

Greetings!

Solving Plastic: Start Here



In this 4 minute [animated short video](#) you can get a clear overview of the plastic pollution problem we're facing and some solutions. Here are some facts presented in "The Story of Plastic," a new release by [The Story of Stuff Project](#).

32% of plastic packaging ends up in the environment.

40% goes to a landfill.

14% is incinerated.

14% is recycled (only 2% is effective).

The essence of the message is: "We can't burn, bury or recycle our way out of this problem."



If you want to **unpack** this subject further for a more in depth look, go to [the latest issue of YES! magazine, "Solving Plastic."](#) You will find several excellent articles giving a comprehensive look at the plastic problem and at solutions. **It's a great issue!**

Look even more closely by tuning in to this hour-long [program by YES! and Break Free From Plastic](#). It is sobering, enlightening, clarifying, informative and hopeful. Very much worth your time. Some highlights from this and the magazine are below.



Stories, insights and action for a world that works for all of us

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Justice is what love looks like in public.

Cornel West

~ ~ ~

Favorite Resources

[Yes! magazine](#)
[The Optimist Daily](#)

[350.org](#)
[Climate Reality Project](#)
[The Small Planet Institute](#)
[Local Futures Network of Spiritual Progressives](#)
[Project Heaven on Earth](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)
[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

Break Free From Plastic: Highlights

["The Fallacy of Our Carbon Footprint."](#) The gist of this article is that even though Big Oil wants consumers to feel it's our responsibility to stop climate change (by changing lightbulbs, driving less, etc) "the reality



is that the future of civilization is being decided at a political and corporate level that no individual can impact." **100 companies are responsible for 71% of global emissions**, and a masterful marketing job of putting the blame on consumers has deflected attention from where the major responsibility lies. **"This problem is too big to solve voluntarily one person at a time. We need to change the system."**

In another related article, "[Plastic World or Plastic-Free World?](#)" the author points out that "the plastic crisis is tied not only to ecological destruction, but also drives systemic injustice." She points out that much of the pollution caused by plastic production affects marginalized communities such as in Cancer Alley in St. James Parish in New Orleans, and poorer nations around the world where plastic waste is dumped.

"How to Get Rid of the Throwaway Culture" when there is no such thing as away? As the author and illustrator points out, **"Waste is built into modern culture; it's not your fault, and you alone can't fix it. We need equitable policies and system change."** But we all know that consumer action counts! She highlights reducing waste, buying quality goods that last or can be repaired (use it up, wear it out, make it do, do without), advocating for policies that extend producer responsibility, promoting a circular economy and fighting for equitable rights to a pollution-free world. For a good look at what choices to make in clothing, read "[Should I Wear Plants or Plastic?](#)"



Two resources and references to the work being done all over the world to build a plastic pollution-free world.

[Break Free From Plastic](#) is a global movement of over 2,000 organizations envisioning a future free from plastic pollution. [The Break Free From Plastic Act 2021](#) now before Congress would drastically improve the plastic waste problem. This is one place we can take action by pushing our legislators to

pass this legislation. Similar provisions are active in state legislatures.

Uplifting Stories & Innovations



Alternative Packaging

Packaging accounts for 40% of total plastic usage. How about using edible popcorn instead of

Styrofoam, which is virtually non-degradable? Popcorn, on the other hand, has the same properties of protection and is totally degradable. [Read here.](#)

The bottom photo shows takeout containers made from wheat husks. This container will compost or degrade in 4-6 weeks. It is edible but "not particularly tasty." [Read here.](#)

Plastic Bans
Chile Passes An Ambitious Single-

Moving Beyond Fossil Fuels



A Dutch court has ordered Shell to cut emissions 45% by 2030, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. This is another major step to divest from fossil fuels.

And in corporate news, shareholders elected two people to the ExxonMobil Board of Directors who are dedicated to decarbonizing the company.



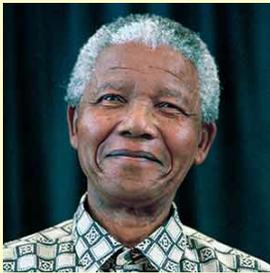
Use Plastic Law that will reduce the country's plastic waste by more than 23,000 tons a year, and move Chile towards a more circular economy. The hope is that other

countries will follow to leave behind a disposable culture. [Read here.](#)

New York Bans Mini Toiletry Bottles from Hotels. This will eliminate about 8-10 million tons of plastic waste that ends up in the oceans every year. [Read more.](#)

A similar dynamic played out at Chevron's shareholder meeting where 61% of shareholders voted for the company to reduce its "Scope 3" emissions, meaning the pollution from all the fossil fuels it sells. That's been the big headline in the press, but just as important is that 48% of shareholders voted for a report on Chevron's "dark money" lobbying. [Read this climate news here.](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended. —Nelson Mandela, 1918 – 2013

Turning Plastic Waste into Art



Artists abound who use plastic waste to create art, such as these pieces by [Czech artist Veronika Richterova](#), shown above. The creation to the right is called "20,000 Bags Under the Sea." The artists seek to bring awareness to this deadly pollution problem. Here are two sites to see more amazing creations. [Art Made from Plastic Waste](#), and [From Google](#)



My Column

Our dependence on and attraction to plastic has been called "**A Toxic Love Story.**" Breaking up is so hard to do! Read more.



Have a creative and healthy summer!