

DEG Fifth Grade Program

Bag It: Is your life too plastic?

To the presenter: Thank you for helping the Darien Environmental Group educate our students about the impact and dangers of single use, disposable plastics. Watching this movie can be overwhelming for adults (and maybe some kids) in terms of how insidious this problem really is. But take heart, this problem is one of the few that the average person can absolutely change. Please watch the movie ahead of time if possible. Please take the time to watch the movie before you present it to the kids.

The following is a list of talking points that you may address by pausing the movie and discussing OR by have a larger discussion at the end of the movie. Talking points are for you to use or not as you see fit.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SELECT THE 45 MINUTE VERSION OF THE MOVIE. You will be fast-forwarding through an outdated part of the movie; so it'll be a little less than 45 minutes.

Vocabulary to cover ahead of time: non-renewable resource, recourse, scarce, produce (as in vegetables). Ask the kids if they are familiar with these words and have them explain.

5:22 (Oil drilling): NATURAL RESOURCE: Pause/discuss: "Once they're gone, they're gone." What does this mean with regards to the production and use of plastics?

6:25 (grocery store): REUSABLE PRODUCE BAGS: Pause/discuss: Did anyone here know that there are such a thing as reusable produce bags? Or that you don't even have to put fruits and veggies in a bag?

8:10 (at the checkout): PLASTIC BAG FEES: Pause/discuss: What do you think about banning plastic bags? How about charging for them?

11:29 (teens at the picnic table): KIDS BANNING BAGS: Pause/discuss: Thoughts? Did you know that a group of adults in Darien tried to enact a ban here but it didn't pass? There is a ban in Westport.

*****13:10 (Jeb close up): Take the time to point out, reiterate that point that most plastics are made to be used for a few minutes but last forever. HOWEVER **please also assure children that right now their parents make the decisions and they shouldn't feel guilty about the decisions that parents make for them.** Their job is to go home, help educate their families, and to make their own decisions to help the earth when they are older. Every family does what works for them, but a little change can go a long way.

14:01 After the giggles subside, tell them that the statue of David is 514 years old!

18:24 (FIJI WATER BOTTLE: Pause/discuss: Why is this guy complaining? What the big deal about importing tap water from Fiji to the US? (Two reasons – So many people do not have

access to clean drinking water. AND transporting those plastic water bottles to a place that wants them but doesn't need them is wastes energy and pollutes the earth.

18:30 *** sale of water bottles has surpassed the sale of soda as of 2013

Vocabulary: Energy Content – the amount of energy it takes produce, transport, store, and dispose of a particular item.

25:12 (DRIVE THROUGH LADY): Going up to drive thru at fast food restaurants and asking to use your own containers seems a little extreme, but what can we do that is more in our own control?

27:20 PAUSE and ADVANCE MOVIE WHEN THEY BEGIN TO DISCUSS RECYCLING PLASTICS, #s in the triangles, types of plastics, etc. THIS IS OUTDATED INFORMATION!!! Single stream recycling, which is what we do in Darien, accepts almost all plastics. So, when in doubt, recycle it. Hit play at 28:50 (Painted Recycling Challenge sign)

32:10 (DINNER PARTY): Why is just hanging out with your friends better for the environment? Most things we get when we go out are single use – think bottles, coffee cups, food containers.

37:55 (CLOSE UP ON PLASTICS 40X Graphic): Make sure that that hits home.

38:35 – 42:22 (THE ALBATROSS and on): WARNING TO SENSITIVE KIDS!!! The following scenes contain images of animals (living and dead) and the effects of plastics on their lives.

Three big take-aways:

We use a non-renewable natural resource to make something that is designed to be used for less than 20 minutes, then thrown away.

There is no away.

We can walk out of this room today and make choices today that have a significant impact on the amount of plastic we use.

REFUSE-RETHINK-REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE