



JULY 2022 RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

MONTHLY OUTREACH TOPICS

Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July® is a key initiative of the Plastic Free Foundation, engaging communities everywhere to work towards a world free of plastic pollution. The campaign began in Australia in 2011 and was restructured in 2017 as a not-for-profit charity and is now one of the most influential environmental campaigns in the world. Millions of people across the globe take part every year. Take the Pledge! Learn more about [Plastic Free July](#).

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENTS

FACEBOOK 1,014 LIKES / 1,196 FOLLOWERS	INSTAGRAM 965 FOLLOWERS	MAILCHIMP 4,578 SUBSCRIBERS	YOUTUBE 265 VIEWS / 4.6 HRS (LAST 28 DAYS)	WEBSITE METRICS 689 VISITS (LAST 30 DAYS)
SOCIAL MEDIA	Summertime Sustainability Tips & upcoming events Celebrating Plastic Free July Challenge			
RADIO	<p>15 sec "Plastic Free July"</p> <p><i>It's Plastic Free July. How long could you go without using any plastic? Less than 10% of the plastic produced today is recyclable tomorrow. If 90% of plastic you encounter is not actually recyclable, let's try to reduce our use as much as possible. This message from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. Visit UCRRA.org</i></p> <p><i>"What Happens to Trash 2022?"</i></p> <p><i>Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash? This is Angelina Brandt from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. Our mission is to manage Ulster County's waste with a commitment to public health and protecting our environment. More than 260 million pounds of trash is sent to a sanitary landfill each year, 250 miles away. Add up all these hauling trips in one year, you could drive around the surface of Earth 75 times! YOU can make a difference to lower this carbon footprint by reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and rethinking wasteful habits. To learn more, visit UCRRA.org</i></p>			

PRINT	07/22 –Reduce Plastic Waste message Hudson Valley One - <i>attached</i>
WEBSITE/BLOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7/11 Summer Newsletter sent to 4,131 subscribers. View the Summer newsletter linked here. June Compost Test Results added to website. View all historical test results linked here. New blog article “How to Throw an Eco-Friendly Summer Party” New blog article “Sustainable Summer” View blogs linked here.
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 07/05 Memo sent to Town Supervisors regarding UCRRA Municipal Food Scrap Hauling Pilot Project - <i>attached</i> +1 media kits distributed this month (27 kits YTD)

OUTREACH EDUCATION EVENTS

+116 CALLS/ 7.08 HOURS RECYCLING HOTLINE (07/01- 07/22) (614 CALLS/51.33 HRS YTD)	+20 ADULT PARTICIPANTS (515 ADULTS YTD)	+ 8 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (255 YOUTH YTD)	+ 3.5 25.75 HOURS (72.5 HOURS YTD)
PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 07/21 “Oceans of Possibilities: Upcycling Art for Kids” at the Town of Rosendale Public Library 07/25 Informational Meeting for UCRRA Municipal Food Scraps Hauling Pilot Project 07/27 “Eco Friendly Home: DIY Cleaners & More” at the Ellenville Public Library 07/27 “Oceans of Possibilities: Upcycling Art for Kids” at the Ellenville Public Library 		
FACILITY TOURS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 07/14 Tour for Sustainable Hudson Valley Intern 		
EVENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 07/30 <i>Ask the Experts</i> Outreach Booth at Kingston Farmers Market 		
SITE VISITS & CONSULTATIONS	None this month		
NEW MEDIA OR TEACHING TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Friendly Home Booklet - <i>attached</i> Oceans of Possibility - Plastic Free July Display – <i>attached</i> In development - Home Composting Guide Spanish Translation In development – new promotional items for youth and adults 		
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	None this month		

REPORTS & GRANTS STATUS UPDATE

NYSDEC Municipal Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives DEC01-DMMFSR-2021

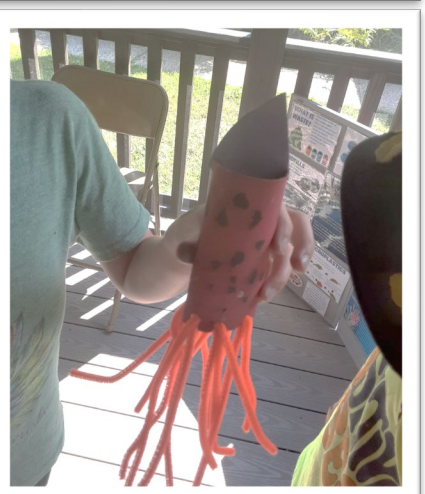
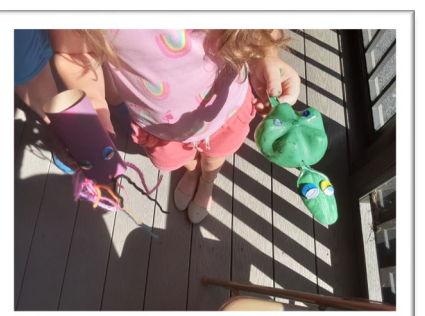
"MuniFSR" proposal in development for UCRRA Municipal Food Scraps Micro-Hauling Pilot Project. All 22 municipalities were invited to an informational meeting about the project on 07/25. Interested partners may complete a planning form and letter of support by August 31st

PROGRAM PHOTOS & MEDIA SAMPLE



(ABOVE) An "Oceans of Possibilities" themed educational display is staged at the Town of Gardiner Public Library for the month of July, celebrating Plastic Free July.

(BELOW) Upcycled sea creatures made at UCRRA's Oceans of Possibilities programs.



FLAG RETIREMENT OPTIONS

There is an etiquette for disposing of flags in a dignified manner, according to the United States Department of Defense. Outside of buildings such as the VFW or American Legions, flag disposal boxes can be found.

Kingston Elks Lodge 550
143 Hurley Ave, Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 338-0220

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE GOING TO ANY LOCATION TO MAKE SURE THEIR DISPOSAL BOX IS STILL THERE

HOW TO DISPOSE OF FIREWORKS

Whether they are **USED OR UNUSED**, **DO NOT** place any part of fireworks in your recycling container. **All fireworks should be treated as trash.**

Put **used or unused** fireworks in a bucket of water overnight. **Remember that fireworks can still be burning on the inside long after the sparks have stopped.**

Remove them from the water and double wrap the completely soaked fireworks in plastic wrap or two plastic bags so **they don't dry out**. Place the double-bagged fireworks in a larger trash bag and put them out with your household trash.

Source: Michigan.gov

(LEFT) Social media sample for Independence Day.



Rethinking Our Waste

Plastic makes up 12% of the waste stream in America. Plastic is made from non-renewable resources, and not all plastics can be recycled. Researchers estimate it takes 500+ years for plastics to start to break down!

Did you know? Each year 8 million metric tons of plastic enters the world's oceans. Plastic debris comes from litter in our environment, and the top 10 plastic items found in the ocean are single-use items that can be easily avoided!

TOP 5 TO REDUCE & REFUSE



Plastic Bags

est. five trillion plastic bags used worldwide each year (UNEP)



Plastic Straws

est. 500 million plastic straws used daily (USA)



Plastic To-Go Cups

est. 500 billion plastic cups and 16 billion disposable coffee cups used each year worldwide. Americans alone throw away around 25 billion Styrofoam coffee cups each year (Earthday)



Plastic Takeaway Containers

Single-use food and beverage packaging account for around 269,000 US tons of plastic waste that has entered the world's oceans (NRDC)



Plastic Utensils

est. 100 million plastic utensils used daily (National Geographic)

ULSTER COUNTY RECYCLES *You Can Make A Difference!*

1. Bring your own reusable bags and containers
2. Choose package-free, reduced packaging, or refillable options
3. Do not purchase items whose packaging is not recyclable
4. Grab a fork & spoon from your kitchen for a plastic-free travel kit!
5. Say "NO" to plastic cutlery at restaurants & cafés
6. Buy products made from post-consumer recycled content

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY 12401 | (845) 336-0600 | www.UCRRRA.org

Follow @UCRRA for more information about Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction.

Oceans of



possibilities



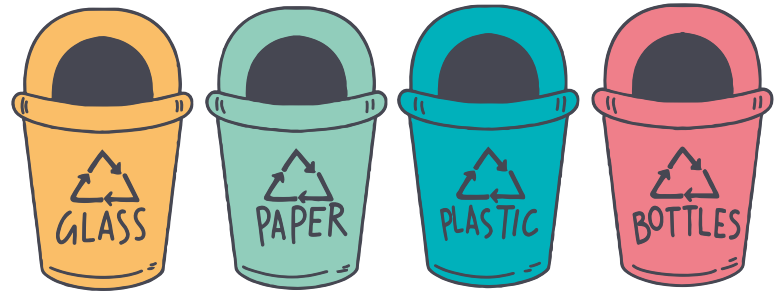
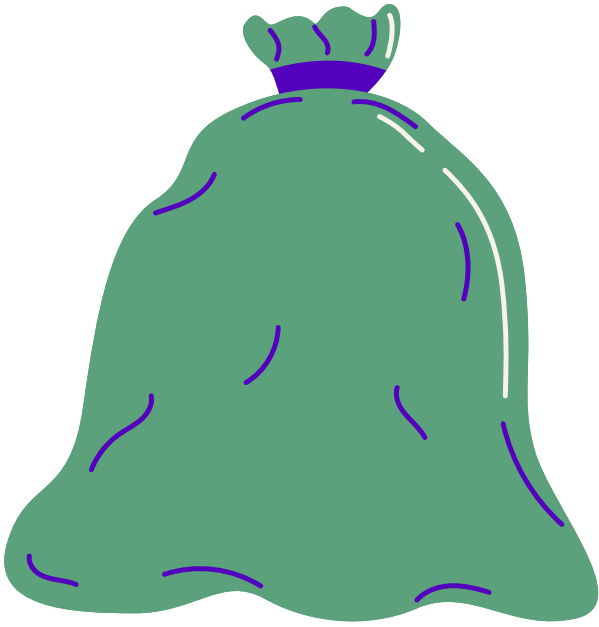
Celebrating
plastic Free
July



WHAT IS WASTE?

Almost every action we take creates waste.

Many of the items we throw away could be reduced, reused, or repaired. Some waste can be recycled into something new, however, not all items can be recycled!



LANDFILLS

Nationwide, 50% of municipal solid waste is landfilled, a practice that buries garbage in the Earth.

Modern landfills are designed to protect the surrounding environment.



POLLUTION

THE
SOLUTION
IS LESS
POLLUTION

Pollution occurs when something **toxic** enters the environment and causes harm to animals, plants, and humans.

Water pollution is the contamination of bodies of water, generally as a result of human activity. Lakes, rivers, seas, aquifers, reservoirs, and groundwater are all examples of water bodies.

OCEAN PLASTIC

Up to 14 million metric tons of plastic enters the world's oceans every year!

The main cause of ocean plastic pollution is litter. Improper garbage disposal and illegal dumping also contribute to ocean plastic pollution.

An underwater photograph showing a large amount of plastic waste floating in the water. The debris includes a blue rope, white plastic bags, and other unidentifiable pieces of plastic. The water is clear blue, and some fish are visible in the background.

Plastic

There are many different types of plastics, each with unique properties ranging from strong and rigid to soft and flexible. Packaging materials make up about 40% of all plastic.

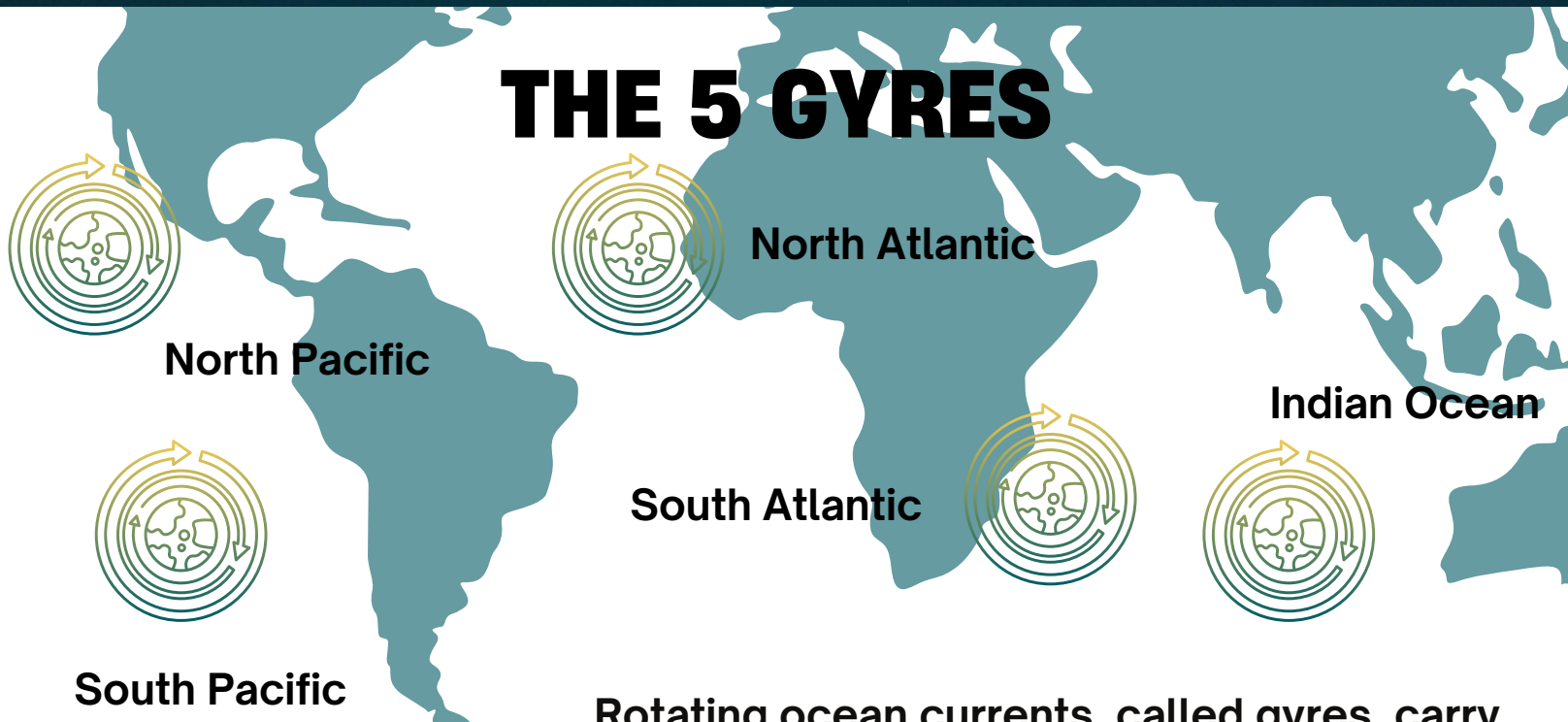
Since the invention of plastic, around **8.3 billion metric tons** have been produced! It's estimated that **only 9% of all plastic has been recycled.**

Most of the plastic that has been created still exists! **Plastic is non-biodegradable, meaning it will never decompose completely.** But over time, plastic in the ocean is exposed to sunlight that can break down into tiny pieces known as **microplastics (less than 5mm).**

GYRES

Gyres are naturally-occurring ocean currents that revolve in a circle. Plastic debris in the ocean eventually travels to these massive whirling patches and waste gets stuck there.

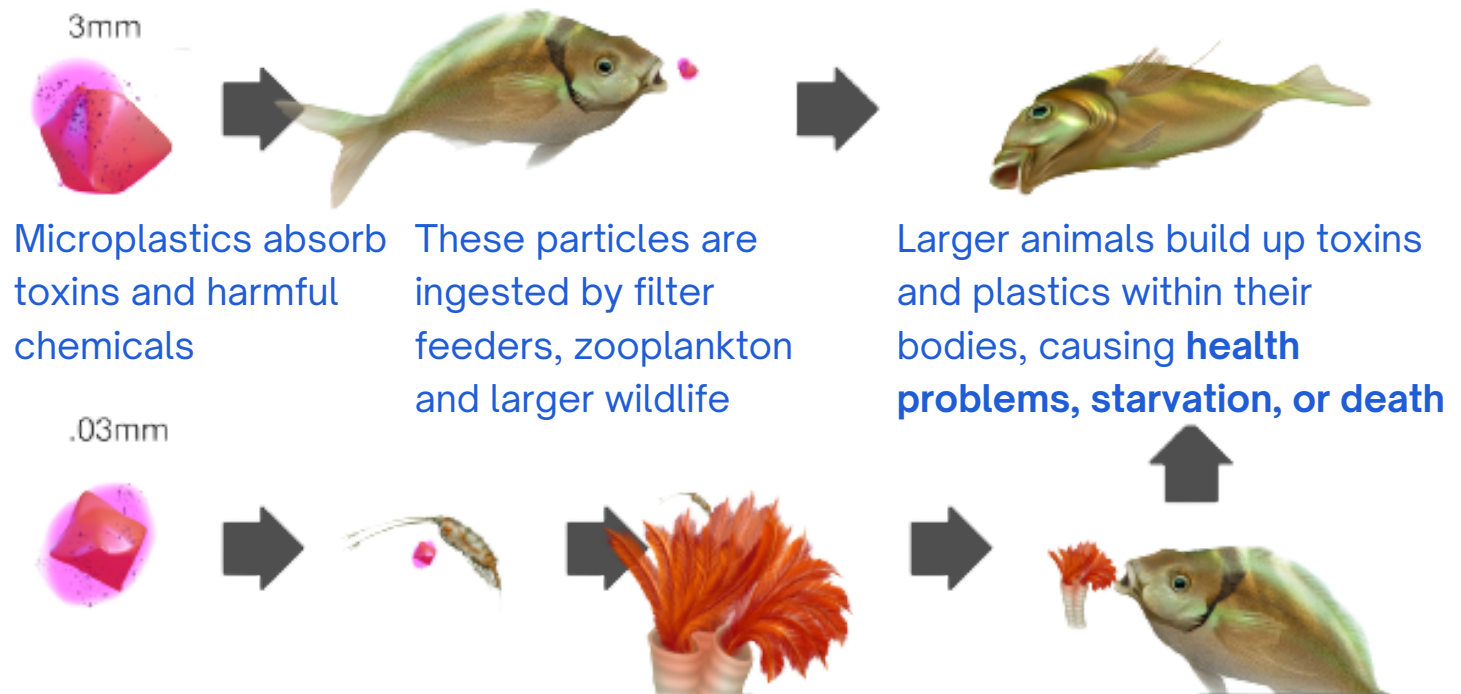
"The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" is the largest of the five gyres at **7.7 million square miles**, containing at least 100 million tons of plastic debris. These gyres are very difficult to study, difficult to clean up.



Rotating ocean currents, called gyres, carry debris into 5 concentrated areas.

MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics are pieces less than 5 mm
Microplastics can move up the food web



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Microplastic fragments, fibers, or microbeads have been found in **Arctic sea ice, sediment in lakes and rivers, and even the air we breathe.** Microplastics have also been found in **tap water, beer, and commercial sea salt.**

(PLOS, 2018)

THE IMPACTS OF OCEAN PLASTIC

INGESTION

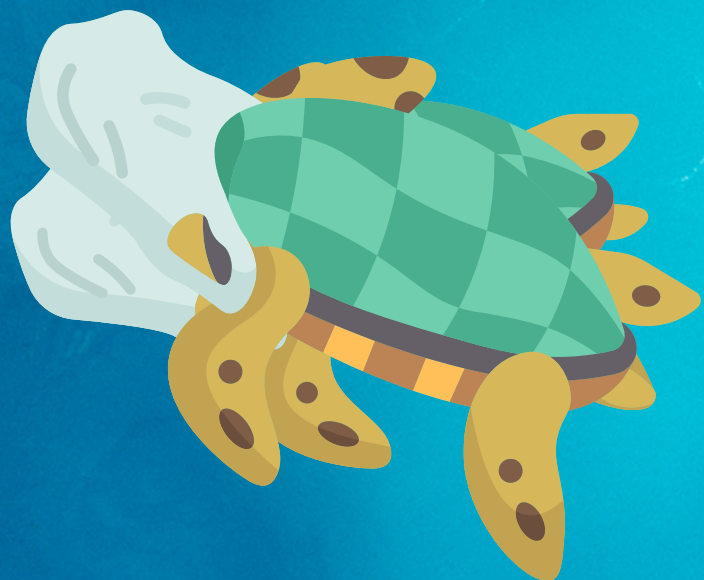


Hungry animals mistake the small, colorful floating plastic for food. This causes loss of nutrition, internal injuries, starvation, and even death!

Plankton, shellfish, filter-feeders, over 40% of sea birds, 56% of all marine mammals (whales, manatees, seals), and all seven species of sea turtles have been confirmed to ingest plastic debris. ([NOAA](#)).

ENTANGLEMENT

Some wildlife become caught in fishing nets and large debris. This can make it difficult for them to swim and cut into their bodies. Abandoned fishing gear can also continue to trap fish and animals, called ghost fishing.



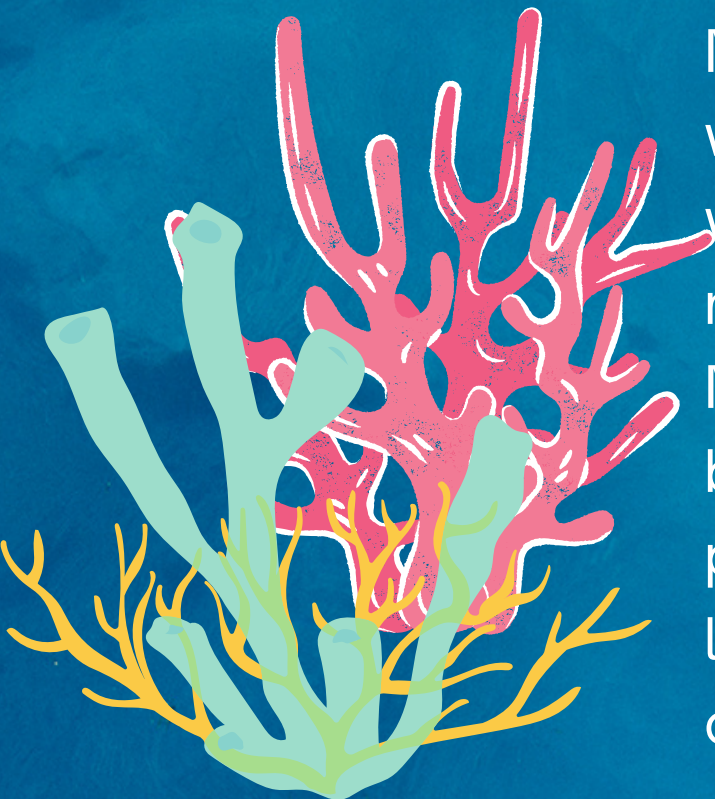
INVASIVE SPECIES

Some marine debris can pick up "**hitchhikers**" and transport plants or creatures to locations where they would not otherwise be found. Once a new species has spread, it is deemed **invasive** and is extremely difficult to tackle, costs billions of dollars to regulate, and can compete for resources such as sunshine, space, and food with native plants and animals.



HABITAT DESTRUCTION

Marine debris can be found in wildlife habitats such as wetlands and mangroves, salt marshes, and sandy beaches. Marine debris can affect habitats by crushing or suffocating fragile plants and corals, as well as lowering the amount of light or oxygen required for survival.



How Can I Help?

Avoid single-use (disposable) plastics and bring your own reusable items!

Be plastic-free! Swap out common plastic items for more natural materials.

Shop with plastic-waste in mind. Look for bulk or package-free options.



Don't be a litter bug!
Always pick up litter and make sure its properly disposed or recycled.

Reuse! Donate old, unwanted items that cannot be recycled in the recycling bin.





Learn how to fix broken but beloved items before throwing them away.
Visit a local Repair Cafe!

Wear clothing made from all natural fibers and materials.
Use filter garment bags when washing synthetic fabrics.



Learn sustainable laundry tips that reduce microfiber pollution. Wash clothing less often and avoid small loads.
Use a short cycle and turn off 'extra rinse'

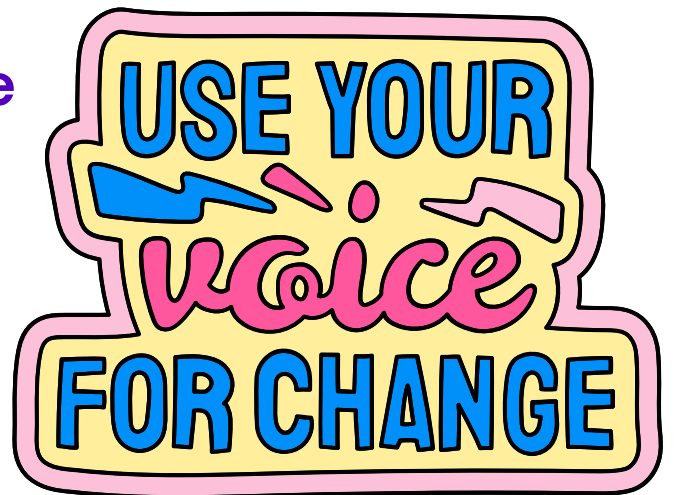
Choose eco-friendly health and beauty products that do not contain microbeads.





Know before you throw!
Follow local recycling
guidelines and avoid being a
'wishful recycler'

Support businesses that make
sustainable choices! Ask
business leaders to consider
more eco-friendly packaging
and practices.





DIY CLEANERS & MORE

July 27th 2022: 10 AM - 11:30 AM

**ELLENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY &
MUSEUM**

40 Center St,
Ellenville, NY 12428

Join us in our Eco-Friendly Home workshop to learn how to make your own products that are better for the environment, your health, and your wallet!

Please RSVP at
WWW.ucrra.org/events-classes/



UCRRA Eco-Friendly Home

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
Recycling Outreach Team



#1 Household Hazardous Waste

Read the label!
Look for labels such as: Warning, Caution, Danger, Poisonous, Toxic, or Flammable.
Understand the instructions for how to properly use the chemical.
Always keep chemicals in their original container.



Products or chemicals that are flammable, toxic, corrosive, or chemically reactive are considered hazardous wastes.

Never put these items in the trash or pour chemicals down the drain. When improperly managed, they pollute the environment, cause fires or explosions, and can cause serious injuries.

Tips for Staying Safe:



Buy only what you need!

Always wear gloves when handling chemicals.

Store chemicals high up on a shelf or in a locked cabinet away from electrical panels or heat sources.



Keep chemicals out of reach of children, pets, or vulnerable family members.



Be in the know about the chemicals you use. Refer to a MSDS.



Safely dispose of old or unwanted chemicals. Sign up for *UCRRA's HHW Collection Events!*

*Better for the Planet
Better for our Health
Better for our Wallet*

#2 Natural Alternatives are Just as Effective

Common DIY Ingredients - Benefits & Uses

Baking Soda is slightly abrasive which gives it the grit to remove stains from different surfaces.

Distilled White Vinegar is a biodegradable, non toxic cleaning agent. Distilled vinegar has antimicrobial properties that kill microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses.

Castile Soaps are on-toxic, biodegradable and highly concentrated which makes it great for both beauty and household purposes!

Borax has a fine texture and will not scour or scratch surfaces which makes it great for a range of uses. Borax is commonly used as an active ingredient in household laundry and cleaning products.

Washing soda “softens” water helping other cleaning ingredients lift soil from the fabrics and suspend the soil in the wash water.

Essential Oils can be used to enhance the scent of a cleaner. They have been shown to improve sleep, reduce anxiety and pain, and kill bacteria/fungi. * Make sure to use a pet-friendly essential oil.



5
Uses

1. Cuts Grease
2. Boosts Laundry Detergent
3. Unclogs Drains
4. Deodorizes
5. Cleans Veggies



5
Uses

1. Removes Mold, Mildew, and Mineral deposits
2. Removes Stains
3. Cleans Stainless Steel
4. Cleans Glass
5. Tackles Clogs



5
Uses

1. Household Cleaner
2. Shampoo
3. Body Wash
4. Dishwashing Detergent
5. Laundry detergent



5
Uses

1. Cleans Tiles
2. Deodorizes
3. Aids in Bug Infestations
4. Kills Weeds
5. Removes Rust Stains



5
Uses

1. Cleans Washing Machine
2. Removes Stains
3. Unclogs Drains
4. Cleans Outdoor Furniture
5. Removes Greasy Buildup

#3 Making Your Own Products

Best Practices for Storing & Using:

Clean Containers

Store homemade cleaning products in unused, clean containers. Never use bottles that once held chemicals. To keep your family safe, label homemade cleaners when you make them, and ensure you use the right solution for the application.

Test It

Before you spray a cleaner on any surface, test first in a hidden area to ensure the cleaner doesn't damage or mar the material.

When to Skip Vinegar

Never use vinegar solutions on stone surfaces such as granite or marble, cast iron, aluminum, or waxed surfaces. The acid in the vinegar can etch, pit, and strip finishes or otherwise damage these surfaces.

#4 Recipes

All Purpose Spray

Option #1

- Make a Lemon/Vinegar Infusion by saving your lemon peels in a jar
- Add enough vinegar to completely cover the citrus
- Store in a dark place for a week
- Add equal parts infusion and distilled water to a spray bottle

Option #2

- 2 cups of Distilled Water
- 2 tablespoons of Castile Soap
- 1-15 drops of Essential Oils
- Combine and add to a spray bottle

Option #3

- 1 teaspoon liquid soap
- 1 teaspoon borax
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1 quart warm water

Cleaning Scrub (Kitchen and Bathroom)

- 2 cups of Baking Soda
- 10-20 Drops of Essential Oils
- A squirt of Dish/Castile Soap in the Sink

Combine the baking soda and essential oils into a storage jar. Sprinkle into your sink, add a squirt of dish soap and scrub clean with a sink-safe scrub brush. Rinse thoroughly.

Sugar Body Scrub

- 1 cup of Sugar
- 3 tablespoon of Oil

Optional:

- Essential Oils
- Lemon
- Vitamin E Oil
- Coffee Grounds

In a small/medium-sized container, combine the sugar and 1 tablespoon of the oil, mixing in between. The texture should be sandy, not soupy otherwise the sugar will dissolve.

Bulk Shop for Cleaners

www.litterless.com/wheretoshop

- The O Zone, Red-Hook
- Woodstock Bring Your Own, Woodstock
- Village Grocery & Refillery, Kingston

Department of Environmental
Conservation Household Hazardous
Waste Safer Alternatives

Air Freshener

- Leave open box of baking soda in room
- Set out dish of vinegar
- Add cloves, cinnamon, vanilla to boiling water, simmer for 5 minutes
- Use herbs or potpourri

Carpet Cleaner

- Rub dry baking soda into grease
- Combine equal parts vinegar & water to remove winter salt residue

Disinfectant

- Use ½ cup borax in 1 gallon water

Fabric Softener

- Rinse cotton & wool blankets with 2 cups white vinegar added to washer

Coffee/Tea Stains

- Equal parts moist salt and vinegar; or baking soda solution of 3 tablespoons baking soda & 1 quart water

Deodorant Stains

- Rub lightly with white vinegar and launder as usual

By: UCRRA's Recycling Outreach Team
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Tanesia White, Recycling Educator
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ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

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Tanesia White, Recycling Educator
Melinda France, Office Manager
Amy Lopiano, Chief Accounting Clerk

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Phone: (845) 336-0600
Fax: (845) 336-4129

Tuesday, July 5th 2022

Memo to Ulster County Municipalities Re: UCRRA Municipal Food Scrap Hauling Pilot Project

In May of 2022 the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation announced a new grant program that will provide \$2,000,000 (max award \$200,000) to projects in NYS that increase residential food scraps recycling programs. Organics recycling (composting) continues to be an important focus for UCRRA and the Agency is dedicated to facilitating effective and convenient programs for widespread participation in our composting services.

UCRRA is actively developing a project proposal that could provide your town with FREE tools to launch and facilitate a residential food scraps collection program at your Recycling Drop Off Center, as well as FREE use of the necessary equipment to deliver the collected material to our site.

The overarching goals of this project are to:

- Foster inter-governmental relationships that maximize resource recovery
- Maximize financial savings for municipalities via avoided MSW transport and disposal costs
- Eliminate the logistical obstacles that prevent community-scale composting programs
- Increase diversion of residential food scraps generated in Ulster County
- Compliment the implementation of the local and state laws with organics recycling goals
- Support the Agency's zero waste goals
- Demonstrate the environmental, economic, and social benefits of composting

We invite you (or a designated representative) to attend an informational webinar, scheduled for MONDAY JULY 25th 2022 10:00 – 11:00 AM. During the webinar, you will learn the details of this project, how your town can partner with us and save an estimated \$4,420 per year or more.

Your participation in the project is urgently needed to strengthen our proposal and secure funding for this important project. We look forward to working with you to expand your recycling services!

To register for the webinar, please visit <https://ucrra.org/events-classes/> and click on the event called **"INFORMATIONAL MEETING – MUNICIPAL FOOD SCRAPS HAULING PROJECT."** Complete the sign-up form for the event and you will receive a link with instructions to join the virtual meeting on July 25th.

Should you have any questions about this letter or the project, please contact *Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability* at APEO@UCRRA.ORG or call (845) 336-0600. Thanks for your consideration.