



Rise Above Plastics Citizen Advocacy Week 2021

Step 1: Register

Please sign-up at <http://bit.ly/RAPFL2021> to indicate your interest in attending a virtual meeting with your state lawmakers. We will provide training for your virtual meeting.

You can find more information on the Facebook event page [here](#), please share it with your network.

Step 2: Call your Legislators

Find your FL state representative [here](#).

Find your FL state senator [here](#).

Ask your legislator to participate in the advocacy week, tell them you are, so we can rise above plastics by taking action to reduce single use plastics by co-sponsoring the bills that help us to deal with our plastic waste.

Option 1: Repeal Preemption and let Municipalities and local governments deal with the issue individually.

A set of [bills](#) have been filed to repeal the state preemption of local rules governing single-use plastic products. That state-level preemption currently blocks local governments from banning certain single-use plastics.

[HB 6027](#): Preemption of Recyclable and Polystyrene Materials

[SB 594](#): Preemption of Recyclable and Polystyrene Materials

Option 2: Act as a state and update and adopt recommendations from DEP

- You can find more information on the outdated DEP Retail Report [here](#).

These bills first update the statewide study that is now over a decade old that would come up with recommendations for the state to adopt, once the legislature adopts them we would take statewide action. If the state does not act, the preemption on this issue would then be lifted.

[SB 1348: Recyclable Materials](#)

House companion bill to be filed by Jim Moony of Monroe County this week.

Step 3: Join the *Plastics Free Initiative*

PFI consists of a coalition of residents, local business leaders, civic organizations, and educational and faith institutions across the state united in the fight against plastic pollution. Plastics are all around us and a part of our everyday life. But single-use plastics, which you use for a few minutes and then discard, have created a major pollution problem.

You can find more information on memberships [here](#).

Donate [here](#) to help us achieve action on reducing single use plastics this year.

For more information email Billie Baldwin: baldwinbj70@gmail.com

Step 4: Take the Pledge

Take the pledge to remove single use plastics from your life as well as your business or Homeowners Association, the reality is what may be a convenience is too much for our planet to handle. You will find you do not need to rely on single use plastics if you change your habits and encourage others to do the same.

- **Use cloth shopping bags:** Keep reusable bags somewhere handy—in your car or your bike or by the front door—so you don't forget them when you go to the market, grocery store or mall.
- **Forget bottled water:** Carry a reusable bottle always. Plastic bottles are one of the top-five most common types of litter found on beaches. Since bottled water is much more expensive than tap water, you'll also save money and avoid the possible hazards of plastic toxins leaching into your beverage.
- **Avoid buying items packaged in plastic:** Look for produce and other items that aren't over-packaged. Not only are you reducing the plastic you use, you're sending a message to the manufacturers of those products that you prefer sustainable packaging.
- **Volunteer at a beach cleanup:** Help pick up plastic debris that have already reached our coasts to make certain they are recycled and not mistaken for food by birds and marine life.

If you have done all of the above already consider becoming a leading advocate within our coalition: contact Laura Reynolds for more information: lreynolds@conservationconceptsllc.org