



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, and water bottles are examples of 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 harm.**

Join us in rethinking the plastic in your life. You can keep hundreds of thousands of these plastics from going into landfills and our oceans each year by replacing disposable items with reusable versions.

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 your reasons for making 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.
- **Be selective on which drinks receive a reusable or non-plastic straw.** Certain cocktails and drinks, as well as water glasses, don't need a straw.
- **Order your reusable or non-plastic straws. There are many options** that won't compromise the quality of the cocktail.
 - If you go 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 wildlife by reducing the amount of single use plastics we use.
- We have changed to serving 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 to make 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 | strawesome.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 | Bambooklers | ✓ | 4-6 days after order is processed | bambooklers.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. Excess products can find a new purpose via the following options:



HAVE YOUR STAFF CREATE WORKS OF ART

Find inspiration [here](#)



SEE IF A NEARBY HOSPITAL, COMMUNITY CENTER, OR SOUP KITCHEN ACCEPTS THEM