

County Executive Office  
**LIVING SUSTAINABLY**  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Issue 4 | July 2021

Plastic  
Pollution  
Calculator



If you feel like you are using more plastic than ever before, you are not alone! There has been an increase in the use of plastic because of the COVID pandemic. Plastic grocery bags once again became the norm, a surge in on-line shopping resulted in more plastic packaging, single-use utensils and take-out food containers were everywhere, and almost everyone was using personal protective equipment (PPE) daily just to name a few examples. A February 2021<sup>1</sup> study estimated the amount of plastic wastes generated worldwide since the pandemic is 1.6 million metric tons per day, almost triple, compared to 663,000 metric tons in 2016.<sup>2</sup> Now you may be wondering, how much is 1.6 million metric tons? Well it is equivalent in weight to approximately 10,600 jumbo jets.<sup>3</sup> Roger that!!!

There is no better time than now to think about lowering your plastic consumption and being part of the solution to plastic pollution. [Plastic Free July](#) is a global movement that helps millions of people around the world reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and in your community.

Reducing plastic pollution starts with each one of us. Following are some simple steps to reduce our plastic use right now.

1. Carry and use reusable shopping bags; most places are allowing this again. Don't forget your reusable produce bags as well.
2. Rethink your coffee - For starters, ditch those pesky K-cup machines and use a reusable cup even when hitting the coffee shop.
3. Avoid plastic bottled water.
4. Say no to single-use plastic cutlery.
5. Ditch the cling wrap and disposable baggies and instead use beeswax wraps and reusable baggies.

Visit the following links for some more tips to find out how you can reduce plastic waste. Discover great alternatives that can become new habits and help reduce the negative impacts of plastic.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844021004485>

<sup>2</sup>[https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/tackling\\_increasing\\_plastic\\_waste.html#:~:text=In%202016%2C%20the%20world%20generate%20million%20tonnes%20from%20North%20America](https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/tackling_increasing_plastic_waste.html#:~:text=In%202016%2C%20the%20world%20generate%20million%20tonnes%20from%20North%20America).

<sup>3</sup><https://www.dw.com/en/there-are-83-billion-tons-of-plastic-in-the-world/a-39765670>

Tips to Use Less Plastic

11 Easy Ways to Reduce Your Plastic Waste Today



### Plastic Calculator

Use this to learn about how many plastic items you use and discard every year.

## VENTURA COUNTY GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

Looking to support a local certified green business?

Newly certified businesses are listed below:



[The Eco Store](#)  
Oak View



[Sustainable Law Group](#)  
Ojai



[Townsgates Pet Hospital](#)



[Mineri Suculentas](#)

To check out all locally certified businesses, as well as statewide, click [here](#)

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## Home Remodeling - Fire Resiliency & Electrification

**Online July 28th @ 5:00-6:30pm**

**Join 3C-REN and Design AVenues as they explore opportunities to improve comfort while reducing your home's climate impacts and wildfire risks.**

**By attending this class, you will learn:**

- Why fire resiliency and electrification make sense together
- The benefits of a zero carbon, all-electric home, and the two core requirement to achieve that goal
- Two electric options for each of the four major gas-fueled household requirements
- How to make a transition plan from gas to all-electric, emissions-free operation

**Register @ [3C-REN.org/events](https://3c-ren.org/events)**



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Click [here](#) for more training opportunities

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## DID YOU KNOW?



### MEET THE VENTURA COUNTY CLIMATE EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Did you know that the County of Ventura has a group of residents working with County staff to find new ways to reduce greenhouse gases and fight against climate change? Learn more about the Ventura County Climate Emergency Council at [www.ventura.org/vccec](http://www.ventura.org/vccec)



Check out the DIY toolkits at Ventura County libraries and use the kit's free tools and supplies to complete home DIY projects. When finished, the kits can be returned. The free DIY Home Energy Savings Toolkit will give you the knowledge, tools, and equipment to improve your home with easy upgrades.

Visit 3C-REN's **Home Energy Savings** web page to learn more about the program. To find a kit near you click **here**.



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