



EARTH MONTH

WEEK TWO: APRIL 8–14

REDUCING WASTE

READINGS

Psalm 95:1–7

POETRY

Remake us, Living God
Collect the rubbish scattered
on the roadside,
Hidden in the thicket;
All the careless discards of our lives.
Refine them in the crucible of
Your forgiving love.
Remold the green.
Reweave the angers;
From all our wretched sin,
your beauty bring.
- Chris Polhill^[i]

^[i]Iona Community devotional

REFLECTION

How can I reorient my attitude toward reducing, reusing and recycling as something more than just an important thing to do as a good citizen in society, but as an expression of my faith?

LEARNING

A new change to what can go in your curbside recycling cart: Paper Cups. In SWANCC communities paper cups are now recyclable as they can be made into new products like cereal cartons, facial tissue boxes, etc.
Example: paper Starbucks coffee cups.

Or

Watch *A Plastic Ocean*
by Craig Leeson

CHALLENGE

Make 5 dents against single-use plastic in your household: (1) ditch plastic bottles, (2) shop with reusable bags, (3) buy bamboo toothbrushes, (4) choose products not packaged in plastic whenever possible, and (5) recycle plastic used on single-use packaging.



PRAYER

Maker of Heaven and Earth,
We pray for an end to the
Waste and desecration of Your creation,
For access to the fruits of Your creation
To be shared equally among all people
And for communities and nations to find sustenance
In the fruits of the earth and the water You have given us.
You created the world and gave it
Into our care so that, in obedience to you,
We might serve all people:
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom,
and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all;
That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be
Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine,
and oppression.
Amen.^[ii]

^[ii]An End to Waste. <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/sustainability-prayers>

FACTS

A special tip about recycling plastics—Messaging and labels on plastic containers are confusing. The chasing arrows “recycling” symbol with a number does not indicate the recyclability of an item. The number symbol found on plastic items only indicates what type of plastic resin the item is made from, but that does not mean the item can be managed in the curbside recycling process. **ONLY PLASTIC BOTTLES, JUGS, JARS, AND TUBS ARE RECYCLABLE!** Many of these items have caps that assist in keeping the item’s shape so it is able to be detected by recycling equipment. (EXTRA TIP: Keep caps ON plastic items before recycling them! It is no longer best practice to separate caps from bottles.)^[iii]

^[iii] <https://swancc.org/about-us/news-to-know>