

## End Plastic Pollution is our Earth Day Message

**Our goal is to reduce the purchase and distribution of plastic bottled beverages and straws on Cape Cod.**

In the U.S., we consume 60% of the world's plastic bottles, about 30 billion of them a year. The majority are for the sale and distribution of water! 500 million straws are used and discarded daily.

### What's the problem?

- **Plastic has a big carbon footprint.** We use 17 million barrels of oil each year to produce water bottles. That's enough oil to keep a million cars fueled for the whole year.
- **Plastic is a human and environmental health hazard.** Plastic contains and absorbs pollutants like BPA and PVCs that are known to be human endocrine disruptors. These chemicals and others can leech through plastic containers into the beverages we consume.
- **Plastic does not biodegrade and the majority of plastic bottles are not recycled.** Eighty percent of the water bottles we buy end up in landfills -- or on the beach or in the ocean.
- **Ten percent of the plastic manufactured worldwide ends up in the ocean.** One square mile of the ocean has over 46,000 pieces of floating plastic in it. Most of the bottles settle on the ocean floor, competing for space with marine life. Plastic fragments absorb toxins that pollute our waterways, contaminate our soil, and sicken animals both on land and in the sea.

**Let's change the story! Reduce the use of all single-use plastic!**

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