

An Eco-Minute- Reducing Plastic Use

Single-use plastics, like bags, bottles, and packaging, are designed for convenience but leave a lasting legacy of pollution – we all know that. They take centuries to degrade, and harm wildlife. Plastics make a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions throughout their lifecycle. Reducing plastic use is both a personal responsibility and a community effort. So there are some things we can do.

Individuals

1. **Carry reusable bags, bottles, and utensils**—ditch single-use items for durable alternatives.
2. **Choose products with minimal or plastic-free packaging**—support businesses that prioritize sustainability.
3. **Refuse plastic straws and utensils** when dining out and encourage others to do the same.
4. **Repurpose and reuse plastic items** that you already have to extend their life and reduce waste.

Community Actions

1. **Organize community clean-ups** to remove plastic waste from local parks, beaches, and streets.
2. **Work with local businesses** to reduce plastic packaging and encourage reusable alternatives.
3. **Promote education campaigns** in schools, clubs, and neighborhoods about the impact of plastic pollution and how to minimize it.
4. **Advocate for local policies** that ban or limit single-use plastics, such as plastic bags or straws.

By taking responsibility for our personal habits and engaging our communities in solutions, we can drastically reduce plastic waste and its harmful effects. **As Rotarians, we can lead by example, showing that even small, consistent actions can drive significant change. Together, we can create a cleaner, more sustainable world.**

