

Letter from Our GCA Conservation Chair, Lindsay Leisenring:

Below joining plastic free group:re calling cards you can print out to hand to vendors, as well as applications for joining plastic free group:

Summer is a great time to remind your club members to stop and think when ordering a drink and ask the server to skip the plastic straw!

Consider having your club host a screening of STRAWS the Film or hand out the informational cards with your bill. See details below.

Lindsay Leisenring
Zone V Conservation Rep

<http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/no-straw-please/>

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The Last Plastic Straw

[The Last Plastic Straw](#) is a project of Plastic Pollution Coalition. Did you know? Over 500,000,000 plastic straws are used each day in the United States. In only the past twenty years, people have come to expect plastic straws in every drink, in an example of extreme waste being generated for minimal convenience. These short-lived tools are usually dropped into a garbage can with no further thought, instantly becoming a source of plastic pollution.

The Last Plastic Straw and **Plastic Pollution Coalition** are building momentum around a worldwide movement, so plastic straws become a relic of the past. In the short term, we work with our Coalition to encourage eateries to no longer automatically give plastic straws; we educate individuals to refuse plastic straws and spread the “straw free” message; and we work to change local regulation to stop this unnecessary plastic pollution.

In the long run, this collective engagement around the gateway issue of plastic straws will meaningfully shift the way individuals and businesses think about plastic pollution - and about our society’s disposable culture on a larger scale.

TAKE ACTION

Level 1: Make a personal commitment to say "no" to plastic

straws. Whenever ordering a drink, politely request “no straw, please.” Encourage your friends and family to take the pledge, too! You've got more power than you think. Want to take your impact even further? Use your own paper, glass, bamboo, or stainless steel straw instead, and start a conversation.

Level 2: Reach out to some local eateries in your neighborhood or town and ask them to change their protocol to only serve straws upon request. Simply [leave these informational cards with your bill!](#)

Level 3: Encourage those eateries to make a change to non-plastic straw options – like paper, glass, or stainless steel – if diners do request a straw. We have a [business-specific pledge for them to sign, too!](#)

Level 4: Host a screening of [STRAWS the film](#) in your community to start a wave of change.

SIGN THE PLEDGE

Share by posting photo to [Instagram](#) with hashtags: #NoPlasticStraws and #PlasticPollutes.

Fossil Fuels and Pipelines:

“Mariner East Pipelines Shut Down, Again”

If you are not familiar with these pipelines, a little background:. West Whiteland, Uwchlan and , East Goshen, and Middletown Townships are some of the municipalities protesting its deployment. The election results of the primaries were affected by the politics of this issue. In several townships the supervisors were replaced in 1917 reflecting this issue.. (Uwchlan Township is suing Sunoco for violating its zoning laws.

Few are aware of the problems surrounding this installation, and the alternatives that should be considered instead of using this outdated route, some would say equally outdated technology: fossil fuels and their byproducts. Sunoco’s proposed Mariner East 1 runs in a Right-Of-Way (ROW) created in the 1930’s and granted in perpetuity. The company is in the process of building two additional pipelines in the same ROW. It’s a project that has been in the works for many years. When the pipeline was originally granted, it ran through great expanses of open country.. The pipeline was placed in open fields at a distance from human activity. It was marked and placed close to the surface where there was comparatively little risk. In sections it runs parallel to roads, within the government easement and at the edge of private property. Relative to today, risk was shared. Then, it was very much in the whole state’s interest.

Times have changed since the granting of the initial ROW. First, the reason for the new pipeline:

Now that gases can be used for fuel and polyethylene instead of burned off as they come off the oil drilling process. As a result the directional flow of the pipeline has been changed sending Marcellus and Utica Gases to Marcus Hook for processing and export of ethane to Scotland and Norway, Propane and Butane are sold for use in Pennsylvania. The state hopes for windfall taxes, and unions hope to employ their pipe-fitters. Unfortunately, for them, There have been problems.

Here are some of the risks: Local governments have permitted building to occur near the pipeline, reflecting their assessment of risk associated with the original oil in the line. The ROW now runs through the Exton Mall., near 40 schools, as well as apartment houses and newer developments: what are called "High Consequence Areas". Given the explosive potential of the gases, it is no longer within the parameters of risk of the original pipe. Sunoco planned to drill the pipe far below the surface using Horizontal directional drilling.. But, that has caused geological threats to the area of West Whiteland. These limestone deposits dissolve when exposed to water creating sinkholes and caves. The drilling has destroyed the water in local wells, as well as property values, The line runs under the west bound Amtrak line in this area, and sinkholes have appeared close to the track. Even the stability of the existing Mariner East 1 Pipeline has been questioned, and, lives could be lost if should it be completed and a leak occurs. It has been shut down for evaluation and reopened, only to be shut down once again by order of the PUC. Senator Andy Dinniman has requested a full vetting of the risks an operational pipeline would present to the local population.

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2018-05-29/environment/mariner-east-pipelines-shut-down-again/a62688-1>

More about the production line of Mariner East Pipelines. This concerns the ships that carry the ethane from Marcus Hook to Scotland and Norway.

<https://dragonpipediary.com/2018/05/03/where-did-the-dragon-ships-go/#comments>

Small fine Huge spill:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/03052018/enbridge-fined-tar-sands-oil-pipeline-inspections-kalamazoo-michigan-dilbit-spill>

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"Other countries 'highly unlikely' to replicate US shale gas boom, says UN report":

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2018/05/24/countries-highly-unlikely-replicate-us-shale-gas-boom-says-un-report/>

Bi-product of Fracking Natural gas

Enforcing the State law prohibiting using brine on PA Roads.

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/05/31/study-finds-health-threats-from-oil-and-gas-wastewater-spread-on-roads/>

'Immense Moral Cowardice': Trudeau Trashed for Government Purchase of Climate-Killing Kinder Morgan Pipeline:

https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/05/29/immense-moral-cowardice-trudeau-trashed-government-purchase-climate-killing-kinder?utm_term=%27Immense%20Moral%20Cowardice%27%3A%20Trudeau%20Trashed%20for%20Government%20Purchase%20of%20Climate-Killing%20Kinder%20Morgan%20Pipeline&utm_campaign=News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20Poor%20People%27s%20Campaign%20Demands%20%27End%20to%20the%20War%20Economy%27&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&cm_mmc=Act-On%20Software-_-email-_-News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20Poor%20People%27s%20Campaign%20Demands%20%27End%20to%20the%20War%20Economy%27-_-%27Immense%20Moral%20Cowardice%27%3A%20Trudeau%20Trashed%20for%20Government%20Purchase%20of%20Climate-Killing%20Kinder%20Morgan%20Pipeline

Threat to California Trees:

In the April letter there was a story about considering reducing California trees. This is the sequel. For anyone who values the history and tradition of the GCA and NAL, these are fighting words:

https://sierra.secure.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0082473&id=7010Z000002ApgYQAS&ddi=N18DSAFB09&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=facebook&utm_content=wg_em_seq_mem&utm_campaign=monthly

Plastics:

New York State moves to ban single use plastic bags by 2019:

http://www.convenience.org/Media/Daily/Pages/ND0503185_New-York-Governor-Proposes-Plastic-Bag-Ban_GR.aspx#.Wu4mUtMvy1s

San Francisco considers banning plastic straws:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-to-consider-banning-plastic-straws-12913930.php>

UK to remove single use plastics by 2019, replaced them with compostable or reusable products.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/15/uk-government-to-remove-single-use-plastics-from-parliament>

Plastics have been found at the bottom of the Ocean. This has implications for the development of life.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/environment/a20697886/plastic-litters-even-the-very-bottom-of-the-ocean/>

National Geographic covers the dismaying choice of “Plastic or Planet.”

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/planetorplastic/>

More news about plastic straws...

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/nation-now/2018/05/23/sustainable-alternatives-plastic-straws-recycling/632993002/>

Going to the jersey shore this summer? Plan to no longer use “single use” plastics which are now banned in Monmouth County.

http://www.nj.com/monmouth/index.ssf/2018/05/plastic_or_paper_no_choice_anymore_under_monmouth.html

Rhode Island is also busy banning single use plastics or creating restrictions:

<http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20180523/activists-brainstorming-new-plastic-bag-ban>

Efforts to ban plastics first plastic bags and now plastic straws:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michelinemaynard/2018/05/27/first-plastic-bags-now-plastic-straw-bans-are-prompting-restaurants-to-look-at-alternatives/#11334c9f4a56>

Swimmer Plans to Cross Pacific to Highlight Plastic Pollution:

https://www.ecowatch.com/pacific-ocean-swimmer-plastic-pollution-2571992686.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=a1acc2a7ce-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-a1acc2a7ce-85327165

Fresh Water:

Interesting alternative to desalinization, South Africa might tow and use Icebergs:

<http://www.theweek.co.uk/south-africa/93324/can-icebergs-solve-cape-town-s-water-crisis>

The great siphoning: Drought-stricken areas eye the Great Lakes

http://www.startribune.com/the-great-siphoning-drought-stricken-areas-eye-the-great-lakes/483743681/?utm_source=EHN&utm_campaign=69082371ff-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8573f35474-69082371ff-99395885

Zaria Forman draws the glaciers we're losing:

https://grist.org/article/zaria-forman-draws-the-glaciers-were-losing/?utm_source=EHN&utm_campaign=69082371ff-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8573f35474-69082371ff-99395885

Standing Rock is everywhere: one year later...

What happened at Standing Rock has awakened many of my own people, and people across the world:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-percent/2018/feb/22/standing-rock-is-everywhere-one-year-later>

Harvard Study Puts Hurricane Deaths in Puerto Rico at Nearly 6,000 People— 70 Times Official Count: (subsequent reports place the estimate somewhat lower, this article accounts for difference. regardless, it is no where near the official count of 64. Most deaths occurred as a result of insufficient aid in recovering important infrastructure destroyed by the storm.)

https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/05/29/harvard-study-puts-hurricane-deaths-puerto-rico-nearly-6000-people-70-times-official?utm_term=Harvard%20Study%20Puts%20Hurricane%20Deaths%20in%20Puerto%20Rico%20at%20Nearly%206%2C000%20People%5Cu201470%20Times%20Official%20Count&utm_campaign=News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20Poor%20People%27s%20Campaign%20Demands%20%27End%20to%20the%20War%20Economy%27&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&cm_mmc=Act-On%20Software- -email- - News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20Poor%20People%27s%20Campaign%20Demands%20%27End%20to%20the%20War%20Economy%27- - Harvard%20Study%20Puts%20Hurricane%20Deaths%20in%20Puerto%20Rico%20at%20Nearly%206%2C000%20People%5Cu201470%20Times%20Official%20Count

Renewable energy:

Philadelphia Explores Electric buses:

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/05/04/as-transit-agencies-inch-toward-electric-buses-en>

Other Chemical toxins:

Environmental groups challenge the administration in federal court for retracting Obama era rules holding mining companies more responsible for mining wastes.

<https://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Pollution-proposal-change-is-challenged-12920569.php>

Toxic Chemical report withheld according to Politico . The amount of certain of these toxins, such as the surface ingredient of non-stick cook wear is so dangerous that the current government minimum levels should be six times lower. https://www.ecowatch.com/toxic-chemicals-study-blocked-2569008321.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=e05d7432a8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-e05d7432a8-85327165