

Beyond Plastics Greater Mankato Area

Resolution to reduce single use plastic in Mankato, North Mankato and St. Peter

- Whereas plastic never completely breaks down but breaks into smaller microplastic and nano plastic particles that remain in our environment indefinitely (approximately 9 billion tons in total);
- Whereas only 8% is recycled or recyclable;
- Whereas about between 16 million and 26 million tons of plastic waste escape into the oceans annually (two dump trucks full a minute), killing millions of animals and marine organisms;
- Whereas we ingest an estimated 3.8 million microplastics a year from food and dust particles that carry microplastics; microplastics have been found in our blood, veins, organs, lungs, breast milk and fetuses;
- Whereas of the 16,000 toxic chemical additives in plastic bags and food ware, more than 4200 of them are hormone disrupting chemicals of concern known to cause breast, prostate and other cancers and harm our reproductive, neurological and cardiovascular system;
- Whereas microplastics found in human fetuses cause miscarriage, low birth weight, immune problems, neurological and developmental changes;
- Whereas the 30 to 36% increase in plastic production in the next 6 years will become an international health issue that will pose serious threats to future generations;
- Whereas a recent scientific study concluded that the cocktail of chemical pollution that pervades the planet now threatens the stability of global ecosystems upon which humanity depends;
- Whereas 130 plastics facilities report greenhouse gas emissions roughly equal to 57 average 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants with another 42 plastics facilities slated to open by 2025;
- The global plastic chain of production emitted 1.8 billion tons of CO₂ in 2015. By 2050, greenhouse gas emissions could reach over 56 gigatons, 10 to 13% of the remaining carbon budget.
- The U.S. plastic industry emits 232 million tons a year equal to CO₂ emissions from 50 million cars, soon to outpace coal emissions;
- Whereas an average local grocery store gives out approximately 1.5 million plastic bags a year that are used once and thrown away;
- Whereas Americans throw away 25 trillion Styrofoam cups, 40 billion plastic utensils and 4 billion plastic straws a year that are not recycled and contaminate our environment;
- Whereas Polystyrene components, Benzene and Styrene, are known carcinogens and neurotoxins and the industry is the 5th largest creator of toxic waste in the U.S.;
- Whereas chemicals such as vinyl chloride and benzene released during the production of plastic utensils are known carcinogens and neurotoxins;
- Whereas the health care costs related to plastics' harm in 2015 were \$1.5 trillion;

Be it resolved that the city of Mankato authorize the following actions to protect our environment and health of our community from throwaway plastic pollution:

1. Put a fee on all plastic and paper bags in all retail establishments;
2. Provide plastic straws, utensils and condiment packets upon request only.