

Jenna Kay

From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:35 PM
To: Monica Zazueta
Cc: Jenna Kay; Amy Koski; Sylvia@mosaicresolutions.com; Nicole Metildi; Ben Duncan; Harrison Husting; tlunsford@parametrix.com; Dana Hellman
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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Replies embedded in blue

On Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 2:37 PM Monica Zazueta <zazueta_monica0813@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Don,

Thank you for your response. While I appreciate your focus on greenhouse gas emissions as the primary driver of climate change, I respectfully disagree that the plastic crisis is not an integral part of the broader environmental and public health challenges we face. **Of course plastic is part of the broader environmental and public health challenged we face. But the task of our committee is to focus on just one of the 1000 important environment issues we face. That one issue is to reduce ghg emissions and in doing so we will also reduce co-pollutants that harm health.**

As the experts highlighted in the video, the production, use, and disposal of plastics are deeply interconnected with the climate emergency. Plastics are derived from fossil fuels, **but the atoms in fossil fuels are not a climate problem unless they end up in the air. If he plastic is buried in a landfill, that is carbon sequestration. If plastic is burned or if it participates in pyrolysis, then those molecules end up in the air. Tires are made out of fossil fuels. Polyester is made out of fossil fuels. When polyester is washed, microplastics end up in out rivers and in our bodies, but they don't cause global warming.**

if they don't and the continued expansion of plastic production is incompatible with achieving our climate goals. Additionally, the release of toxic chemicals from plastics throughout their lifecycle contributes to environmental degradation and adverse health impacts that undermine human sustainability.

Even if the chemicals in plastics do not directly cause global warming, they still represent a significant threat that must be addressed holistically with climate action. The plastic crisis exacerbates environmental damage, public health risks, and socioeconomic inequities - all of which are inextricably linked to the climate crisis. Addressing these interconnected challenges is essential for building true community resilience.

Resilience is not just about mitigating greenhouse gas emissions; **The task of our committee is to plan for resilience to the impacts of global warming. Those impacts are primarily heat, wildfire, drought, and flood.** It is about strengthening our ability to withstand and adapt to the complex, cascading impacts of environmental degradation. By tackling the plastic crisis alongside the climate emergency, we can create more robust, adaptable, and equitable systems that safeguard public health, protect natural ecosystems, and foster sustainable economic development.

While reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical, it is not sufficient on its own. We must also confront the plastic pollution crisis, as well as the broader web of interconnected environmental and public health challenges. Focusing solely on greenhouse gas emissions risks overlooking the full scope of the existential threats we face. **A generalist is not effective at anything. A generalist isn't able to follow through on anything.**

I appreciate the Sierra Club's efforts to address plastic pollution.

I believe we need in Clark County a more comprehensive, integrated approach that recognizes the deep connections between the plastic crisis, the climate emergency, and human and environmental well-being. Clark County has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership by addressing these issues holistically, rather than compartmentalizing them. **Develop a policy and ask the County Council to adopt it.**

Resilient communities are those that can adapt and thrive in the face of complex, interrelated challenges. By tackling the plastic crisis as an integral part of our climate action and environmental protection efforts, we can build the foundations for a more resilient, sustainable future. I remain committed to working with you and others to develop and implement solutions that address the full complexity of these interconnected challenges. The stakes are too high, and the time for action is now.

Actually, the plastic industry as well as the fertilizer industry do produce a lot of greenhouse gas, but it is important to articulate how. The preferred way to make plastic is to start with crude oil but if the price of oil is high then they go for fracked gas (mostly methane.)

If methane (CH₄) leaks, it is a greenhouse gas 86 times as potent as CO₂ for the first 20 years. Most of our gas comes from fracked wells in NW Alberta 1000 miles away, and as far as I know, no one monitors that pipeline for leaks. SWCAA says they don't know who if anyone does. Methane does leak from the gas wells, from the pipeline gathering area, and from compressor stations along the way.

In America, we have 3 million abandoned gas wells. Biden authorized \$16 billion to find and fix the ones that are leaking methane.

Fertilizer is also made from methane, and a lot of methane is leaked at the manufacturing plant, and when their fertilizer is applied to soil, it produces N₂O if I recall.

I'm also committed to working with you for our children's future. No one has ever said that carcinogens or microplastics will end civilization as we know it, but the global consensus is that burning fossil fuels and releasing methane will.

All the best.
Don Steinke

Sincerely,
Monica Zazueta-Hernandez Tabor

(My Signature 😊)

~You must always be willing to truly consider evidence that contradicts your beliefs, and admit the possibility you may be wrong. Intelligence isn't knowing everything, it's the ability to challenge everything you know. Let's all give up our fear as a justification for not to take action because we are the creators of our reality.

Sending healing vibes
Monica Zazueta
Concerned Mum



360-723-7707

Sharing energy,

1.

Doughnut Economics 7 Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist
by Kate Raworth

Free digital copy of the book,

<https://fenix.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/downloadFile/845043405579281/Raworth%20%282017%29%20Doughnut%20Economics.pdf>

2.

29 minute video explaining Doughnut Economics

"How radical ideas can turn into transformative practice. Stockholm impact week 2023"

<https://youtu.be/qwyzsAWRMcw?si=Hut8czYBLqAjOBpb>

3.

Nate Hagens: "Episode 100 - The Great Simplification"

<https://youtu.be/GocuMZX3hIs?si=impadsCjN-aGZzk0>

On Thu, Feb 27, 2025, 2:04 PM Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com> wrote:

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 <zazueta_monica0813@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>