Plastic Information

* More than 9 billion tons of plastic has been produced since 1950 – the vast majority is still around.
* 2 billion ton still in use
* 7 billion tons in landfills, oceans and a very small amount incinerated.
* If current use trends of plastic use continues it is estimated that by 2050 there will be 13 billion tons of plastic in landfills, oceans and our environment.
* Recycling rates of plastic – as of 2014
* Europe - 30%
* China – 25%
* USA – 9%
* Plastics take a long, long, long time to decompose if they ever decompose
* Big plastic uses – water bottles, heat & eat meals, coffee and tea cups, straws, and other single use things
* Thankfully, some producers and some eateries are starting to replace plastic containers and Styrofoam containers with paper type containers.
* Obviously, we have all already heard about the fact that there are huge floating islands of plastic junk in our oceans, and how many ocean species have eaten plastic or become entangled in plastic.

Remember re-use is the best form of sustainability. Recycling does help but is so dependent of the economic value of re-cycled plastic. Encourage the places you eat and shop to reduce or stop their use of plastics. Encourage the use of re-suable water bottles, and discourage the use of commercial, throw away water bottles. We can and have to make a difference.

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