

Plastics in the Environment

What does it mean to act locally?

Nandini Checko



Jambeck et al., *Science* 2015

- 3:1 fish to plastic by 2025
- 1:1 fish to plastic by 2050
- Every minute, one garbage truck unloads into ocean

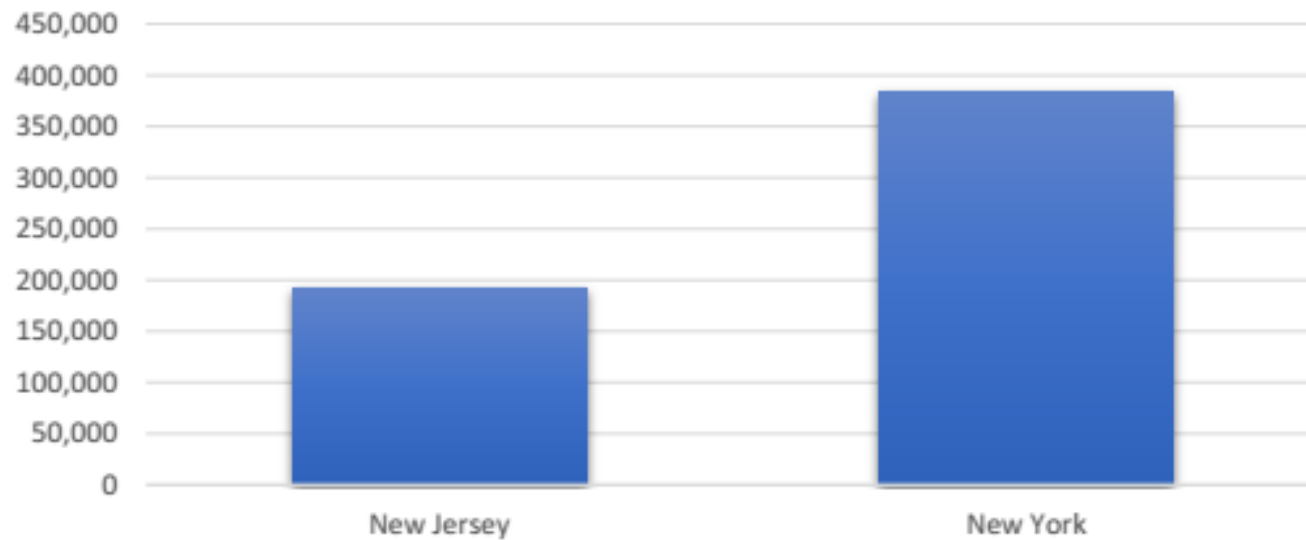
Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean in 2010

The 192 countries with a coast bordering Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, Mediterranean and Black seas produced a total of 2.5 billion metric tons of solid waste. Of that, 275 million metric tons was plastic, and an estimated 8 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste entered the ocean in 2010.



In our Garden State

Average Plastic Quantity/Km2 by State by Trawl



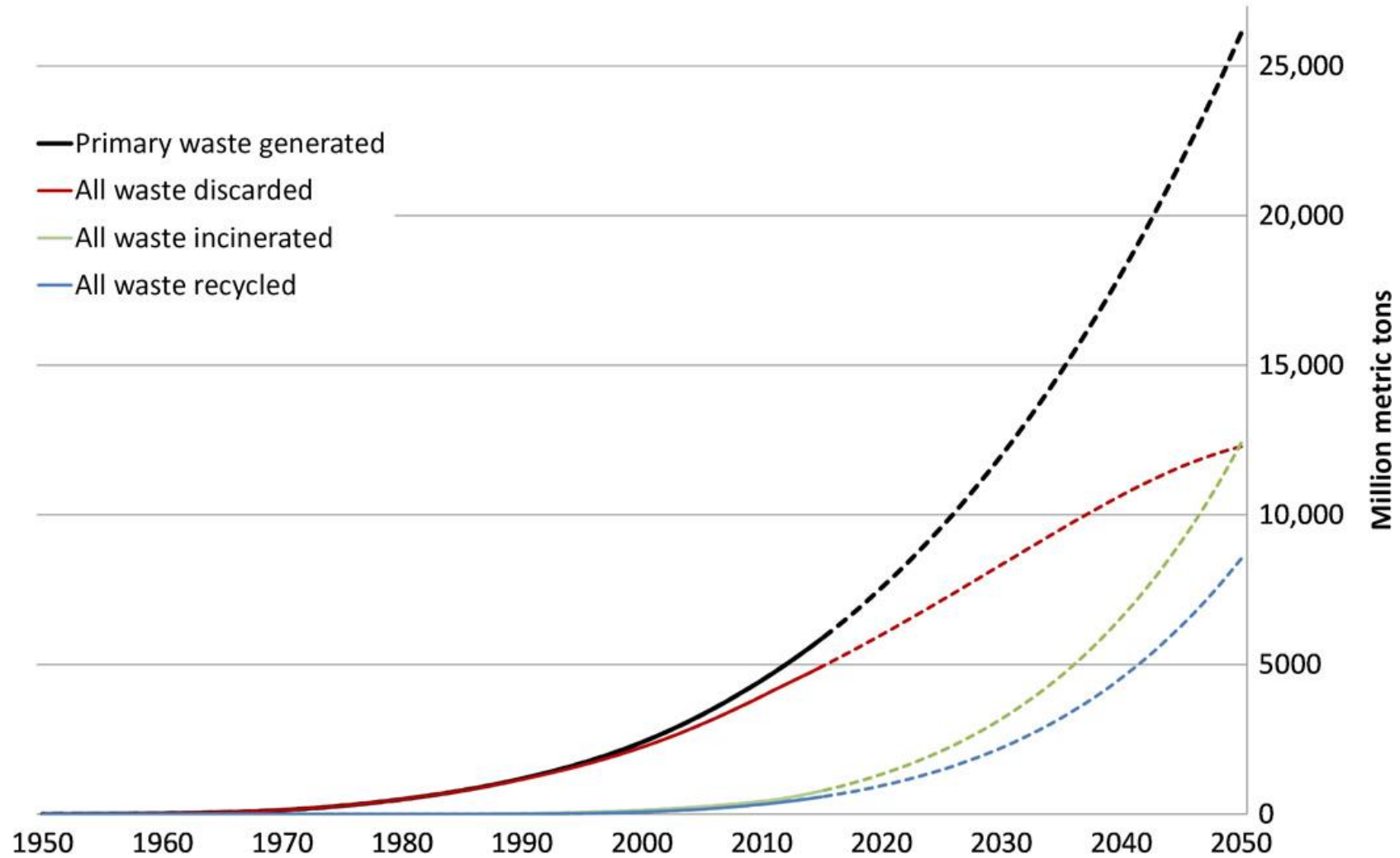
NY/NJ Baykeeper

At least 165 MILLION plastic particles floating in NY-NJ Harbor waters at any given time.



Passaic River

Cumulative plastic waste generation and disposal



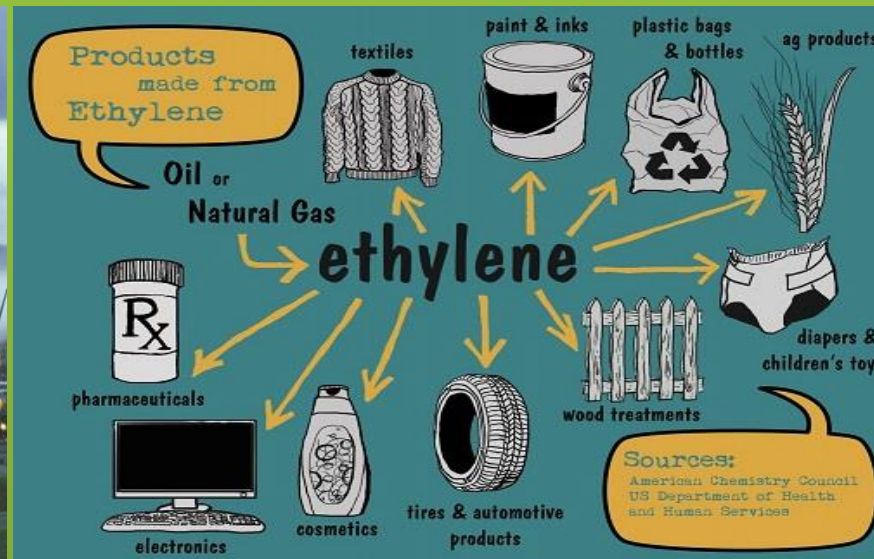
<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/advances/3/7/e1700782/F3.medium.gif>

Plastics and Climate



Plastics are emission heavy in the production phase- emitting vast amounts of carbon. 12 million barrels of oil are used to manufacture 30 million plastic bags in the US each year.

What's the Plastic Connection to Greenhouse Gas Emissions?





Saint Catharine's Laudato Si Green Team Presents:
Ecology Film Series
 Films to Educate and Inspire Action on Environmental Issues

| | |
|--|--|
| | 1 Thursday, January 11th Before the Flood 7:30 PM |
| | 2 Thursday, February 8th A Plastic Ocean 7:30 PM |
| | 3 Thursday, April 12th An Inconvenient Sequel 7:30 PM |

FREE!
 Children are welcome!

Saint Catharine's Community Hall
 (adjacent to Church)
 905 Maple Ave, Glen Rock, NJ
 Join us for refreshments at 7 pm and for conversation afterwards!

RSVPs are encouraged but not required:
 annmariebrennan@yahoo.com



Pending State Legislation

- For Bags, Styrofoam, Straws
 - **S2776/A4330** – Prohibits carryout bags made of plastic film, polystyrene foam food service products, and single-use plastic straws; assesses fee on paper carryout bags
- For Balloons
 - Support: **S2468** - *Prohibits intentional release of balloons inflated with lighter-than air gases.*
- For Styrofoam
 - **S1486** - Prohibits sale of expanded Polystyrene food containers by public schools and public institutions of higher education
 - **S2603** – Prohibits the use of Styrofoam in all food service products & food packing

Pending State & Local Legislation

- ***For Straws(State)***

- **A4394** - Prohibits use of plastic straws or stirrers

- ***For Bottles (State)***

- **A1208** - *Plastic Container Recycling Enhancement Act*

Local Ordinances



TIPS FOR MAKING AN IMPACT WITH LEGISLATORS

Be: Part of rule/law making process by understanding how rules are made and where in the process your voice will make most impact

Build Trust: Especially with council members and staff; Become an insider by reporting facts and figures; Offer solutions; Be willing to listen and learn; Don't take it personally or get discouraged

Engage: Go beyond signing petitions by calling & emailing & in-person meetings; Make sure to identify any connections you have with the elected official (including if you are a constituent of theirs, or if you have any other mutual acquaintances); Be courteous and clear; Be professional; Be Respectful

Maximize: Plan out your remarks. Be specific; Ask for action; Share your personal story on why you support or oppose a certain proposal

Follow up: Write a thank you note for time and consideration; Give credit when they support your efforts; Remember to Vote



THANK YOU!

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