

**SAVE THE PLANET**  
**ACTION CALENDAR FOR LENT**

YOU can make a difference

Try it for a day - a week - all of Lent - a lifetime

- 2/26 - Bring your own shopping bag to all stores
- 2/27 - Stop buying bottled water
- 2/28 - Say no to plastic straws
- 2/29 - Bring your own thermos/cup for coffee/tea
- 3/1 - Our First Commandment - Keep and tend the garden - Genesis 2:15
- 3/2 - Rethink your food storage
- 3/3 - Shop in bulk and refillables— bring your containers
- 3/4 - Carry metal utensils in the car
- 3/5 - Refuse plastic bags at the pharmacy or anywhere
- 3/6 - Shop at the Local Farmer's Market – bring your bags
- 3/7 - Buy bakery items packaged in paper or cardboard
- 3/8 - How can you buy something (air and water) you do not own - Chief Seattle
- 3/9 - Use powdered dish detergent
- 3/10 - Switch to bar soap instead of liquid soap
- 3/11 - Give up shampoo in plastic bottles
- 3/12 - Buy toilet paper not wrapped in plastic
- 3/13 - Take your lunch in reusable containers with utensils
- 3/14 - Refuse plastic foam (Styrofoam®) take-out containers
- 3/15 - Do not follow the majority - Exodus 23:2
- 3/16 - Wrap your garbage in newspaper
- 3/17 - Carry your own take-out container
- 3/18 - Pick up that bottle, plastic bag or paper and recycle it
- 3/19 - Cover leftovers with a plate
- 3/20 - Use jars/dishes for leftovers
- 3/21 - Recycle junk mail, envelopes, newspaper, cardboard
- 3/22 - The time of judgment has come beginning with God's household - 1 Peter 4:17
- 3/23 - Use a handkerchief instead of a paper tissue
- 3/24 - Use cloth napkins
- 3/25 - Use paper tape instead of plastic tape
- 3/26 - Carry your own refillable water container
- 3/27 - Drink water as your beverage of choice
- 3/28 - Ask your friends, group acquaintances to do the same
- 3/29 - A time comes when silence is betrayal - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 3/30 - Use compostable materials for your pet's pooh
- 3/31 - Use loose tea and loose coffee
- 4/1 - Avoid balloon, lantern and glitter release
- 4/2 - Make a covenant to buy less and use longer what you already have
- 4/3 - Use what is leftover-don't waste it
- 4/4 - Find one thing you can do, do it and find another
- 4/5 - Act justly, love kindness, walk humbly (for the environment) - Micah 6:8
- 4/6 - Pray, visualize, hope, meditate, dream
- 4/7 - Share 'plastic-free' with friends
- 4/8 - Discuss 'plastic-free' at all meetings



- 4/9 - Build a plastic 'monster' for your foyer/entry
- 4/10 - Tell others how easy it is to lessen your plastic use
- 4/11 - Replace your plastic foam with paper products
- 4/12 - Alleluia: Becoming plastic free begins with me.

*- From the Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**CREATION CORNER**  
*Christian Social Concerns Committee*

**Plastics**

**W**e all know about plastics. Produced with fossil fuels, the petro-chemical industry releases global greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that result in changes to our climate. Plastic is everywhere. It enters our bodies through accidental ingestion of nano particles, it is on our household shelves, litters our environment, is found in our waterways (think the Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch), and is released into our atmosphere from backyard burner barrels.

Plastic is truly a global problem, about which each of us can contribute to it being more of a problem, or less. For solutions, the "5 R's"—refuse, replace, reduce, reuse, recycle—are a start. The end goal is zero waste. Individual commitments, replicated by others million-times over, have a cumulative effect. Your efforts are important.

What is the extent of the problem? Consider these figures from various sources:

- 56 billion plastic bottles used in 2018
- the world makes 359 million tons of plastic yearly
- it is cheaper to make new plastics than to reuse old ones
- only 9% of plastic waste is recycled
- one million plastic water bottles are sold worldwide every minute
- 50% of plastics produced yearly are to be used only once
- it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to fully degrade
- by 2050 emissions associated with plastics could account for 15 % of the global annual carbon budget

Some solutions beyond lifestyle habits:

- urge bans on single-use plastics
- personally invest in socially responsible companies
- urge politicians to support environmental protection
- inquire of your employee pension fund (or of your financial institution, church denomination, etc.) and ask if its investments are fossil-free/environmentally friendly.
- use your stock-holding right to join with others in promoting resolutions for emission reductions
- look into the Plastic Pollution Coalition for ways you may contribute

For people of faith to have an "ecological conversion" we must consider our actions to be life-giving for all, not merely for what is convenient to us. Our behavior is a vote for what we want the world to be.