

PETITION TO THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL

SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE DISPOSABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

The Problems with Single-Use Disposable Plastics

- Plastics pollute our streets, oceans, and waterways.
- Every year, American companies make more plastic products. Yet only 6.5% of it gets recycled.
- 50 percent of the plastic we use, we use just once and throw away.
- “Recyclable” non-bottle plastics have a negative resale value: Berkeley has to pay to have them taken away.
- Asian countries that take our “recyclable” plastic, take only the most valuable plastics, and dump or burn the rest. So we’re trashing their environment with our discards.
- Plastic in our oceans kills one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals each year.
- Compounds from plastic make their way into our food and bodies.

Single Use Disposable Plastics are a major source of trash polluting our neighborhoods, waterways, bay and oceans. Oil extraction and plastic production are poisonous to communities and ecosystems near and far. Plastics are hard and costly to recycle, and many end up dumped or burned. Disposable plastic contaminates our city’s composting program. These plastics are harmful to marine wildlife and causing distress and death to important bird, fish, and whale species. Plants and animals can uptake toxic chemicals attached plastic waste and concentrate them in our food.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request the City Council to advance bold and innovative policies that address the growing and undeniable problems that single-use disposable plastic products are causing.

We join other communities in reducing our use of single-use disposable plastics.