

Something I never thought about that doesn't harm the planet:

I never thought about using Stainless Steel straws instead of the plastic ones we all use. Every time you purchase a drink outside your home they give you a plastic straw, so what happens when you're done with them? You throw it out of course! As we all know plastic is non-biodegradable and will last hundreds of years in landfills. So I ordered Stainless Steel straws from Amazon and received them a few days ago and they are great. And you just use them and clean them and reuse them. I keep one in my lunch bag and use it in front of people so they can see that there is something we can do to help the environment, and not harm our planet. I found this article in Recyclebank.com and is called (What's So Bad About Plastic Straws?) Drinking straws have been used for seven thousand years, but the history of the modern drinking straw began in the 1880s when Marvin Stone glued strips of paper together and drank through the contraption instead of sipping through a stalk of rye grass, as had been common. Paper straws were popular through the 1960s until plastic straws replaced them — and thus began the American fixation with plastic straws. In the present day, plastic straws make up 99% of the global drinking straw market, with paper, glass, and metal straws making up the other 1%. As you mentioned, plastic straws are not recyclable. Plastic straws are made from polypropylene, which is a byproduct of petroleum, a fossil fuel that requires an incredible amount of energy and natural resources to extract and refine. Polypropylene is identifiable by the **resin identification code 5** and is commonly recyclable, just often not in drinking straw format. Size is the biggest barrier to straw recycling. As plastic travels down conveyor belts while being sorted, small items like **bottle caps** and straws fall through the cracks and end up being sent to the landfill. As of right now there aren't many (if any) special straw-recycling facilities either, which means when you use a straw, you know that plastic will sit in a landfill for years to come. Straws, as with many small plastics, pose a threat to wildlife as well (as shown in the sea turtle video). According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, plastic straws are one of the top five most common items found on our shores during International Coastal Cleanups. The next time you're at the beach, keep an eye out for plastic straws (you'll probably find more than one). In the United States alone, approximately 500 million plastic straws are used and discarded each day — enough straws to circumnavigate the planet two and a half times. So should you ditch straws altogether? If that is an option for you, then absolutely. When you eat out at restaurants, ask your server to hold the straw. If you still need straws, there are so many amazing alternatives to the plastic straw. There are Stainless Steel or even paper straws that you can find. So I ordered my Stainless Steel straws from Amazon and received them a few days ago and they are great. And you just use them and clean them and reuse them. I keep one in my lunch bag and use it in front of people so they can see that there is something we can do to help the environment, and not harm our planet. Some other articles are,

<https://livegreen.recyclebank.com/column/because-you-asked/what-s-so-bad-about-plastic-straws>

<https://www.marthastewart.com/1524287/how-to-fight-plastic-pollution-straws>

Thank You Nancy !!!!!

Rich Beltran

Commented [R1]: