

Jenna Kay

From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 2:05 PM
To: Monica Zazueta
Cc: Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Sylvia@mosaicresolutions.com; Nicole Metildi; Ben Duncan; Harrison Husting; tlunsford@parametrix.com
Subject: Re: A Health and Environmental Emergency | We cannot effectively tackle the climate crisis without also confronting the plastic pollution crisis.

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Thanks Monica,

Climate change is caused by greenhouse gas molecules in the air -- mainly CO2, CH4, N2O, and refrigerants.

The chemicals in plastic may harm our health, but they don't cause global warming unless they get into the air via an incinerator.

That said, The Sierra Club is supporting legislation in Olympia that would reduce our use of plastic.

We defeated a \$2 billion methanol plant in Kalama even after Inslee approved it. Methanol is one of the feedstocks for plastic. I have much more to say about plastic but I'll end here.

Thanks for being part of the fight.
Don Steinke

On Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 9:15 AM Monica Zazueta <zazuetamonica0813@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear CAG policy team,

I am writing to urge you to address the critical issue of plastic pollution as an integral part of our climate action and environmental protection efforts. The insights from recent research and advocacy, as shared

in the video "The Great Simplification," make it clear that we cannot effectively tackle the climate crisis without also confronting the plastic pollution crisis.

The video features three leading experts in this domain:

- Linda Birnbaum, former director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, who emphasizes that the chemicals used in plastic materials have long-term, latent health impacts potentially more severe than climate change itself.
- Leo Trasande, a pediatrician and epidemiologist, who explains how plastics are contributing to an array of chronic health issues, from fertility problems to cardiovascular disease, that threaten human sustainability on the planet.
- Christina Dixon, a campaign leader at the Environmental Investigation Agency, who stresses that plastics are fundamentally linked to the climate emergency, as they are produced from fossil fuels, and their continued expansion is incompatible with climate goals.

The experts make clear that the plastic crisis is deeply interconnected with the climate crisis. Plastic pollution, including the release of toxic chemicals throughout its lifecycle, exacerbates environmental degradation and public health risks. Even though Clark County does not produce plastics, our high rates of consumption and recycling efforts are still part of the global problem.

Therefore, I urge you to address the plastic crisis as an integral component of our climate policy framework. As we removed/moved one policy last night, maybe one can be added about plastics. However, policy changes alone are not enough. We must also take an active role in reducing plastic consumption, supporting sustainable alternatives, and advocating for strong regulations.

By aligning our personal, community, and policy efforts, Clark County can send a powerful message and set an example for other jurisdictions. This ripple effect is absolutely necessary, as the plastic and climate crises require a comprehensive, holistic approach to environmental protection and public health.

I stand ready to work with you to develop and implement solutions that address the full scope of these interconnected challenges. The time for action is now, and Clark County must be part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Monica Zazueta-Hernandez Tabor

A Health and Environmental Emergency | Reality Roundtable 15 | The Great Simplification

<https://youtu.be/MpXHb7EL4yE?si=9OV1epe6BifreEAW>