Time to turn the tide on plastics

More than 40 percent: Used once, thrown away

It’s clear we have a plastic problem. Over the past six decades, we’ve produced more than 9 billion tons of the stuff, most of which now clogs our landfills—or worse.

Too often, this plastic pollution ends up in our rivers, lakes and, ultimately, our oceans. Experts estimate that millions of tons of plastic enter the ocean every year, where it forms enormous garbage patches and harms and even kills wildlife.

What a waste

With millions of pieces of plastic floating in the water, it’s easy for a bird, turtle or whale to mistake it for food.

It’s a costly mistake. When animals eat plastic, it can block their digestive tracts—and they starve as a result.

This was the sad case of a pilot whale that died in June after swallowing more than 80 plastic bags. In all, experts found 17 pounds of plastic lodged in his stomach.

Wildlife over waste

Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our rivers and oceans for hundreds of years.

Environment Minnesota is calling for a statewide ban on one of the worst forms of plastic: polystyrene foam cups and containers, like the kind you get from restaurants and coffee shops.

This summer, we worked to educate business owners, decision-makers and all Minnesotans about the costs of plastic pollution. In all, more than 300,000 members and supporters from across the country joined our national network in calling for bans.

Cities and communities are already starting to listen. Baltimore passed a ban on foam cups and containers in April, joining hundreds of other cities across the country that have taken action to ban single-use plastics like bags, straws and foam cups.

Companies are getting the message, too, as McDonald’s and Dunkin’ Donuts both pledged to replace foam cups and containers with 100 percent recycled materials by 2019.

With your support, we’ll build on this momentum and convince more cities and, eventually, our state to choose wildlife over waste by banning single-use plastics.

Take action

We need your help to protect wildlife in our rivers, lakes and oceans from plastic pollution. Take action online to urge our leaders to ban foam cups and containers in Minnesota.

www.EnvironmentMinnesota.org

This summer, our national network organized beach and park cleanups across the country to raise awareness around plastic pollution.
Action for our environment

How can you protect the jaguar’s home?

Picture your high school’s football field. Now picture 40 of them. That’s how much tropical forest the world lost every minute during the past two years. It’s a terrible blow to wildlife, as deforestation drives out rare and endangered species like jaguars and orangutans. But what can we do about it here in Minnesota?

Many of these forests are being clear-cut or burned down to make way for palm oil and soybeans to be used in our everyday products and in farm animal feed. It’s a terrible and tragic trade-off. What’s more, as the preservation of tropical forests remains critical to slowing global warming, we know the stakes are even higher—for people as well as wildlife.

Environment Minnesota is calling on U.S.-based agribusinesses like Cargill and Bunge to end their role in tropical deforestation. With your support, we can slow the loss of endangered species and the pace of climate change by saving the world’s tropical forests.

Minnesotans demand Fair Repair

We should be able to repair the things we own, whether it’s an iPhone or a John Deere tractor. But for many products, repair is needlessly difficult—or impossible.

In February, Environment Minnesota published a survey titled “Recharge Repair,” showing that Americans want the ability to repair their own electronics instead of being forced to replace them when something small goes wrong.

“Repair is good for the environment,” said Timothy Schaefer, state director of Environment Minnesota. “Here in Minnesota alone, we throw away 6,500 cell phones per day. Each phone repaired is one that won’t end up in a landfill.”

Environment Minnesota supports the Fair Repair Act (SF 15), a bipartisan bill requiring companies to make replacement parts and tools available to consumers and repair shops.

Invest fossil fuel free.
Because her future matters.

Download our guide to get started at www.greencentury.com/myguide

You make it possible

You care about clean air and water, a healthy climate, and all the places that make Minnesota beautiful—and so do I. That’s why I’m proud to share with you the work we accomplished over the summer.

Environment Minnesota launched our new Wildlife Over Waste campaign to tackle the mountains of plastic trash produced each year by building public support for bans on items like plastic foam cups and containers.

At the same time, we celebrated a decade of clean energy progress with the release of our sister organization Environment Minnesota Research & Policy Center’s new report showing the incredible advances states like Minnesota have made on solar and wind power since 2008.

Thank you for making all this work possible with your action and support.

Timothy Schaefer
State Director

您也有可能喜欢

Tech Discounts, a nonprofit that keeps electronics out of landfills by offering repairs and refurbished items, is part of the growing “right to repair” movement.
Renewables are rising in Minnesota

How quickly are renewable technologies taking hold in Minnesota? Faster than most experts predicted just a few years ago.

Technologies that were once considered novelties, like wind turbines, solar panels, energy-saving LED light bulbs and electric cars, are now commonplace in America’s energy landscape. Virtually every day, we see new developments that make renewable energy more abundant and more affordable than ever.

“Renewables on the Rise,” a report released in July by Environment Minnesota Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group, explores just how far we’ve come—and what steps we can take today to build a cleaner, greener future.

600 percent increase

The last decade has seen explosive growth in the key technologies needed to power America with clean, renewable energy.

Today, our nation produces nearly six times as much renewable electricity from the sun and the wind as we did in 2008. That’s enough renewable energy to power more than 34 million homes, or roughly 1 in 4 homes across the country.

At the same time, the average American uses nearly 8 percent less energy than a decade ago, due largely to more energy efficient lighting, appliances and cars—even as our population grew by 20 million.

Of course, building an economy that relies on clean, renewable energy means ending the use of fossil fuels for all activities, including transportation.

395,000 electric cars

More than 395,000 electric vehicles have been sold over the last decade. We saw sales surge by 24 percent in 2017 alone, fueled by lower prices, better performance, and a range of attractive and affordable new car models.

We know that repowering America with clean, renewable energy is essential to phasing out carbon pollution by 2050—a necessary step to prevent the worst impacts of global warming.

It will also improve our health by preventing harmful air pollution and eliminating the dangers of extracting, transporting, processing and burning fossil fuels.

Fortunately, our country has renewable energy resources vast enough to power the nation several times over. Businesses, universities and colleges, local governments, and our state can lead the way by setting their sights on meeting all of our energy needs with renewable energy, and by adopting bold targets to move us in that direction.

We’ve already made incredible progress toward getting all our energy from clean, renewable sources. Now, Environment Minnesota is calling on decision-makers at all levels to adopt policies aimed at reducing the amount of energy we waste and repowering America with clean, renewable energy.

Explore more online

Environment Minnesota Research & Policy Center’s report, “Renewables on the Rise,” found that clean energy is booming in America—and we can expect dramatic growth in the near future.

Read the full report at: www.EnvironmentMinnesotaCenter.org

FROM 2008-2017

Solar growth: 553-fold
Wind growth: twofold
Electric vehicles: 2,247 sold
Utility battery storage: 1 MW
Why 219,000 said no to bee-killing ‘neonics’

Every year, bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides are used on millions of acres of farmland across the U.S.—but they don’t stay there. Whether sprayed on crops or applied to seeds as a coating, recent studies show that neonics are drifting far beyond the field, even showing up in our rivers and lakes.

This is bad news for bees—and us, as we rely on bees to pollinate many of the world’s most common crops. And as the pace of bee die-offs continues to accelerate, it’s clear that urgent action is needed.

Environment Minnesota supporters joined a coalition of food safety and environmental groups to deliver 219,000 public comments to the Environmental Protection Agency, calling for a ban on bee-killing pesticides. “Given the facts at hand about the harm neonics do to bees, the EPA should move quickly to ban these dangerous pesticides,” said Steve Blackledge, senior campaign director. “We don’t have time to wait.”

Support our efforts

Support efforts to ban bee-killing pesticides.
Donate online at:
www.EnvironmentMinnesota.org

Environment Minnesota members and supporters were among the 219,000 public comments our coalition delivered calling for a ban on bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides.