

You may have heard about the District 5130 Plastics Challenge. Plastics pollution is not just an annoying pollution issue; the critical part of this problem is the compounding rate at which plastic waste is going into our finite environment. Plastic almost never fully degrades, it just breaks down to microplastic which goes into our food chain and the air we breathe. We all have to start someplace to solve this problem, and the District Plastics Challenge will be an educational and inspirational way to see how we can each make a difference. The challenge begins next Sunday (April 21) and everyone is invited to take part.

- Play the first 1:25 (ONLY) of this [video clip](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQTUWK7CM-Y), then just turn it off (it goes onto a different subject after that). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQTUWK7CM-Y>
- Show the attached [PowerPoint](#) and run through the 5 slides.
- The Challenge will be a fun way to see how we can all effect local change of a global problem.
- The first week of the Challenge will start next Sunday , April 21st , and run for 7 days. Don't change anything in your daily habits during this Baseline Week- just collect your household's plastic waste for seven days- produce bags, food wrappers, bread bags, shopping bags, yogurt containers, mail wrappings, water bottles, soda bottles, take out containers, coffee to go cups, etc., everything that is made of plastic and that you would normally throw away or recycle. On a daily basis or at the end of the week, count how many plastic items you have accumulated, either by using the Challenge Scorecard (attached) which breaks the total down by type of plastic, or just the total number of items for the week. Be sure to include any plastic items you discard or recycle while you're away from home-fast food containers, plastic water bottles, etc. And remember, during the Baseline Week, don't change your daily habits at all.
- The second week there will be no measuring but many tips and strategies on how you can substitute or avoid using plastic will be circulated. Try out as many of these as you can.
- The third week, the "Recount Week" of May 5 to 11, we will measure our household plastic waste again for seven days, using the strategies picked up along the way. Use the Scorecard or tally the total number of plastic items used this week again, and turn in both the Baseline Week and Recount

Week numbers to the club's point person,
_____. These will be forwarded to the District
Environment Committee, tabulated, and the metrics of how each club and
the District did will be circulated.

- All clubs in the District have been invited to join the Challenge; there's talk of some clubs challenging others to see who can reduce the most. [We're already hearing some.....ahem....."trash talking" going on].
- We hope everyone will enthusiastically join in the Challenge- What Do You Have To Lose?!