



RETHINK

the plastics you use

PLASTIC POLLUTION PARTNER TOOLKIT

Above photo: river otter at a plastic-polluted site on the Christina River, near the Christiana Mall.

WHY RETHINK SINGLE-USE PLASTICS?

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.

Straws and plastic cutlery, shopping bags, takeout containers, water bottles, and more all are single-use plastics. These items either cannot be recycled, require specialty recycling, or end up in landfills despite being recyclable. **Plastic straws, drink stirrers, and disposable cutlery all rank in the top ten types of garbage polluting the ocean. Animals like sea turtles and dolphins often mistake plastic trash for food, ingesting it and causing them to get sick.**

Join us in rethinking the plastic in your life. In getting rid of plastic straws, stirrers, or cutlery by replacing disposable items with reusable ones, you can keep hundreds of thousands of them from going into landfills and our oceans each year.

HOW TO MAKE THE SWITCH

- **If you still have existing plastic straws, you can offer them only upon request, which will allow you to work with your existing inventory**
- **Get your staff on board with why you made the switch.**
 - Dedicate a portion of pre-shift or staff meetings to go over the initiative.
 - Empower your team with the information needed to speak confidently about this initiative.
- **Place your straws out of reach from bartenders and waiters to help break the habit of automatically placing a straw in a beverage. They will use less straws and you will save money.**
- **Being selective on which drinks receive a reusable or non-plastic straw. Certain cocktails and drinks, as well as water glasses, should never receive a straw.**
- **Order your reusable or non-plastic straws. There are many options** that won't compromise the quality of the cocktail.
 - If you are going straw-free (which is what we recommend!), always remember to have a straw option on site for younger patrons and people with diverse abilities. See below for an easy-to-use spreadsheet of reusable or non-plastic straw options.

STAFF TALKING POINTS

- [Insert venue name] is dedicated to helping marine animals by reducing the amount of single use plastics we use.
- We have changed to giving out straws and cutlery upon request.

SHOUT OUT YOUR COMMITMENT AND SUCCESS

In your establishment

- Help your patrons understand why you made the change/switch and how it benefits wildlife by placing messaging around your establishment.

On social media and your website

- Share your success and influence others in making a positive change for wildlife
 - We have pre-made social shares in this toolkit that you are welcome to use!

In the Press

- Create and distribute a press release. As a leading restaurant/bar in your community, your commitment to eliminating single-use straws is newsworthy. Push the news out to relevant media. Include mentions of your commitment in existing press interviews/opportunities.



PLASTIC UTENSIL ALTERNATIVES

STRAWS, STIR STICKS, UTENSILS

✂️ / 🍴	MATERIAL	COMPANY NAME	WHOLESALE/ BULK AVAILABLE	SHIPPING TIME ESTIMATE	CONTACT
🍴	PAPER	World Centric	✓	3-7 days after order is processed	store.worldcentric.com
🍴	PAPER	Aardvark	✓	Varies based on demand	aardvarkstraws.com
🍴	BAMBOO	The Bamboo Crew	✓	Regular US orders available through Amazon with Prime Contact for wholesale info	bamboo-straws.com
🍴	BAMBOO	Bamboo Straw Girl	✓	Contact for wholesale info	bamboostraws.bigcartel.com
🍴	METAL	Steelys Drinkware	✓	Estimate provided upon placing order	steelysdrinkware.com
✂️ / 🍴	METAL, BAMBOO	The Restaurant Store	✓	1-3 days after order is placed	therestaurantstore.com
🍴	SILICON	Softy Straws	✓	Regular US orders available through Amazon with Prime Contact for wholesale info	softystraws.com
🍴	GLASS	Strawsome	✓	Contact for wholesale info	strawsome.com
🍴	PASTA	Pasta Straws	✓	Contact for wholesale info	pastastraws.org
🍴	HAY	Hay! Straws	✓	Contact for wholesale info	haystraws.com
✂️ / 🍴	BAMBOO	Bambu	✓	Contact for wholesale info	wholesale.bambuhome.com
✂️	BAMBOO	Bamboodlers	✓	4-6 days after order is processed	bamboodlers.com
✂️ / 🍴	PAPER, BAMBOO, WOOD	Pack n Wood	✓	Contact for wholesale info	packnwood.com

CORN, SUGAR, OR WHEAT-BASED PLASTICS (PLA)

Without access to a commercial composting facility (which Delaware currently does not have), corn based straws, utensils, cups, and other servingware can take anywhere from 100 to 1000 years to decompose in a landfill, which is why they are not included as a wildlife-friendly option. They also look like regular plastic, which can create confusion for your patrons.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR USED PLASTIC STOCK?

As you transition to plastic-free, you may need to exhaust current supplies of plastic goods. We recommend you switch to only offering these items upon request. Used products, when rinsed of food residue, can be recycled using the following options:



- Eco Plastic Products of Delaware** - a nonprofit located in Wilmington, takes everything except #3 plastics and used it to make recycled plastic lumber and lumber products. They take used straws (and their plastic wrappers), bags, cutlery, plastic wrap, and more! *Plastics must be washed and free of food debris.*
 - Eco Plastic Products of DE**
 18 Germay Drive, Wilmington, DE 19804
 302-575-9227
ecoplasticproducts.org
- Eco Bricks** - Wilmington State Parks is collecting soft plastics and 2-Liter Soda bottles to make "Eco Bricks" for green building projects.
 - Check out a [how-to video](#) from the *Alapocas Run and Wilmington State Parks* Facebook page for how to make eco-bricks and why they are collecting them.