

WHAT IS “Students for ZERO WASTE WEEK”?



STUDENTS FOR ZERO WASTE WEEK is a student-led campaign that raises awareness of how single use plastics and other types of waste that we produce on land impact the health of our local watersheds, marine sanctuaries and the ocean.

From March 16 - April 24th, 2020, students are participating in the ZERO WASTE WEEK challenge and working to reduce waste on school campuses, at home and out in the communities by remembering to:

- Replace single use plastic items (such as drink bottles, sandwich baggies, snack bags, spork paks, etc.) with reusable alternatives
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper
- Step up recycling and composting efforts
- Replace single use condiment packets with bulk dispensers
- Replace plastic straws with paper straws or consider not using straws
- Power down computers and other electronic devices when not in use
- Refuse products containing microbeads



WHAT IS A TABLE TENT ?

Table tents are a great way to remind the public about how we all need to reduce our waste on land and be better stewards of our watersheds and ocean.

Table tents can be placed on tables and counter tops in places such as:

restaurants,
cafes,
libraries,
school offices, staff lunch/meeting rooms, cafeterias

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC STRAWS?

PLASTIC STRAWS do not biodegrade.

PLASTIC STRAWS photo-degrade. They break down into smaller and smaller pieces that **don't go "away"**. These tiny plastic pieces pollute our waters and harm marine life.

In the U.S. alone, we use and discard 500 MILLION PLASTIC STRAWS A DAY! **That's enough straws to fill 127 school buses every day***! (*<http://ecocycle.org/bestrawfree/faqs>)

PLASTIC STRAWS are consistently one of the TOP 10 items on the International Coastal Cleanup list.

WHAT YOU CAN DO? **We're asking people to reduce their use of plastic straws. Businesses can also help reduce the use of plastic straws by adopting the practice of "OFFER FIRST"** and provide plastic straws to customers only upon request. Many restaurants already do this with glasses of water.

If you have to use a straw, please consider using PAPER STRAWS or REUSABLE STRAWS.

With each person taking simple actions, TOGETHER we can make a difference!

WILL REDUCING PLASTIC STRAWS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE? **We understand that saying "no" to plastic straws and other single use items is a small step to take towards reducing waste on our planet. We also understand that these small steps are helping us to look at our behavior and use of single-use plastic items, like straws. Once we become more aware of our behavior, bigger changes become more possible!**

