

## Plymouth Township EAB Single-Use Plastics Study - July 2022

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

Regarding single-use plastics in PA, as of the end of June, there are 8 munis in PA that have adopted a single-use plastics ordinance, including Narberth in Montgomery County, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. 11 others in SE PA are discussing. We expect to provide more information in the Fall. If you would like to receive an update, please fill in your contact email on the feedback form, below. Thank you for responses received after this study was announced in April.

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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