



GREAT LAKES PLASTIC POLLUTION SOLUTIONS COALITION

Join us for Plastic Free July!

We've heard the statistics about the terrible plastic pollution in our oceans -- about 8 million tons of plastic entering the sea every year -- and if we continue at this rate there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050.

What we don't tend to hear as much about is the plastic pollution right here in our backyard and that 20 Million pounds of plastic make their way into our Great Lakes each year. To put that in perspective, that's the equivalent of 100 Olympic-sized swimming pools filled with plastic bottles being dumped into our Great Lakes EVERY YEAR.

The International campaign for a Plastic Free July was created to help bring awareness to our plastic pollution crisis and encourage people to rethink their use of plastic. Please check out our calendar below and see how you can make a difference, starting July 1 and continuing throughout the year!

Did you know?

- Since 1950 more than 9 billion tons of plastic has been produced!
 - To put in perspective, that is more than ONE TON of plastic for every person alive today.
- If we continue at this rate, plastic production is expected to quadruple by 2050!
- We have developed a "disposable" lifestyle and estimates are that around 50% of plastic is used just once and thrown away -- this is the stuff we're seeing littering our coastlines and our Great Lakes.
- Plastic never really goes away; it just breaks down into smaller pieces called microplastics that are making their way into the air we breathe and the water we drink.
- Where do plastics go in the US? ~80% sent to landfills; ~14% burned; only ~5-6% is recycled
 - A recent study showed that on average, people could be ingesting approximately 5 grams of plastic every week, which is the equivalent weight of a credit card.

Thank you for being part of the solution!

Plastic Free July – 2022

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



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GLPPSC Members:
[AFFEW](#) | [Crossroads Group, Sierra Club, MI](#) |
[Environmental Council of Huron Valley, MI](#) |
[ECO Brighton](#) | [Greater Grand Rapids Sierra Club
Network, MI](#) | [National Council of Jewish Women,
Michigan](#) | [Nepessing Group, Sierra Club, MI](#) |
[Plastic Oceans](#) | [Sierra Club Canada Foundation \(SCCF\)](#)

Plastic Audit
 See how much plastic you use in a day/week and take the [Plastic Free Challenge](#).
 Need ideas on the plastic swap? [Check this out.](#)

1 Tell a Friend
 Tell a friend about Plastic Free July and why it's important to you and send the link to this calendar!

2 Say NO to Glow Sticks
 Glow sticks are hazardous waste; please dispose of them accordingly or better yet, choose a reusable glow stick.

3 Plastic Free Picnic
 Celebrate our country's independence with your independence from plastic! Use reusable or alternative items such as compostable cutlery at your holiday picnic.

4 Great Lakes Plastic
 22 million pounds of plastics enter the Great Lakes every year! What will you do to reduce your impact? [Thank Meijer](#) for their cleanup efforts.

5 Support UN Resolution to End Global Plastic
[UN Environment Assembly urging international agreement by 2024](#)

6 Let businesses know how they're doing!
 Positive or encouraging feedback couldn't get any easier! Download the [Remark App](#) to get started. IN CANADA? Sign up for [Hiking Hero](#) and make picking up litter part of your hike!

7 Accountability
 1. Find plastic litter
 2. Take a pic
 3. Post pic with #IsThisYours?
 4. Tag the brand

8 Make some DIYs
 Check out [this guide](#) on how to make several household products to help reduce your plastic consumption at the store.

9 Movie Night
 Tonight watch one of these amazing documentaries on our plastic problem and see how you can be part of the solution.
[Suggestions here](#)

10 Read a Book
 Borrow a book from the library (or from a friend) about plastic waste.
[Suggestions here](#)

11 Refuse
 Say NO to single use plastic! At this rate, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050!
[Carryout Tips](#)

12 Say No to balloons
 The debris kills wildlife & pollutes.
[Learn more](#)

13 Oppose MI SB-954
 Stop the American Chemistry Council from burning plastic to create fuel and more plastic!
[Oppose Senate Bill 954](#)

14 Join an Eco Group
 Learn more about our GLPPSC members via the links at the top of the calendar.

15 Reduce Plastic Bottles
 Humans use ~ 1M plastic bottles/min. Skip bottles of hand soap, body wash & shampoo. Try bar soap or look for a Zero Waste store in your area!

16 Check Out Our Green Grocery shopping guide
 before your next trip to the store.

17 Choose Natural Fibers
 35% of plastic in the oceans comes from washing synthetic fabric. Choose natural fibers: cotton & wool vs. synthetics (nylon, polyester, & acrylic).

18 Skip Styrofoam
 Bring a reusable mug when allowed and your own containers for carryout when dining in (and ask for foil vs plastic if you forget yours!)

19 Microplastics
 Learn more about microplastics.
[Article from NOAA](#)
[How much plastic are you eating?](#)

20 Community Clean-up / #ExpandTheBan
 Clean up a park near you or sign up for a local clean-up. [Join us](#) in a Twitterstorm to *Expand The Ban*. Let the Canadian government know that the current single-use plastic (SUP) bans are not enough!

21 Recycle Right!
 One bad apple can spoil the whole bunch. Know what your [recycling provider accepts](#) (and what they do not)! Plastic bags and film should be returned to retailers for recycling.
[In Canada.](#)

22 Plastic Packaging
 40% of plastic waste is packaging – used just once & then discarded. Be mindful of the packaging when selecting products.

23 Educate Others!
[Read to learn more](#) about the truth of plastics.

24 Bring Your Own Bag
 It is estimated that 4 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually. Only 1% of plastic bags are returned to stores for recycling.

25 Green Lunches
 Plastic waste is choking our planet! Use beeswax wraps or reusable bags in place of plastic wrap and sandwich bags.

26 Upcycle Challenge
 Before you toss that old plastic item, up-cycle it into something new. [Click here](#) for inspiration.

27 Learn about Green Initiatives in Your Town
[Brighton](#)
[Grand Rapids](#)
[Oakland County](#)
[Wayne County](#)
[Washtenaw County](#)
[Canada](#)

28 Visit the Washed Ashore Exhibit
 At [John Ball Zoo](#) and see just how much plastic ends up in our oceans.
 In Toronto? Join SCCF for a beach clean up at [Cherry Beach \(7PM ET\)](#).

29 Trap Microplastics
 Add a filter to your washing machine such as [LUV-R filter](#) or [Filtrol-160](#) or use a [Guppy Friend Bag](#)

30/31 Keep it Going Keep these plastic free initiatives going as, together, we CAN make a difference!