

## **Plymouth Township EAB Single-Use Plastics Study - April 2022**

*The Plymouth Township Environmental Advisory Board is investigating ways to reduce the use of single-use plastics in the township.*

Why should you care about single use plastics? Did you know that:

- Many plastics are not recyclable. They do not biodegrade but instead break up into microplastics that enter our water, food, and air. Recent survey data shows [microplastics in waterways across Pennsylvania](#).
- [40% of the plastic consumed globally is plastic packaging that is used just once and then thrown away](#).
- The national average number of single-use plastic bags used per person is [365 bags per year](#). This means in 2020, that added up to more than **6.6 MILLION bags** for the 18,256 Plymouth Township residents in 2020 alone!
- Most recycling machinery can't handle plastic bags, it's difficult to get usable material from the bags, and there is little market for post-consumer plastic as new material is cheaper. As a result nearly all plastic bags end up as litter, water or air pollution, or sit for hundreds of years in landfills[1].  
[1] Sources, (UC Berkeley, McArthur /World Economic Forum, RecyclingToday report, State Impact Pa., NPR, PennEnvironment).

We can all do our part to eliminate single-use plastics use in the township and start improving our environment as a result.

### **Feedback and questions**

We are interested in your input on this issue. Please submit your ideas and questions at <https://tinyurl.com/PlymTwpPlasticsStudy>. Even if you do not have comments at this time, please submit your email to be informed of updates on our progress.

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