

# Town of Indialantic



# Single Use Plastics

*What can I do?*



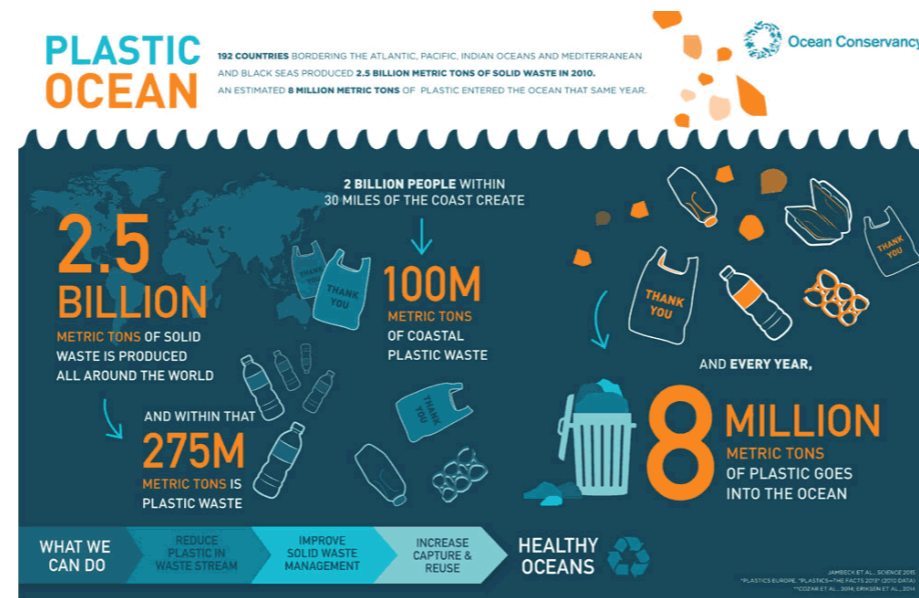
**THE WORLD HAS** a plastic pollution problem and it's snowballing—but so is public awareness and action.

Each year, an estimated 18 billion pounds of plastic waste enters the world's ocean from coastal regions. That's about equivalent to five grocery bags of plastic trash piled up on every foot of coastline on the planet. All that plastic is causing harm to the creatures that live in the ocean, from coral reefs smothered in bags, to turtles gagging on straws, to whales and seabirds that starve because their bellies are so jammed with bits of plastic that there's no room for real food.

New research is emerging apace about the possible long-term impacts of tiny pieces of plastic on the marine food chain—raising fresh questions about how it might ultimately impact human health and food security.

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### The Problem with Plastics

From the tiniest plankton to the largest whales, plastics impact nearly 700 species in our ocean

You've probably seen videos of these impacts first hand, like a sea turtle with a plastic straw embedded in its nose or a whale entangled in a fishing net, approaching divers that release it from harm. Some of these incidents have happy endings, but in reality, many more do not.

Plastic has been found in more than 60% of all seabirds and in 100% of sea turtles species, that mistake plastic for food. And when animals ingest plastic, it can cause life-threatening problems, including reduced fitness, nutrient uptake and feeding efficiency—all vital for survival.

Nick Mallos

“The tide of plastics entering the ocean can, indeed, be reversed.”

Nicholas Mallos

Director, Trash Free Seas, Ocean Conservancy

Every year, 8 million metric tons of plastics enter our ocean on top of the estimated 150 million metric tons that currently circulate our marine environments. Whether by errant plastic bags or plastic straws winding their way into gutters or large amounts of mismanaged plastic waste streaming from rapidly growing economies, that's like dumping one New York City garbage truck full of plastic into the ocean every minute of every day for an entire year! And that much plastic is bound to have an impact on ocean ecosystems.

<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/>

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Photo: Amy Tierney



<https://www.surfrider.org/initiatives/plastic-pollution>

RESOLUTION NO. 18-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIALANTIC, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN INITIATIVE TO VOLUNTARILY REDUCE THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND EXPANDED POLYESTERSTYRENE (EPS) PRODUCTS IN AN EFFORT TOWARDS A CLEANER AND SAFER OCEAN, INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Indialantic is diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment which supports an environmentally sound, clean and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and enhancing an environmentally sound clean and healthy community, the quality of the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Indian River Lagoon is important to the quality of life enjoyed by Indialantic residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastics include water and soda bottles, plastic straws, plastic lids, plastic bags, and plastic utensils; and

WHEREAS, EPS products include "to-go" containers, leftover food containers ("clamshells"), and drink cups; and

WHEREAS, plastic drinking straws are provided by most establishments that offer cold drinks; and

WHEREAS, single use plastics and EPS products are not biodegradable and break down into smaller pieces that become more difficult to manage; litter our landscape and beaches, pollute our ocean and lagoon, kill or injure an estimated one million or more sea turtles, seabirds and other wildlife annually, pollute the environment for generations, take 500-1000 years to decompose and, if ignored, create permanent damage to the environment; and WHEREAS, an estimated 500 million straws are used daily in the United States; and plastic drinking straws deposited in the Indian River, on the beach, or washed up onto the beach pose a great threat to marine and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the cost of trying to make our beaches, the ocean, and the Indian River Lagoon clean and safe increases due, in part, to the need to remove plastic drinking straws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Indialantic, Florida:

SECTION 1: Does hereby recognize the efforts of the Surfrider Foundation, the Town of Indialantic's Environmental Advisory Task Force, the Sea Turtle Conservancy, and local merchants and residents to reduce the distribution and use of single-use plastics and EPS products.

SECTION 2. Does hereby urge all citizens to embrace and commit to the Environmental Protection Agency's hierarchy in their daily lives -

- a. Reduce,
- b. Reuse,
- c. Recycle

SECTION 3. Does hereby urge all citizens and business owners to voluntarily participate in this initiative to reduce the use of plastic straws, single-use plastics and EPS products and packaging through the use of reusable, compostable and/or recyclable materials.

SECTION 4. That those businesses that provide a product for which a straw would be desired are encouraged to offer paper straws or provide a plastic straw only upon individual request.

SECTION 5. Will officially recognize those businesses within the Town who support, initiate and commit to a single-use plastics and EPS reduction program. This recognition will consist of a Town Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition for placement at their business and will be in place so long as the business demonstrates its involvement and continuous support.

SECTION 6. Severability/Interpretation Clause. In the event that any term, provision, clause, sentence or section of this Resolution shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be partially or wholly unenforceable or invalid for any reason whatsoever, any such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any of the other or remaining terms, provisions, clauses, sentences, or sections of this Resolution, and this Resolution shall be read and/or applied as if the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable term, provision, clause, sentence, or section did not exist.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 18th day of June, 2018.

TOWN OF INDIALANTIC

David Berkman, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Clark, MMC, Town Clerk

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Photo: Amy Tierney

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## Questions?

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