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EARTH TALK

Is there any hope of an international treaty to ban or cut back significantly on plastic waste? - W. Smith, Bayside NY

The global plastic waste crisis has reach alarming proportions, prompting widespread calls for global action. Some 300 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide each year, with a significant portion ending up in oceans and waterways, devastating marine life and ecosystems. The need for coordinated action is evideent, as plastic pollution transcends national borders and requires a unified approach.

Efforts towards an international treaty to regulate plastic waste have gained momentum through platforms like the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Basel Convention. These forums have provided avenues for countries to discuss and negotiate agreements on plastic waste management. Key proposals include limiting the export of plastic waste to countries ill-equipped to handle it, promoting sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, and establishing all-inclusive recycling and waste management systems.

The Basel Convention, in particular, made significant strides in 2019 by amending its regulations to include plastic waste in its framework for controlling transboundary movements of hazardous waste. This amendment requires countries to obtain prior informed consent before shipping plastic waste across borders, thus curbing the careless disposal of plastics in developing countries. Moreover, several countries and regions have taken proactive steps independently. The European Union, for one, has adopted ambitious plans to ban single-use plastics and promote an economy where plastic waste is minimized, reused and recycled. Such regional initiatives serve as models for broader international cooperation.

Public awareness and advocacy have played crucial roles in driving political will for a global treaty. Environmental organizations, grassroots movements and concerned citizens have mobilized campaigns highlighting the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution and demanding policy action at all levels.

Challenges remain, though, mainly due to economic interests and differing national priorities. Plastic production is deeply intertwined with industries and economies worldwide, making significant reductions or bans controversial. Developing countries, despite being excessively affected by plastic pollution, often lack the resources and infrastructure to manage waste effectively. Nevertheless, the momentum for change is building. International agreements on environmental issues historically start with incremental steps and gradually evolve into more comprehensive treaties. The emergence of coalitions of like-minded countries committed to tackling plastic waste provides optimism for a collective approach.

A 2022 United Nations resolution saw 175 countries endorse a historic resolution to end plastic pollution and create an international legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. The resolution calls for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) tasked with creating a draft legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. Environmentalists are keeping their fingers crossed that this draft resolution can become a legally binding instrument to significantly reduce plastic pollution

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com/



Events Calendar

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PLANTING FIELDS

Now-7/26: See website for times. Free (\$8 parking fee). Geared towards adults and teens and ages 8+ with adult. Catalyst 2024 Workshops: Artist Led Sessions: Try a variety of methods to create puppets and props. Register. 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay. www.Plantingl

VANDERBILT MUSEUM

Now-8/9: Wed & Fri. 8pm. Sunday 7pm. Adults \$20, seniors & under 12 \$15. The Merry Wives of Windsor. 7/27: 12-1pm. \$16 adults, \$15 seniors & students, \$14 under 12. Tour and learn the history of the Eagle's Nest estate. 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport. 631-854-5579. iseum.org

QUEENS FARM POW WOW

7/26-7/28: \$18 adults, \$12 ages 2-12. Thunderbird American Indian Pow wow. Native American art, crafts, jewelry & food. Friday: Gates open at 6pm. Performances 7-10pm. Saturday: Gates open at 10am. Performances 12-5pm & 7-10pm Sunday: Gates open at 10am. Performances 12-5pm Online tickets only. 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, FP. www.QueensFarm.org

SANDS POINT PRESERVE

7/27: 10-11:30am. \$15 adult, \$5 child. Guided Nature Walk. Register 7/29: 7-8pm. \$25. Intro to Ballroom Dancing. (No partner or experience required.) Register 7/30: 6-8pm. \$35/car adv. ticket, (\$50 at gate). Sunset Concert with the Yacht Lobsters. Bring a picnic and lawn chairs 7/31: 12-1pm. \$10. Hempstead House Tours. 516-304-5076. 12 Middle Neck Rd., Sands Pt. www.SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org

ALLEY POND

7/27: 10:30am-12:30pm. \$34. Ages 9-12. Vet Tech 101: Nutrition. 7/28: 10:15-11:30am. \$26. Ages 3-5 w/1 adult. The Scoop on Poop: Learn about an animal by examining its poop. Read Everyone Poops. Register for all events. 718-229-4000. 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

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CORVETTE SHOW

7/27: 8:30am: Car registration (Corvettes, other performance/custom/classic cars welcome): \$30. Free for spectators. 516-572-4111. Cradle of Aviation, Charles Lindbergh Blvd., Garden City. (rain date: 7/28) www.CradleofAviation.org

CONCERT

7/28: 2:30pm. \$40-\$45. A Grand Night For Singing: Works of Rodgers and Hammerstein. 516-599-6870. Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont. www.PlazaTheatrical.co

OLD WESTBURY GARDENS

7/28: 3-4pm. Free w/admission Music: Savannah Sky. 8/3: 10:30-11:30am. Free w/admission. Ages 3-5. Storybook Stroll: "Berry Song." Craft. Registration required for most activities. 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. 516-333-0048. www.OldWestburyGardens.org

AL FRESCO MANHASSET

7/28: 4:30-8:30pm. Outdoor dining, shopping and entertainment. Pedestrians only. North Plandome, Colonial Parkway to Maple Place.

FUN DAY MONDAY

7/29: 9am-2pm. Free. North Hempstead Senior program. Resource Fair. Games, music, dancing, entertainment and exercise. For a bus pickup location near you call 311 or 516-869-6311. North Hempstead Beach Park, 175 W. Shore Rd., Port Washington. (Rain date: 8/1)

GARVIES POINT MUSEUM

7/29: 11am-12pm. 2-3pm. All ages. Shoreline Scavenger Hunt & Seining: Explore for crabs, snails, seashells etc. Water shoes welcome. Craft: (\$5 add'l fee): 11am-4pm, every ½ hour. 516-571-8010. Museum admission: \$5 adults, \$3 ages 5-12. 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. www.GarviesPointMuseum.com

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

7/31: 11am-1pm. North Hempstead residents. Skin Cancer Screening. Info: 311 or 516-869-6311 or on-line. Manorhaven Beach Park, Manorhaven Blvd., Port Washington.

CELLINI ITALIAN FESTIVAL

7/31-8/2: 6-11pm. 8/3: 3-11pm. 8/4: 3-10pm. \$2 admission. Rides, food court, vendors, Las Vegas games of chance, live music. St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 24 Westminster Rd., West Hempstead. www.Eacebook.com/Cellini Lodge 2206

8/3 & 8/4: 10am-4pm (last admittance 2:30). \$15 adults, \$12 ages 5-12, 60+, Free 4 and under. Olde Time Baseball Tournament. 516-572-8409. 1303 Round Swamp Rd. www.OldBethpageVillageRestoration.org

Free Movies & Concerts

7/25: 7pm. Half-Step (Grateful Dead tribute). Info: 311 or 516-869-6311. Gerry Pond Park, 36 Main St., Roslyn. www.NorthHem dNY.gov

7/25: 7-9pm. Barometer Soup (Jimmy Buffet tribute). Eisenhower.

7/25: 8pm.True Creative (Mitch Paulson). JB**

7/25: 8pm. Step by Step (Johnny Maestro tribute). 516-292-9000 ext. 7480. Rath Park, Franklin Square.

7/26: 7-9pm. The Doo Wop Show: Johnny Farina, Phil Cracolici and the Mystics, Vito Picone and the Elegants, Jimmy Gallagher. Eisenhower.*

7/30: dusk. Movie: Charlie & The Chocolate Factory. 516-572-0200. North Woodmere Park, 750 Hungry Harbor Road.

7/30: 8:30pm. Movie: Trolls Band Together. Info: 311 or 516-869-6311. Caemmerer Park, Wentworth Ave., Albertson. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

7/31: 12-2pm. Johnny Avino performs. Eisenhower Park, Field 1

7/31: 7:30pm. Line Dancing. Jones Beach.**

7/31: 8pm. Audio Replay. 516-292-9000 ext. 7480. Harold Walker Park, Lakeview.

7/31: dusk. Movie: Trolls 3: Trolls Band Together, Eisenhower,*

Free Movies & Concerts

7/26: 8pm. Echoes of the Eagles (Eagles tribute). Jones Beach.*

7/26: 8-10pm. Port Washington Summer Community Band. John Philip Sousa Memorial Bandshell, Sunset Park, Port Washington. norialBandshell.ord

7/27: 7-9pm. The Hilarious Hitmen (comedy musical spectacular). Eisenhower.*

7/27: 7:30pm. Streetfighter (Rolling Stones tribute). Bring chair/blanket. Mineola Memorial Park Amphitheater, 195 Marcellus Road. www.Mineola-NY.g

7/27: 8pm. The Journey Show (Journey tribute). Jones Beach.*

7/28: 6-8:30pm. Korean American Night. Eisenhower.

7/28: 7pm. Larger Than Life (Boy bands tribute). Info: 311 or 516-869-6311. North Hempstead Beach Pk, 175 W. Shore Rd, Port Washington. www.NorthHem teadNY.o

7/28: 8pm. DJ Hector Garcia. Jones Beach.*

7/29: 5-6:30pm. Senior Afternoon Concert: The Fireflies and The Devotions. Eisenhower.*

7/29: 8pm. Latin Night. Jones Beach.**

7/30: 7pm. Just Sixties. Info: 311 or 516-869-6311. Gerry Pond Park, 36 Main St., Roslyn. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

7/30: 7-8:30pm. Endless Summer (Beach Boys tribute.) 516-572-0200. Grant Park, Broadway & Sheridan Ave., Hewlett.

7/30: call for time. Stacev and Athena (children's show). Jones Beach.*

7/30: 8pm. The Byrne Unit. 516-292-9000 ext. 7480. Old Central Ave-Mill Brook Valley Stream

8/1: 7pm. Radio Flashback. Info: 311 or 516-869-6311. N. Hempstead Beach Parkk, 175 W. Shore Road, Port Washington dNY.aov

8/1: 8pm. Red Words (Christian Night). JB.**

8/2: 7pm. Freebird (Lynyrd Skynyrd). 516-292-9000 ext. 7480. Town Park, Point Lookout.

8/2: 7-9pm. Dancing Dream (Abba tribute). Eisenhower.

8/2: 7:30pm. Beyond Fab (Beatles tribute). Bring chair/blanket. Mineola Memorial Park Amphitheater, 195 Marcellus Road. w.Mineola-NY.gov

8/2: 7:30pm. Fiesta Tropical Triple M. 311 or 516-869-6311. Manorhaven Beach Park, Manorhaven Blvd., Port Washington. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

8/2: 8pm. Dedric + the Blowfish (Hootie and the Blowfish tribute). Jones Beach.**

8/2: 8-10pm. The Band of Long Island. John Philip Sousa Memorial Bandshell, Sunset Park, Port Washington. dshell.ora

8/3: 6:30-9:30pm. Salute to Vets Show: Face to Face & American Bombshells Eisenhower.

8/3: 8pm. Tribal Legacy (Caribbean music). 516-292-9000 ext. 7480. Elmont Road Park, Elmont.

8/3: 8pm. Sons of Skynyrd (Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute), Jones Beach.

*EISENHOWER PARK INFO Free, Bring chair or blanket, Weather: 516-572-0200. Lakeside Theatre, Field #6, EastMeadow www.Nassau gov/parks

**JONES BEACH INFO Free. Bring chair. 516-826-5979. Jones Beach Bandshell, Field #4. www.JonesBeach.co



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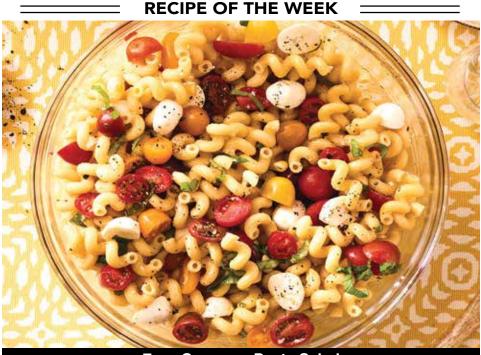
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