

Reducing Usage of Single-use Plastic Water Bottles

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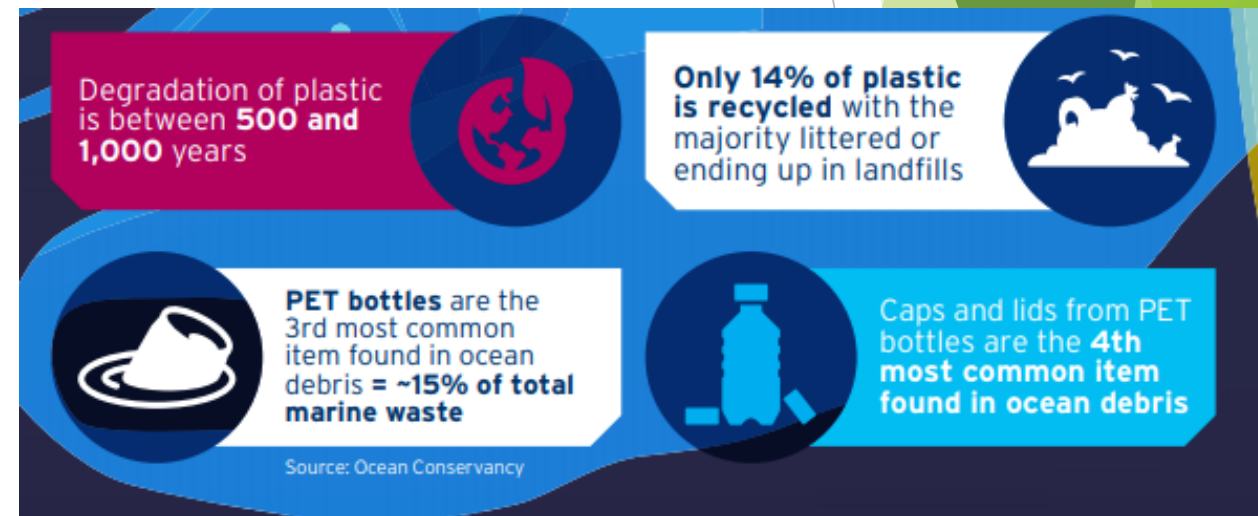
Clerk to the Board

Background and Board Suggestions

- ▶ There was discussion at the December Joint City-County Committee meeting regarding the use of disposable/single-use plastic water bottles during Board meetings and the possibility of reducing or eliminating said usage.
- ▶ Possible suggested options were:
 1. Provide each Board member with a reusable water bottle to use during meetings which they can fill up at the Conference Room sink. Install a tap water filter to encourage use and improve the taste.
 2. Mirror the City of Durham's use of paper cups and a water pitcher.

Plastic Problems

- ▶ Plastics are chains of like molecules linked together called polymers. These chains often are composed of carbon and hydrogen and also can comprise oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, chlorine, fluorine, phosphorous, or silicon. While these minerals occur naturally in the world, long chains of them do not.
- ▶ Plastics don't biodegrade; they just break down into smaller plastics. Microplastics are found in fresh water, wastewater, food, air, bottled water, tap water, etc.
- ▶ New plastic is being created at a rate that far exceeds the pace at which it's being recycled (only 14 percent of all plastic gets recycled).



Current Costs

- ▶ The Clerk's Office currently receives a monthly Ready Refresh delivery of plastic water bottle cases. Commissioners receive one bottle and plastic cup at each meeting.
- ▶ Ready Refresh Water Delivery
 - ▶ Five (5) cases of single-use plastic water bottles delivered once a month
 - ▶ \$35/month = \$420/year
- ▶ Sam's Club purchases
 - ▶ Cups (172 cups) are purchased once every two (2) months
 - ▶ \$11/each = \$33/year
- ▶ Total Annual Cost: \$453 per year

Costs of Option 1

- ▶ Provide each Board member with a reusable water bottle to use during meetings which they can fill up at the Conference Room sink. Install a tap water filter to encourage use and improve the taste.
- ▶ Purchase Water Filter with a filter attached
 - ▶ \$32 - Britta Tap Water Faucet Filter
 - ▶ \$25 - Filter Replacement (provides 100 gallons/lasts approximately four (4) months)
- ▶ Total Annual Cost: \$107 for the first year and \$75 for each year after
Note: this cost does not include the costs of future reusable water bottle purchases.

Costs of Option 2

- ▶ **Mirror the City of Durham's use of paper cups and a water pitcher.**
- ▶ Purchase paper cups for Board use (approx. 100 per month)
 - ▶ \$8/pack - 100 cups/pack
 - ▶ \$40/pack - 300 cups/pack for hot beverages
 - ▶ \$21.33/month = \$256/year
- ▶ Purchase water pitcher with filter attached
 - ▶ \$40 - Brita Monterey Pitcher, 10 cup capacity
 - ▶ \$17 - Longlast Filter Replacement (lasts approximately six (6) months)
 - ▶ \$57 for the first year and \$34 for each year after
- ▶ Total Annual Cost: \$313 for the first year and \$290 for each year after

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are concentrated on the right side of the slide, with some extending towards the center.

Questions?