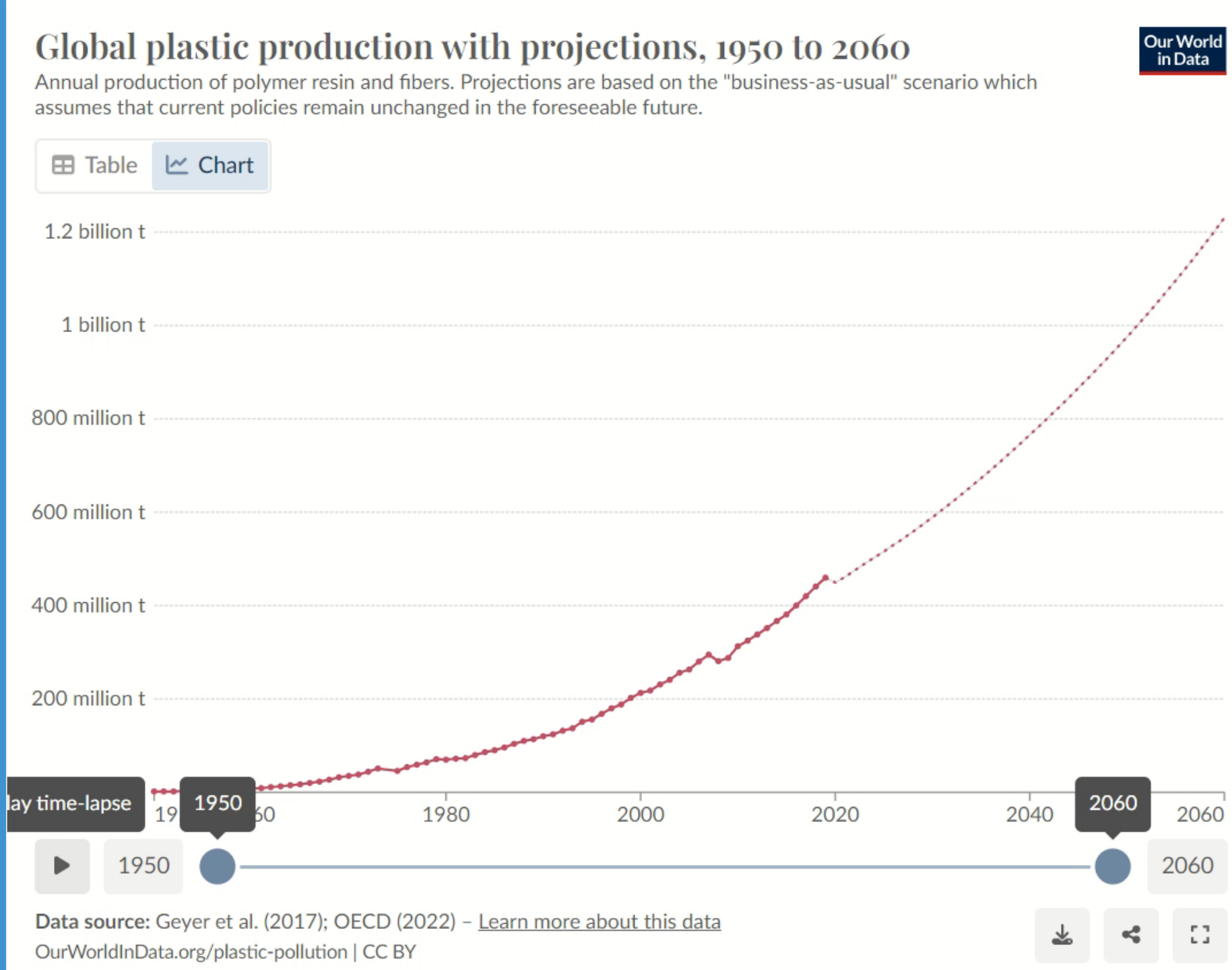
“A CREDIT CARD OF MICROPLASTICS EVERY WEEK”

→ A STANDARD DECK OF CARDS ANNUALLY

SOURCE: Gruber et al (2022)

We've produced 9 billion tons of plastic since the 1950's

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UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE

Global Production and waste

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>400m tons annually

< 12 % recycled

Landfills
Incinerator
Nature

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SOURCE: Plastics Europe (2019)

UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE

Impact on marine life



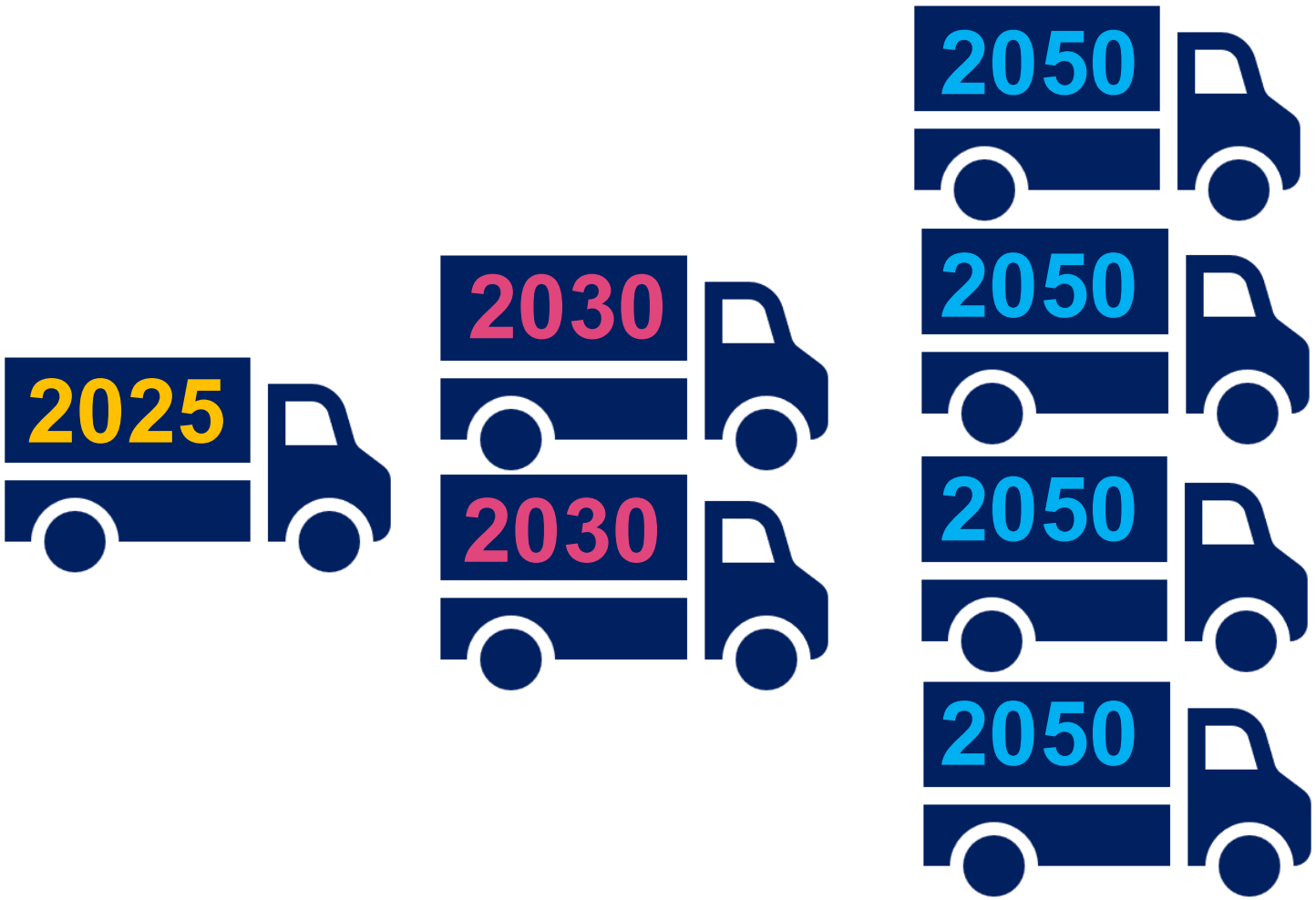
SOURCE: National Geographic (2024)

UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE

Impact on marine life

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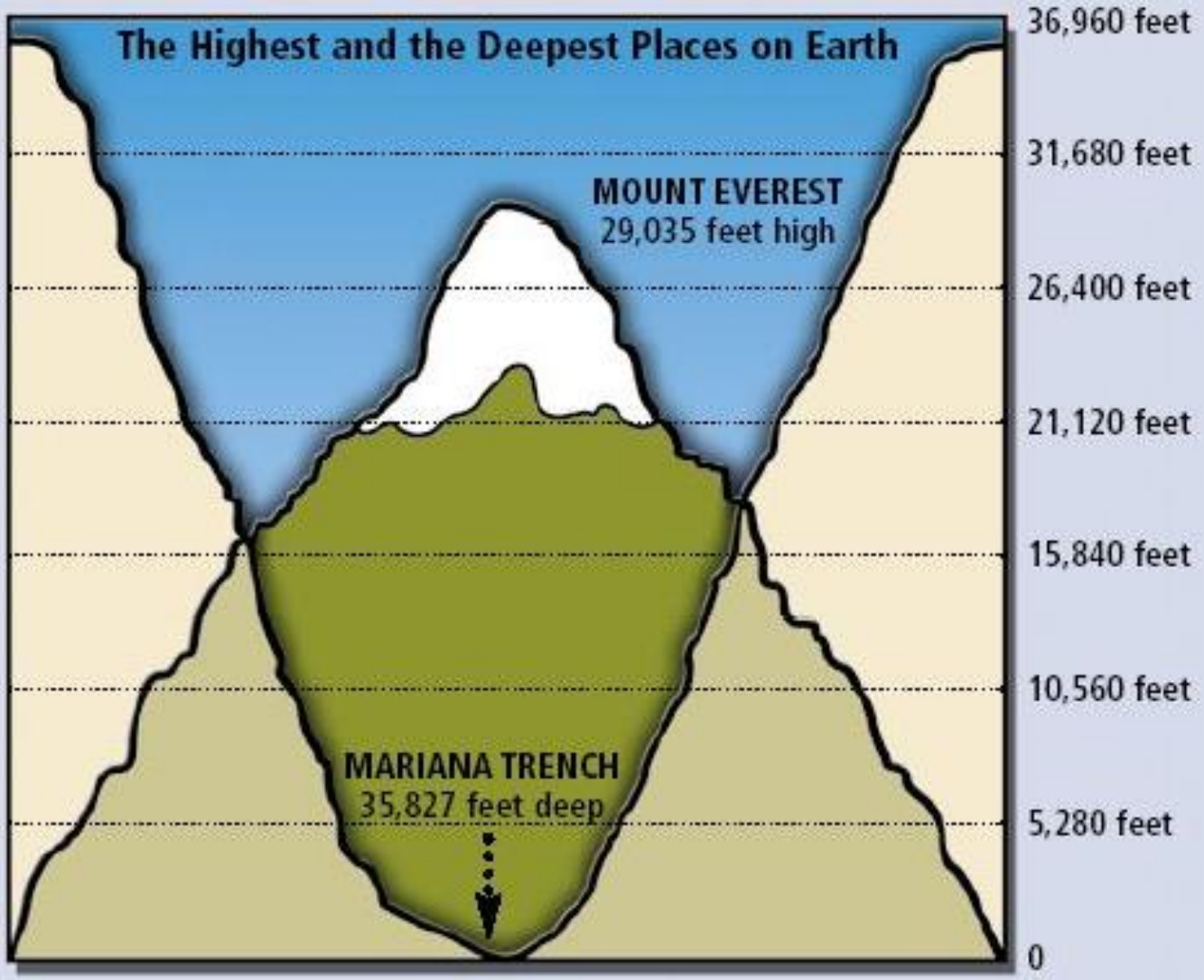
80 % from landbased activities



SOURCE: Ellen Macarthur Foundation

UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE

Microplastics pervasiveness



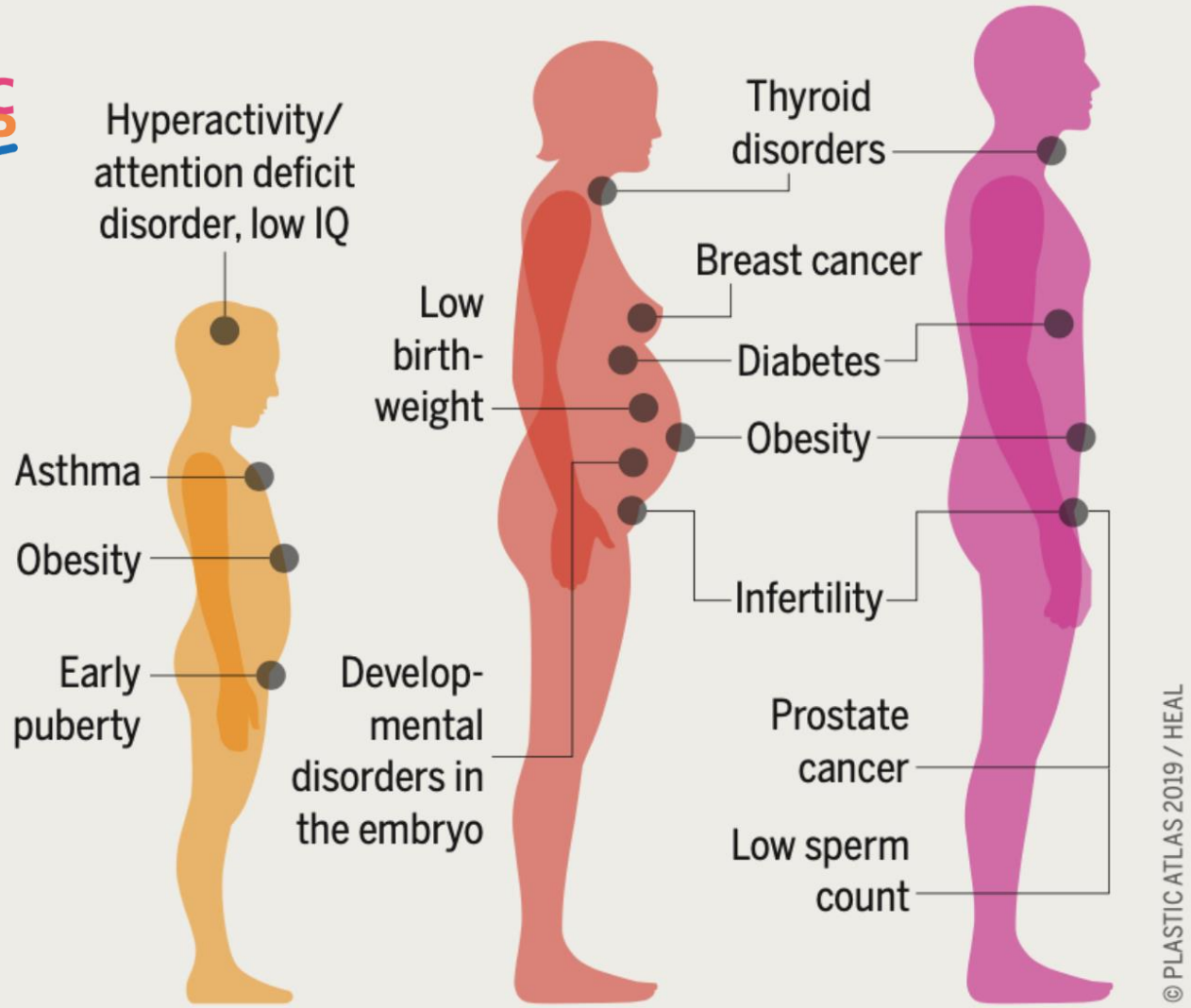
SOURCE: National Geographic (2023)

SOURCE: Napper et al. (2020)

Fragments
Micro: <5mm
Nano: <1nm

UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE
Health Risks

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SOURCE: The Plastic Atlas (2019)

BPA and phthalates create health risks

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UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE
Economic costs

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$6-19 billion annually worldwide

SOURCE: Waste 360 (2019)



Rotary | SINGAPORE 2024

UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE

Single use plastics

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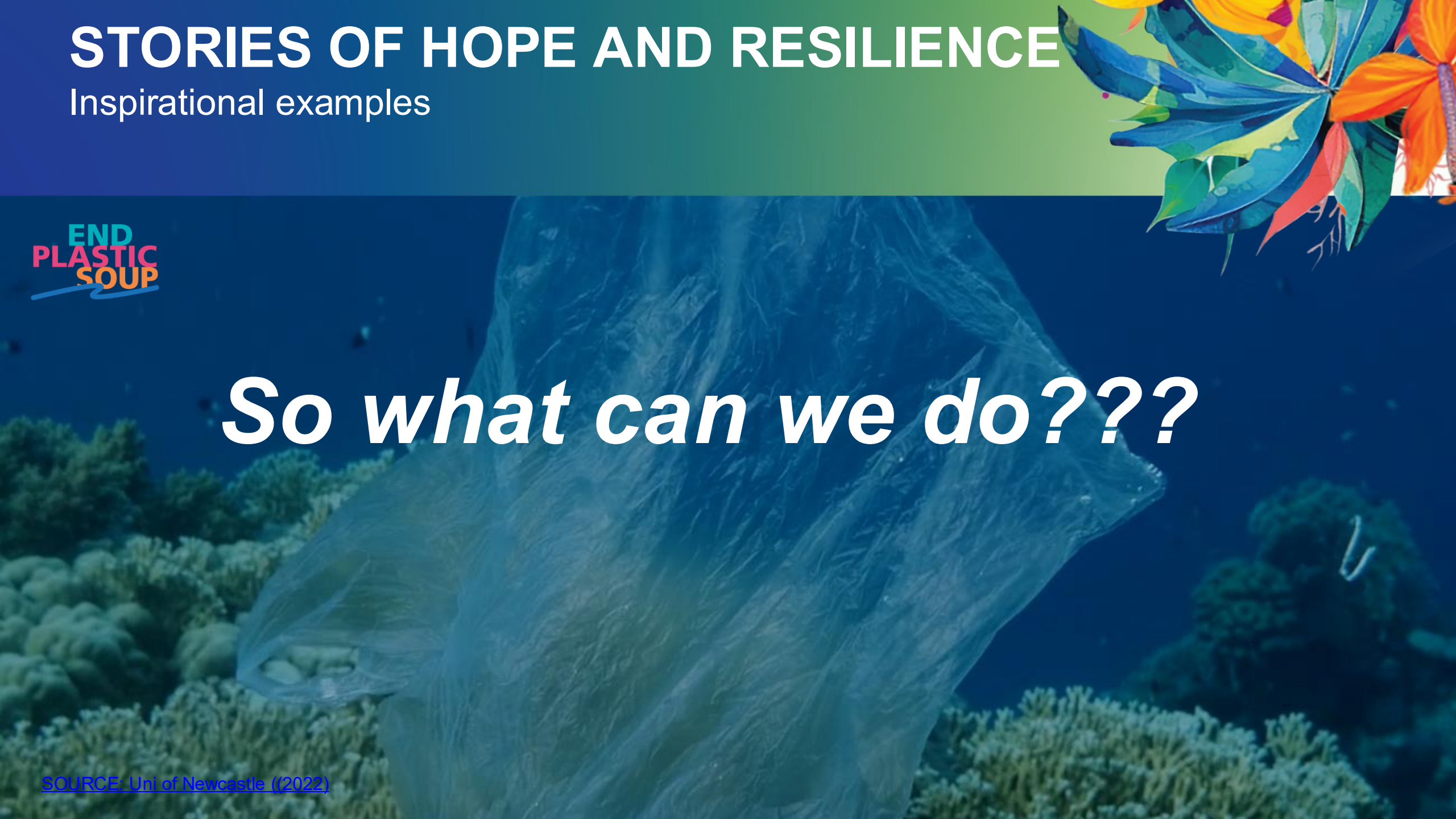
500 billion coffee cups every day worldwide



SOURCE: World Centric (2019)

STORIES OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

Inspirational examples



So what can we do???

SOURCE: Uni of Newcastle ((2022)

STORIES OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

Inspirational examples – education and advocacy

Plastic Free Lunch Day

Plastic Free Lunch Day

Join us for the next Plastic Free Lunch Days | November 17th - November 21st, 2025!



Eliminate all single-use plastic for one day or start with just one plastic-free action.

Why Plastic Free Lunch Day?

- School cafeterias serve over 7 billion meals per year
- School meals are loaded with single-use plastics
- Less than 9% of plastic is recycled
- Most plastic ends up in a landfill or the environment
- Plastic does not *bio*degrade; it fragments into tiny pieces called microplastics, then nanoplastics
- Microplastics are in our oceans, soil and air
- Scientists have found microplastics in our lungs, liver, digestive tract, and blood.
- We are all eating and breathing plastic.



Plastic Free Lunch Days

Reducing 2 pieces of plastic from every school lunch will save 10 billion pieces of plastic every school year.

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STORIES OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

Inspirational examples – education and advocacy

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BEYOND PLASTICS

JOIN OUR GROWING GRASSROOTS NETWORK TODAY!

Affiliate your existing organization, join a group near you or start a new Beyond Plastics local group.



Start or join a Beyond Plastics Local Group near you or affiliate your existing organization to help reduce plastic pollution and advance solutions in your neighborhood, town, city, county or state. We offer free virtual grassroots organizing training, organizing tools, access to a growing network of like-minded advocates, and ongoing support. Learn more.

https://www.beyondplastics.org

Pairing the wisdom of experience of environmental policy, experts with the energy and creativity of grassroots advocates to build a movement

SOURCE: Beyond Plastics (2024)

BEYOND PLASTICS

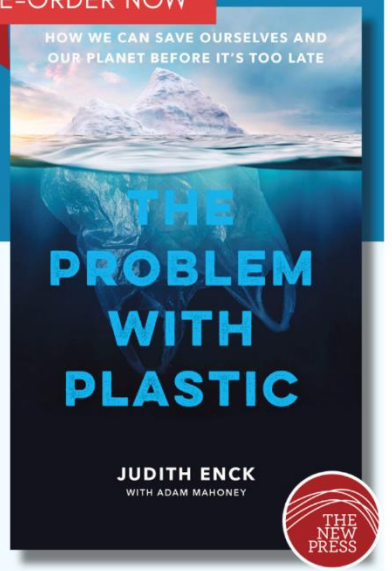
6 STEPS TO A PLASTIC-FREE HOLIDAY MEAL

Follow these tips to create a delicious, plastic-free, low-waste holiday meal. Get the guide.>>



A powerful investigation into plastic's impact on human health and the environment, and how we can fight back.

PRE-ORDER NOW



"*This is a handbook for people looking to make a difference!*"

—**Bill McKibben**, author of "Here Comes the Sun"

INDIE BOUND BARNES & NOBLE Bookshop BAM! BOOKS-A-MILLION Indigo

SOURCE: Beyond Plastics (2024)

McSisters Tackle Plastic



We share a passionate commitment to making a difference by eliminating single-use plastic to create a healthier and safer environment for future generations.

https://www.mcsisters.org


100s of Millions



How will you show up in your grandchildren's future?



And there is more you can do!



1. REFUSAL: Saying no to disposable plastic- **Just say "no" to plastic**
2. REDUCE: Finding new ways to decrease your plastic waste.
3. REUSE/use alternatives: Using more durable products made from glass, stainless steel, wood, bamboo, or ceramic.
4. RECYCLE: Considering the entire life cycle of items you bring into your life, from source to manufacturing to distribution to disposal.
5.**Write letters/advocate**
6. Support businesses that avoid single use plastic
7. Support politicians who stand for the environment
8. And of course shop locally for refillable products!

Natural Resources Defense Council

Toilet paper

NRDC




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CREDIT: Justin Hofman

Get single-use plastics out of your life!

General principles:

- Try to avoid plastic altogether
- Purchase loose & bulk
- Look for renewables when possible: metal, glass, fiber
- Challenge your favorite businesses to engage in reuse and refill
- Make more food / drinks at home





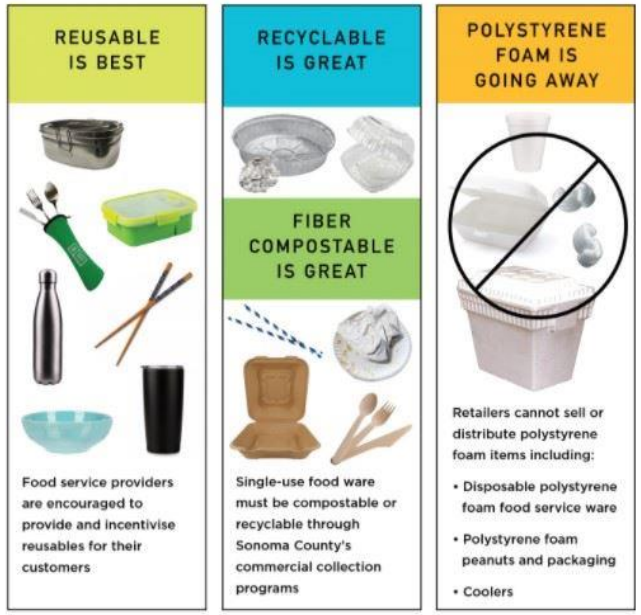
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California state law allows reuse & BYO

AB 619 (2019)

- "clean consumer-owned containers provided or returned to the food facility for filling may be filled by either the employee or the owner of the container"
- "allow a temporary food facility to use multiuse utensils that are cleaned, rinsed, and sanitized at either the temporary food facility or an approved food facility"

Windsor has banned polystyrene & single-use plastics at food establishments



You can report a restaurant out of compliance here:

https://zerowastesonoma.gov/waste-policies/foodware-complaint-shout-out-form

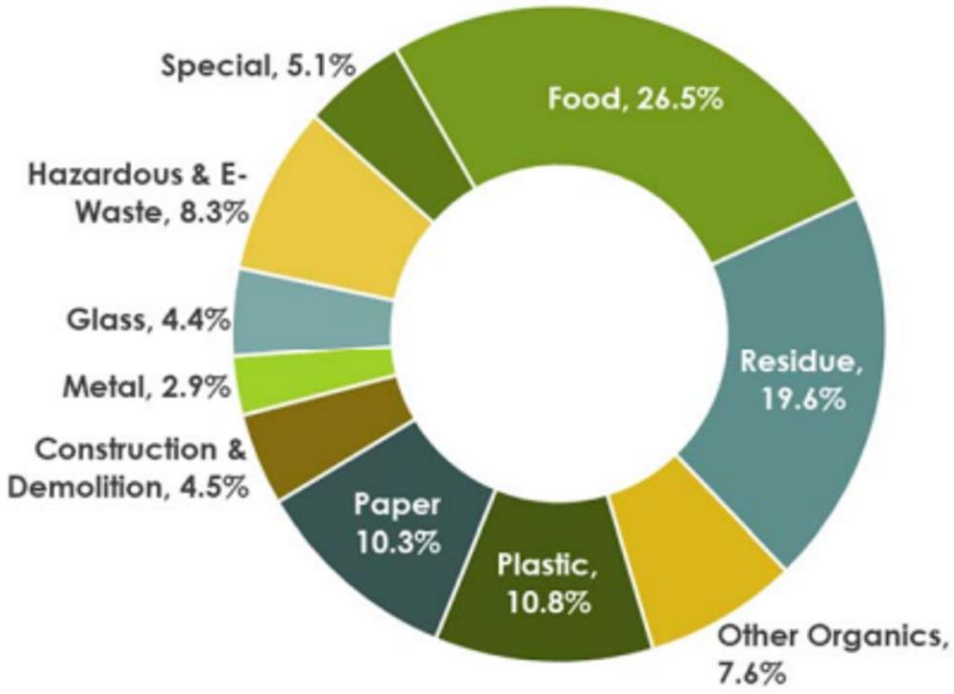
ZERO WASTE SONOMA

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Where Does Most Plastic End Up?



Exhibit 1. Waste Composition – County Overall 2022



The Problem with Landfills

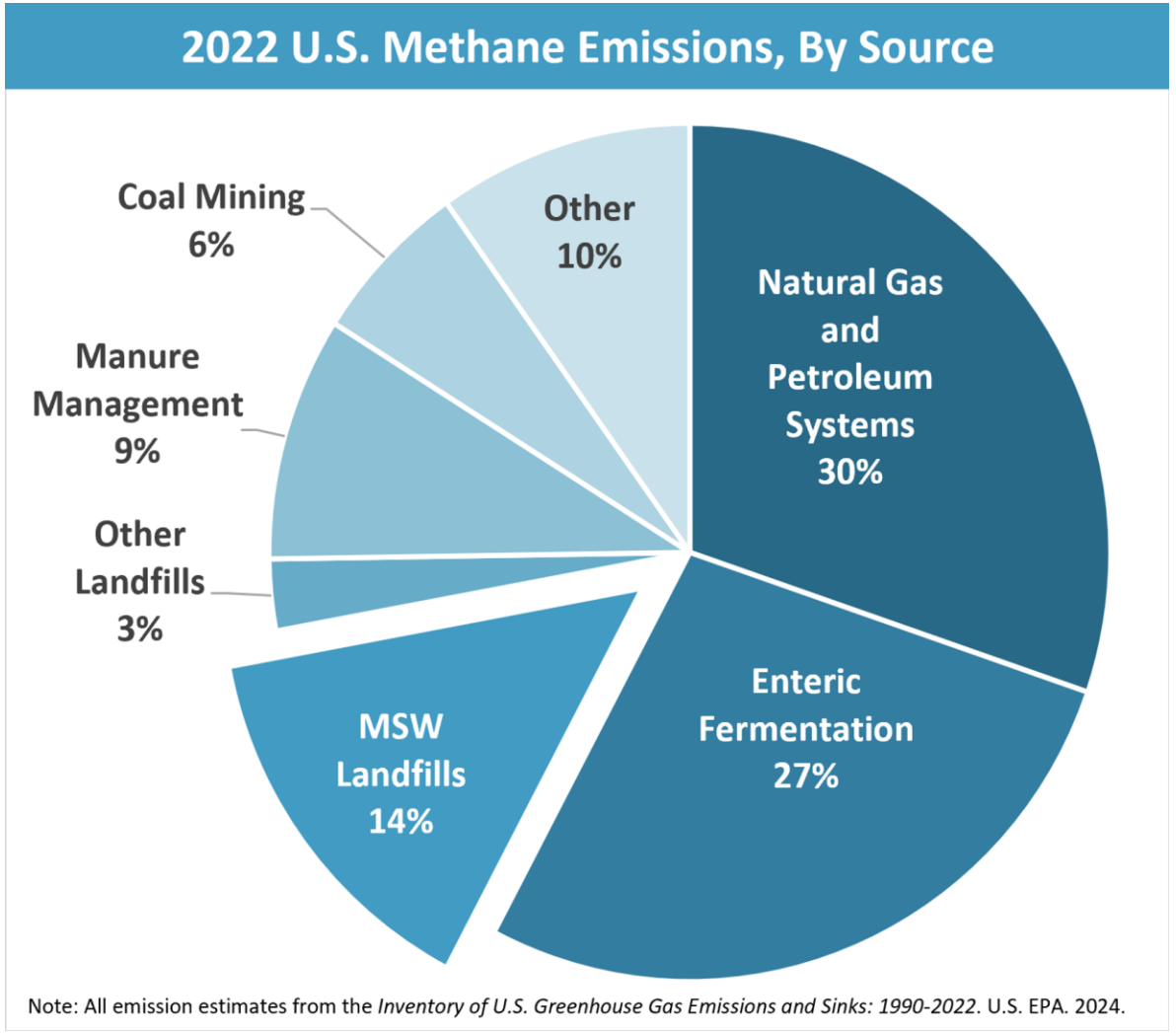
- **Methane Emissions**
  A powerful GHG that contributes to climate change

- **Leachate Leaks**
  A toxic liquid that can contaminate soil and water

- **Slow Decomposition**
  Waste breaks down very slowly when buried

- **Limited Space**
  Central Landfill in Petaluma has 15-25 years remaining

- **Air Pollution**
  Harmful pollutants and odors can impact air quality



Consider the plastic in your life. . .

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- Where's the plastic in your life? Which are pointless?
- Name one way you helped
- What is something you will commit to change going forward?

SOURCE: Uni of Newcastle ((2022)

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Thank you!

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