



<http://eldorado285recycles.org/index.html>

# The Plastic Dilemma



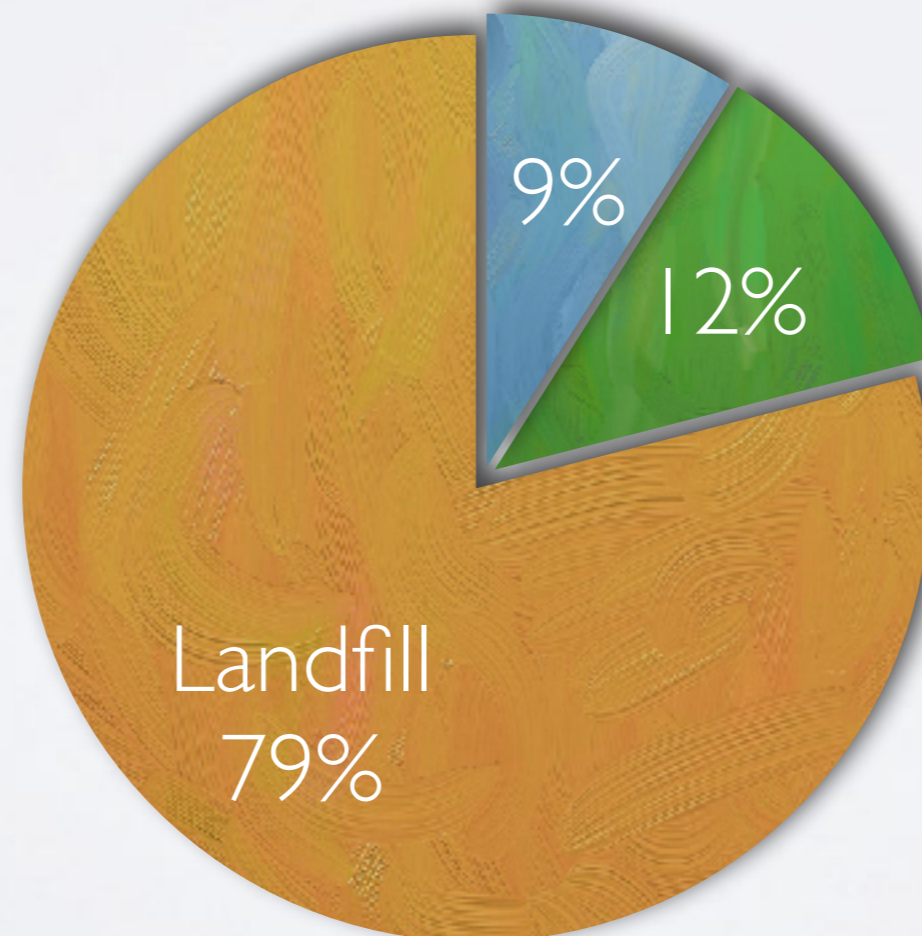
# RETHINK

Joe Durlak

- Plastic is good because.....
- Plastic is bad because.....
- How much plastic is there? 8.3. billion tons!

# What happens to plastic?

- 9% get recycled.
- 12 % is incinerated.
- 79% goes to the landfill, or into the ocean.





# How long does it take for plastic to decompose?

- Styrofoam cup: 50 years
- Baby diaper: 450 years
- Plastic bottle\*: 450 years
- Plastic straw\*: 450 years



\*Plastic straws: More than 500 million straws are thrown away each day in the U.S. alone.

\*Some 480 billion plastic bottles were sold globally in 2016

# The danger to marine life (and human life)

- 100,000 marine animals dying each year from plastic ingestion. Plastic bags are often mistaken for jellyfish, the main source of food for many marine animals.
- 1 million seabirds die each year from plastic consumption, mistaken for natural food such as fish eggs or shrimps...
- Every year, 8 million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans. It's equivalent to five grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world.



# Be Careful What Fish You Eat

- The effect on humans of eating fish containing plastic is unknown.
- We need to do something: Rethink!



# ReEducate

Libby Maclaren

- Plastic is a large part of our lives and has made life easier in many ways: cars, fashion, homes, appliances, sports, health & food packaging....



# A Short Timeline of Plastic

- Polystyrene (1839)
- Parkesine (1862)
- Celluloid (1865)
- Rayon (1891)
- Bakelite (1907)
- Cellophane (1912)
- Vinyl (1920s)
- “Plastic” (1930s)
- Polyethylene (1930s)
- Polyvinylidene Chloride (1933)
- Nylon (1939)
- Polyester (1950)
- Polypropylene
- Polystyrene foam (1954)



# PLASTIC RESIN TYPES & APPLICATIONS IN PACKAGING

<https://www.containerandpackaging.com/>



PET: Water and soft drink bottles, salad domes, biscuit trays, salad dressing & peanut butter containers.



HDPE: Milk bottles, freezer bags, dip tubs, crinkly shopping bags, ice cream containers, juice bottles, shampoo, chemical & detergent bottles.



PVC: Cosmetic containers, commercial cling wrap.



LDPE: Squeeze bottles, cling wrap, shrink wrap, rubbish bags.

# PLASTIC RESIN TYPES & APPLICATIONS IN PACKAGING

<https://www.containerandpackaging.com/>



PP: Microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, and dip tubs.



PS: CD cases, water station cups, plastic cutlery, imitation “crystal glassware”, video cases.



EPS: Foamed polystyrene hot drink cups, hamburger take-away clamshells, foamed meat trays, protective packaging for fragile items.

- OTHERS: Water cooler bottles, flexible films, multi-material packaging.

# A few small steps

- Refuse straws.
- Buy products with less plastic packaging.
- Buy in bulk.
- Use a reusable produce bag.
- Bring your own containers for take-out.
- Refuse plastic ware at home and with take-out-carry your own reusable cutlery.



# A few small steps

- Give up bottled water and carry a refillable water bottle.
- Make your own juice instead of buying bottles.
- Make your own cleaning products.
- Pack your lunch in reusable containers.
- Use a razor with replaceable blades.
- Use cloth diapers: 7.6 billion diapers are discarded in the US each year.

# A few small steps

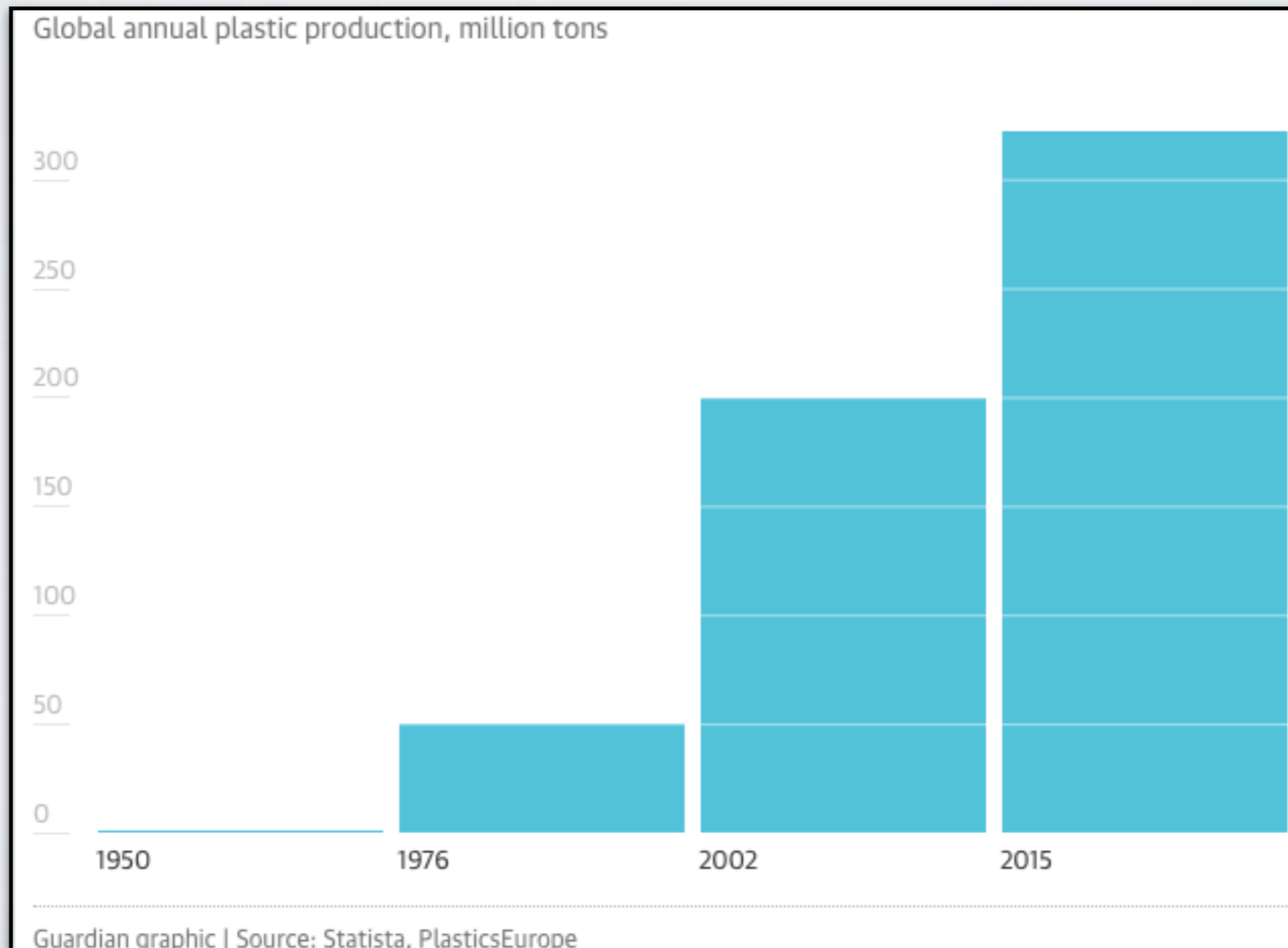
- An important goal will be to create a more circular model so that plastic, which is designed to last forever, is no longer single use and an “*untaxed negative externality*.” A concept coined by Elon Musk.



# Reduce

Karen Sweeney

- We can all do something to reduce demand.





# Reduce the use of Plastics

- Seek Alternatives At Home
- Plastic wrap to cover food?
- Use reusable bowl cover or reusable wrap.
- Store food in plastic containers?
- Use glass instead.



# Reduce The Use of Plastics

- Take your own water in plastic bottle?
- Use glass or metal container; your health may depend on it!
- Bring your own container for take-out or restaurant doggy-bag.
- Pack your lunch in reusable containers and bags.
- Use fresh fruits and veggies instead of products that come in single serving cups/bags.

# Be Proactive

- Speak Up.
- Write a letter.
- Join an online campaign.



# Refuse

Sue Garfitt

- If we Refuse to buy plastic products then we have no plastic refuse.
- If we Refuse to buy plastic wrapped or plastic enclosed products.
- If we Refuse to use Plastic bags for all those left overs.



When dads protest

# Refuse to Buy Plastic Products

- If we Refuse plastic shopping bags...
- If we Refuse individual servings...
- If we Refuse plastic straws....
- Refuse plastic and rethink our daily living.

# Reuse

Marcia Spears-Cihon

- Is Reusing plastic water bottles dangerous?
- Freezing, heating, leaving in a car.
- Bottled water contaminates.





# Reuse Ideas

- The single use disposable straw.





# Reuse Ideas

- Some good news about plastic bag litter.



# Reuse Ideas

- How to reuse **NON RECYCLABLE** bags.







☹️ 500 million straws are used every day in the U.S.

☹️ Straws are one of the top 5 plastic waste items found in beach clean-ups.

☹️ Straws are a single use plastic item made out of polypropylene, sourced from fossil fuels, which never biodegrade

😊 Ask your restaurant wait-person to Skip the Straw!

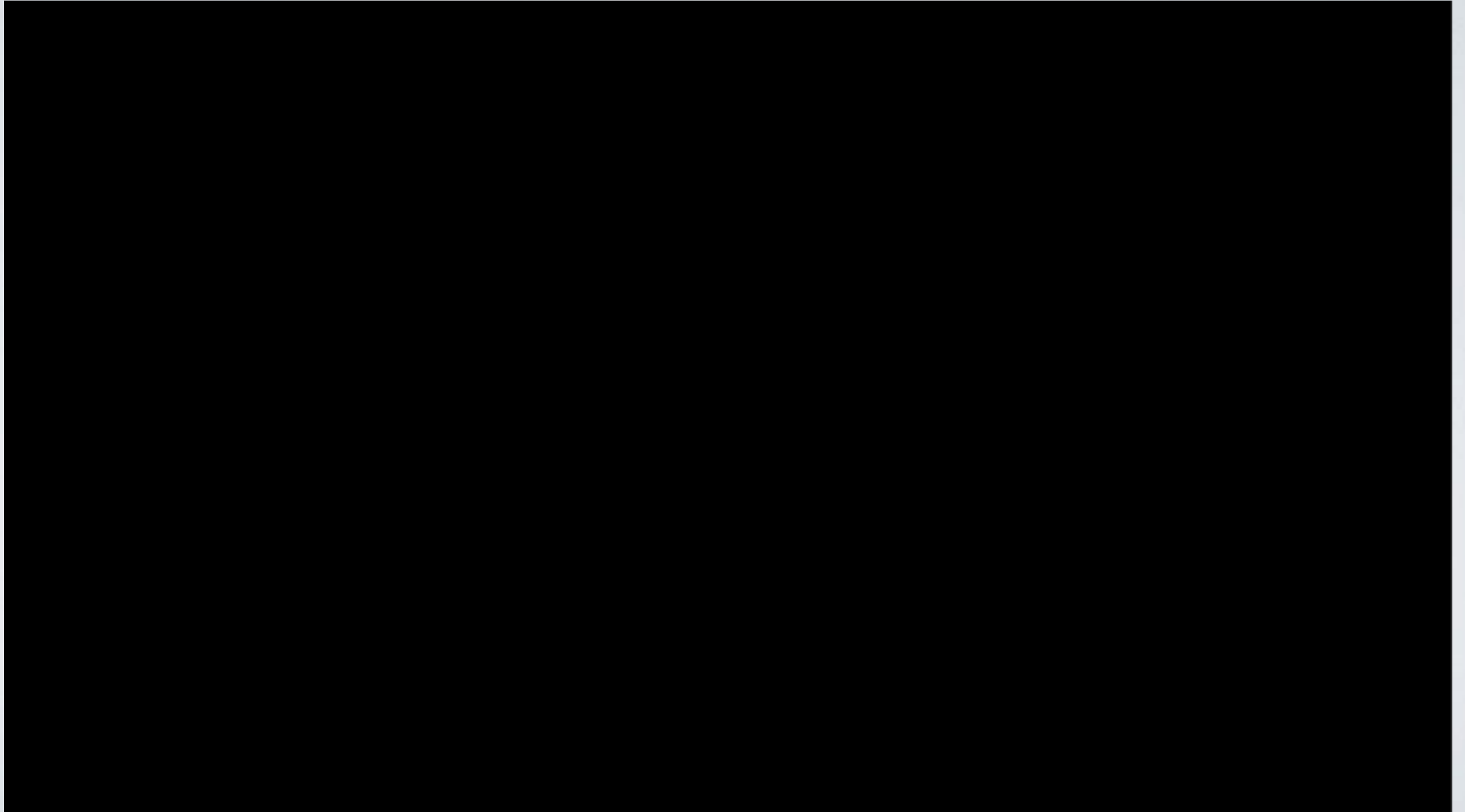
😊 Suggest they use paper or compostable straws!

😊 Making a difference happens one small straw at a time!



# Recycle

Karen Sweeney





# Recycle Right

- Follow the rules!
- China means business.
- Don't contaminate.
- Aspirational Recycling.



A laborer works at an auto scrapyard in Zhejiang, China, in 2015

# What are Contaminants?

- Film.
- Food Residue.
- Tangles.
- Styrofoam.
- Other Opportunities.





# Recycle Right

LaTienda, Building A





<http://eldorado285recycles.org/index.html>

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## Questions & Answers