
TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT OUR CREEKS, RIVERS AND BEACHES IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

Basic Concepts of Plastic Pollution:

Plastic is forever

Plastic is a material that the Earth cannot digest. Every bit of plastic that has ever been created still exists, except the small amount that has been incinerated, and has become toxic air and particulate pollution.

Plastic is poisoning our food chain

In the environment, plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller particles that attract toxic chemicals. These particles are ingested by wildlife on land and in the ocean, and contaminate our food chain.

Plastic affects human health

Harmful chemicals leached by plastics are already present in the bloodstream and tissues of almost every one of us, including newborns.

Single use and disposable plastics are the main source of plastic pollution

Consumption of single use and disposable plastics has spiraled out of control. They are used for seconds, hours, or days, but their remains will last hundreds of years.

Recycling is not a sustainable solution

Unlike glass and metal, recycling plastic is costly and does not stem the production of virgin plastic product. Most of our plastic waste is land filled, down cycled or exported to other countries.

The oceanic gyres

Patches of plastic pollution cover millions of square miles of ocean in the North Pacific and in the North Atlantic. Scientists expect to find similar accumulation areas in the remaining oceanic gyres. There is no known way to clean up the plastic pollution in the oceans: the plastic particles are very small and circulate throughout the entire water column. The amount of plastic pollution in the oceans is expanding at a catastrophic rate.

It is “plastic pollution”, not “marine debris”

We believe that the term “marine debris” (used consistently by the plastics industry) is euphemistic, vague, and ineffective. We are here to talk about plastic pollution in the oceans, plastic pollution on land, and plastic pollution in our bodies. Let’s call it what it is.

Things you can do to protect your community against plastic pollution:

- Drink local water, not bottled
- Participate in local cleanup events
- Buy durable goods rather than single use items
- Use reusable shopping bags rather than single use plastic or paper-keep on in your car so you always have it handy
- Use a refillable mug rather than single use cups with plastic lids.
- Bring reusable containers for take-out food or ask for aluminum foil to wrap it in and then recycle the foil
- Refuse to use straws with your drinks
- Recycle and/or properly dispose of all plastic



Why would a turtle choke on a plastic bag?

One of turtles' favorite meals is jellyfish. Turtles may mistake a plastic bag for a jellyfish.

Support State legislation regarding plastic pollution. The Californians against Waste website (www.cawrecycles.org) provides an easy way for you to electronically send letters of support for Assembly bills currently in front of legislators.
