**JANUARY 2019**

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj45fXkkqfdAhUkheAKHaCJC1gQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-tree-of-life-heart-shaped-branches-and-roots-vector-illustration-87254557.html&psig=AOvVaw2h9-qshLuEA1nEvTRdFrMX&ust=1536349602068016)

**STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH**

**Bulletin: January 6**

**Have you been refusing that plastic bag, recycling it, or carrying your own non-plastic bag?**

**Are you saying “No” to the plastic straw and the Styrofoam container?**

The Social Justice Committee is cheering you on in the New Year!!

Remember, every minute, the equivalent of an entire garbage truck of plastic gets dumped into our oceans.3 In the United States, stores distribute 100 billion single-use plastic bags per year, many of which end up in our waterways.4

Rather than address this problem, the Plastic Industry Association is working diligently to keep us reliant on disposable plastic products, such as straws, bags, and Styrofoam containers -- known as single-use plastics.

Fortunately for our planet, local communities across the nation are taking action!

**Nearly 350 cities and towns have enacted local ordinances on plastics, such as plastic bag fees or single-use bag bans.**5 These community-driven actions have been shown to keep plastic out of our oceans and litter off our streets.6

Let’s be one of those communities! We can each do our part.

Take action to demand nine major companies withdraw their support from an industry that is actively promoting plastic bag pollution.

<https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/end-support-for-plastic-polluting-our-oceans/petition/end-support-for-plastic-polluting-our-oceans>

References

3. James Pennington, "[Every Minute One Garbage Truck of Plastic Is Dumped into Our Oceans. This Has to Stop](http://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=b2d5a70661b085116a6e690fb6af048827cd535c063ac0df24935d1dcdaabd9ddb32a7a2ed5597867d3b6f6b076ad84987eb428374a8e9c8)," World Economic Forum, October 27, 2016.  
4. "[Plastic Bag Fact Sheet](http://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=b2d5a70661b0851190ed5f2f9d43842409818c164291f159c5069888861e7de306bb4333ac21bed2e03c0bcd77d164f5a95aee8b28157da9)," Earth Policy Institute, October 2014.  
5. Trevor Nace, "[Here's a List of Every City in the US to Ban Plastic Bags, Will Your City Be Next?](http://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=b2d5a70661b08511995081af5ff22679adb757e30e15af386169af8900c19c00e581318cac4b0c78da4469b093bb959802223e9cef14a6d4)," Forbes, September 20, 2018.  
6. Lorraine Chow, "[Plastic Bag Bans Actually Work, Study of European Waters Shows](http://click.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=b2d5a70661b0851174383868ce35aa00e6a6fe008b10c797a5a04e8e920ff38b60875156afc589742d63d2cf230f7e3a2757a0daf1bdf060)," Ecowatch, April 5, 2018.

**Bulletin: January 13**

Children are the future stewards of our earth. It’s not too early to start the conversation, of course at a level at which they are ready.

A resource you may want to consider is:

**Beginning the Climate Conversation: A Family’s Guide** by the Climate Reality Project

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/sites/default/files/kidsandclimatechangee-book.pdf>

In this guide, they discuss when to start the climate conversation and how to approach the topic with children. It is not designed as a substitute for formal science instruction. The goal is to help you navigate a tricky topic so your children can grow into informed young people excited to learn more about how they can make the world a better place. (p.2)

The guide includes:

* When to start the conversation
* What to share depending on the age of your child
* A personality quiz courtesy of National Geographic Kids
* Conversation starters

For example:

Conversation Starter:

“When you throw it away, plastic doesn’t break down into pieces the way paper and food that’s not good anymore do.”

Follow-up:

“When pieces of plastic get thrown away, they can end up in all kind of places, including places they shouldn’t be like the ocean, and they stay there for a very long time.”

“And if they get in the ocean, they can really hurt fish and other animals there. Sometimes plastic looks like food to fish and animals and they eat it. Sometimes chemicals even come off of plastic and that’s bad for the water and the animals too.” (p. 20)

When I take my 5-year-old granddaughter to a restaurant and the server asks what she wants to drink, she says, “water but no straw.” That makes me proud and hopeful.

**Bulletin: January 20**

**HOSPITALITY MINDFULNESS**

In keeping with our efforts to be stewards of our earth, the Social Justice Committee asks all committees planning events to be mindful of the hospitality supplies used.

For example:

* Washable or paper table cloths instead of plastic ones
* Vinyl washable place mats under coffee and tea pots to avoid staining table cloths so they can be reused
* Recyclable cups or bring-your-own mugs
* Recycle bin for paper

Each group can do its part to consider its “environmental footprint” and to demonstrate its social responsibility. “The issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyles.” (Benedict XVI, Message for the 2010 World Day of Peace)

If you have other ideas or resources, or if we can be a resource for you, please let Mary Nolan know.

**Bulletin: January 27**



**Our Social Justice Committee meets on the 1st Sunday each month after the 11:00 Mass. Come and share your ideas and suggestions for taking care of our common home! All are welcome.**