

Plastic Recycling

Did you know that plastic straws add up to about 2,000 tons of the nearly 9 million tons of plastic waste that ends up in waters around the globe each year? (*The Detroit News*, 07/10/18) What a sobering statistic!



Every day, mountains of used plastic consumer products and packaging head to landfills, wasting the materials and energy that created them. Many of us recycle our plastic containers curbside, and although this is important, an even better effort is to reduce the amount of plastics we buy and to reuse the items we do buy. Reducing and reusing can divert millions of tons of garbage from landfills and our waters every year. (<http://ecologycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/eliminate-plastic.pdf>)

We offer the tips below to inspire you to reduce, reuse, and trim plastic from your life at home and at our church.

Reduce and Eliminate:

- Bring your own cup and thermos when purchasing/drinking beverages away from home.
- Avoid plastic by buying glass or metal whenever possible.
- Look for items with little or no packaging.
- Purchase items in containers that can be refilled.
- Eliminate packaging by buying in bulk and large containers.
- Avoid individually wrapped portions (cheese slices, juice boxes, etc.).
- Bring your own containers and bags to stores and refill or reuse them.



Take these next steps:

- Drink filtered tap water. Fill your own bottles with water, eliminate waste, and save money.
- Buy used items - electronics, furniture, clothing, bikes, household items, etc.
- Use reusable tableware, plates, and cloth napkins when hosting a party.
- Refill toner cartridges, pens, and other office supplies.
- Urge grocery stores to carry products in bulk, or those that have reduced or recycled packaging.
- Avoid disposable products: bags, plastic utensils, razors, pens, lighters, batteries.
- Choose long-lasting metal or wood toys and products, rather than plastic.
- Rent items that will only be used a short time. See if your community has a tool lending library.
- Complete the loop by buying products made with recycled materials, such as recycled paper and glass.
- Contact the manufacturer of products whose packaging isn't recyclable and ask them to choose better packaging.

