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I purchase many products / produce from the local Santa Cruz businesses. And I am trying to reduce the amount of plastic in my life: reduce, reuse, recycle. We are drowning in plastic - our oceans are filled - it is disgusting. In an earlier email conversation, you indicated your support for plastic use reduction, and provided information / links to what the County's efforts. And while banning the single use plastic bags is admirable, and adoption of the Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Materials Ordinance to address food service waste is helpful, there are so many more products that are packaged in plastic where they used to be handled in cardboard/recyclable papers, compostable papers. Berries come to mind (Driscolls). Also, a lot of milk containers now have a plastic pour spout/closure. So many products are packaged in useless plastic, and there are more and more each day. My recent visit to most of our "health" food stores showed more products packaged in plastic: specialty greens, sprouts, cherry tomatoes, ALL berries, drinks, snack food bags, and OMG all the "cosmetics" – 1000's of products encased in plastic.

The Board of Supervisors has a powerful voice in representing/helping our community. Some ideas on solution approaches would 1) raise awareness of the problem; 2) engage local businesses to help – provide some incentives to do so; 3) raise \$ to support current recycling efforts

- 1) Raising Awareness: A public proclamation by the Board listing the details (amount of plastic being generated in our county daily/amount per person, etc. Facts. And a plea to help solve these problems. Maybe a local business/concerned citizen could sponsor some kind of "reward" for good ideas. Include a 1 minute monthly "update" at Board Meetings. I offer my help in putting together some YouTube videos to promote awareness – it's really easy to create a YouTube video from a PowerPoint presentation and then post it to social media.
- 2) Engaging Local Businesses: Supply incentives to "join" the 3R program, beyond the "Green Business Program" or perhaps a part of it. Participants must be publicly lauded for their efforts, i.e., printed ads, social media videos, TV media recognition, recognition by congress representatives. A comprehensive list of suggestions could be made available. Meet with representatives from our larger markets: Costco, Trader Joe's, Safeway, New Leaf, Whole Foods, Staff of Life, Shopper's Corners and try and engage them in this effort – they can advertise their efforts and gain support & recognition. Any progress should be reported publicly at the Board of Supervisors monthly meetings.
- 3) Raising Support \$: The Packaging Materials Ordinance needs to be expanded to include supermarkets & producers – maybe a 5 or 10 cent recycling fee could be levied on each plastic package with that \$ collected going to the local recycling effort and/or recognition awards.

Your Board has a strong voice in which to leverage a change to make/use less plastic. And your constituents will definitely appreciate the effort. Even more, you can promote your advocacy gaining more local support. Thanks!

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Links to recent studios/videos about plastic problems:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/03/180322123755.htm>

Great Pacific Garbage Patch growing rapidly, study shows

New analysis reveals the region contains as much as sixteen times more plastic than previously estimated, with pollution levels increasing exponentially

Summary:

A new study shows that 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic weighing 80,000 metric tons are currently afloat in an area known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch - the size of France -- and the problem is rapidly getting worse.

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceNaturePage/videos/1288703157928606/UzpfSTE0MjA4MDQ5NDg6MTAyMTY1NzU3MzM4NTIwNzM/> Ocean off Bali – diver shows ocean filled with plastic

<https://www.facebook.com/emily.fisher.9699/videos/10211707503027491/UzpfSTE0MjA4MDQ5NDg6MTAyMTY1NTc1NzEzMTgwMjE/> Whale dies despite efforts to save it. Autopsy showed it to be FILLED with plastic materials.

River of plastic in Guatemala:

<https://www.facebook.com/NaturalCuresNotMedicine/videos/1876138939192475/UzpfSTEwMjI2OTI2ODA6MTAyMTMwNTIxNTUxNTE1Mzc/>

Plastic Ocean – Caribbean: <https://www.facebook.com/bbc/videos/10156144632886108/>

Guatemala town BANS the use of all plastic – in one year, drastic reduction in waste.

<https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/1180563518751820/UzpfSTEwMDAwMjlyNjU2Mzg1MToxNjc2MDEzMzk1ODE2Mzk2/>

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

Corn-starch based packaging - <https://www.thebalance.com/corn-starch-packaging-2221071>

San Francisco is doing more for our planet's ecology/survival:

<https://www.facebook.com/climatereality/videos/1653463734740678/UzpfSTE0MjA4MDQ5NDg6MTAyMTY2Mjg4NTkyNjAxNzU/>

Supermarket in Amsterdam goes plastic free:

<https://www.facebook.com/stephen.j.king1/posts/10156314861634640>

“Plastic bags” made from yucca:

<https://www.facebook.com/WeNeedThisbyattn/videos/198458580656015/UzpfSTE5NjY1MjM0NzUwMzMwNTpWSzoxOTg0NTg1ODA2NTYwMTU/>

Seaweed/kelp edible bags:

<https://www.facebook.com/stateofthecarte/videos/969768406535692/UzpfSTE2NDczNDA5MjA6MTAyMDk4NTI0NjI3NDIwNDg/>