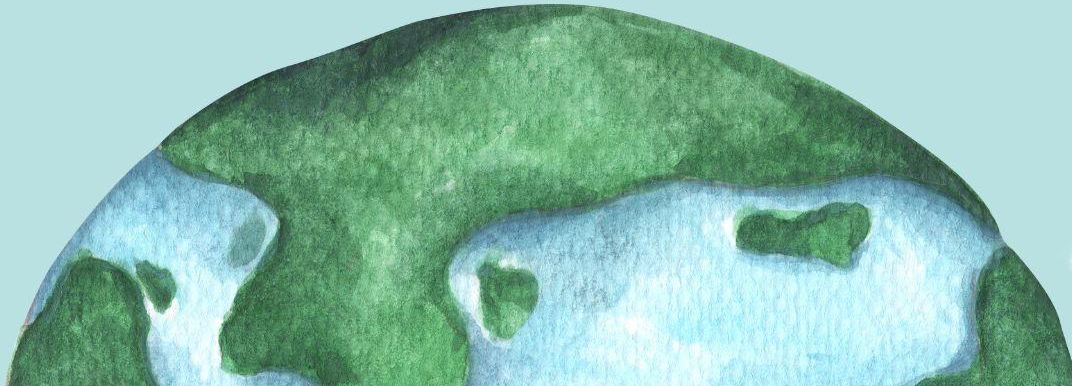


# one earth FILM FESTIVAL

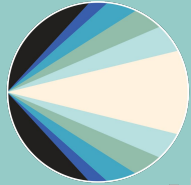
#ReelStoriesRealChange   **DOE**  
Department of  
Environment

## Take Action Toolkit: Waste/Plastics



April 17-23, 2024

# Ready to make #realchange?



one earth  
FILM FESTIVAL



Take Action  
Toolkit:  
Waste/  
Plastics

## #ReelStories RealChange

- Tell others what you learned at One Earth Film Fest: word of mouth, social media, in an op-ed or letter to the editor
- Watch/rewatch past One Earth Film Fest films ([here](#) and [here](#)) & discussions ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))
- Change your mindset: Everything you do is related to the ecosystem!
- Spend more time in nature
- Join an eco- or climate justice group in your community
- Lend support & resources to BIPOC and low-income communities disproportionately impacted by our climate crisis
- Consume less. Reuse. Buy in bulk. Avoid packaging. Don't buy "single use" items
- Reduce food waste, ensure that food scraps get composted
- Participate in, or start, a composting program in your city or town
- Learn more about Chicago's first residential composting program & find a nearby garden!
- Participate in [plasticfreejuly.org](https://plasticfreejuly.org)

- Support small businesses working to minimize waste, source local, and provide local benefits
- Learn where your garbage goes and if it's polluting the environment. EPA'S Environmental Justice Screening And Mapping Tool [epa.gov/ejscreen](https://epa.gov/ejscreen)
- [Support Earthbound's Nzambi Matee & Gjenge Makers](#) turning plastic into building bricks
- Be a customer rather than a consumer. Aim to buy products that have or could have a second or third life. Ask yourself: *what will happen to this product when I no longer have a need for it?*
- Use REUSABLE bottles, bags, straws, utensils, etc.
- Be a leader: build a network, create content, join a board, run for office
- Contact your legislators with a letter or group letter & VOTE for candidates with strong environmental platforms
- Ask your legislators to support legislation banning foam foodware and plastic carryout bags. In Illinois: [ilenviro.org/a/plastic-foam-ban](https://ilenviro.org/a/plastic-foam-ban)
- In IL, join the IEC [May 15 Zero Waste Lobby Day](#)
- Draw down carbon through [bioplastics](#), [recycling](#), and [coastal wetland protection](#)
- Online resources: [Habits of Waste](#), [Cafeteria Culture DIY Litter Cleanup](#), [Let's Shedd Plastic](#)