

Living In The Plastic Age

The word "plastics" comes from the Greek word "plastikos", which means "to form". Almost all plastics begin as fossil fuels - mainly petroleum, natural gas and coal. Plastic manufacturers refine, heat, pressurize or treat these fuels with catalysts to convert them into simple chemicals, called monomers, such as ethylene, propylene, etc. These monomers are then treated with heat, pressure and a wide range of chemicals in a process called polymerization.

Most plastics like water bottles live a single use, disposable life and end up polluting our environment. Recycling is a great option but even better is to reduce or eliminate their use entirely.

Suggestions on how you can help reduce waste, support your student, and save money:

- ❑ Carry a reusable water bottle (All DFSD schools have filtered water refill stations).
- ❑ For students who bring lunch, avoid packing ziploc bags and plastic wrap. Invest in reusable snack or lunch containers. These are inexpensive containers that can be found at any online or retail store and can save you money in the long run.
- ❑ Purchase BULK snacks and use a compostable bag, instead of single use plastic packaging.
- ❑ Bring your own shopping bag(s)! A plastic bag has an average 20 minute life span and typically ends up in a landfill or in the recycle bin by mistake. Plastic bags are NEVER recycled with commingled (plastic and glass), and are not accepted at the MRF (Material Recovery Facility in Yonkers). If put with curbside recycling, they might get stuck in the machines that process the recyclable materials and cost Westchester County time and money.

*Plastic bags can be recycled at Stop and Shop

- ❑ Learn what you can and cannot recycle in Dobbs Ferry! Plastic must always be free of food and have a triangle symbol with #1-7 in order to be recycled right!

<https://www.dobbsferry.com/departments-public-works/pages/curbside-recycling>

Mom's Organic at Rivertown Square offers extensive recycling options too.

<https://momsorganicmarket.com/recycle-center/>

- ❑ Consider composting - collect food scraps at home and divert this valuable resource from the landfill/trash. The Village of Dobbs Ferry offers a free drop off site

<https://www.dobbsferry.com/departments-public-works/pages/compost>

Hudson Compost Services offers a subscription service for curbside collection of food waste in Dobbs Ferry. <https://www.hudsoncompost.com/>