



July eNewsletter

DIVE INTO SUMMER AND PLASTIC-FREE JULY!

Did you know that the composition of the seafloor off Santa Barbara's coast has changed as a result of our increased plastic use?

In 2019, [researchers](#) from UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography examined layers of seafloor sediment off Santa Barbara's coast and discovered an "explosion of plastics pollution" in layers formed within recent decades. Core samples revealed increasing concentrations of microplastic pieces, many of which are smaller than a piece of lint.

Plastic pollution has direct local impacts, which is why reducing single-use plastic continues to be a major focus of Channelkeeper's work. This month, we hope you'll join us, the Community Environmental Council (CEC), and partners around the world in the challenge to 'Choose to Refuse' single-use plastic during the month of July.

Plastic-Free July is a global movement that empowers each of us to create a future with cleaner communities and oceans by refusing single-use plastics. This global campaign challenges us to commit to one month of doing our best to avoid

disposable plastic, while providing an opportunity to think and talk about plastic pollution as well as the alternatives and solutions we must advocate for.

The challenge is simple, and you can choose from different levels of participation:

- Pick one disposable plastic item to avoid using for the month;
- Refuse the big 4: plastic bags, water bottles, takeaway coffee cups, and straws; or
- Commit to avoid ALL single-use plastic.

Post about your experiences on social media using the #PlasticFreeJuly hashtag and share your favorite plastic reduction ideas.

We hope you'll join our plastic-reduction efforts and take the challenge! Connect with us on social media for #PlasticFreeJuly resources, plastic swap ideas, and stories from our experiences as we 'Choose to Refuse' single-use plastics this month.

[Join the Challenge](#)



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



THE WATERSHED BRIGADE'S BEACH CLEANUP IS A SUCCESS!

We did it! On June 19th, Watershed Brigade volunteers helped remove derelict lobster traps from the sand between Ellwood and Haskell's beaches and were able to fill a 40-foot dumpster with all of the metal debris!

Volunteers used shovels, wire cutters, and pry bars to dig out buried traps, remove rocks and debris, and take them offshore to a commercial fishing boat. Traps were then clipped onto a rope line and winched out from shore through the surf to a commercial fishing vessel, which transported them to the Santa Barbara Harbor for proper disposal.

We're grateful to all of the volunteers who spent the day cleaning up the coastline! This inspiring community effort demonstrates the power of our collective energy and the positive results that we can achieve for our environment.

Plus, during the month of June, **53 volunteers** removed an additional **712 pounds** of trash from **46 different locations** along the South Coast. Amazing work, Brigadiers!



EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Recognize these bright faces? In 2014 these students came aboard the R/V Channelkeeper for a Seafari and they recently returned for a marine conservation education cruise!

Today's youth are the decision-makers of tomorrow. Channelkeeper recognizes that the environmental ethics of young people are critical to our planet's future, so our education efforts have always prioritized youth programs.

Our in-person educational programs are back! With the Covid-19 closures, we had to shift our hands-on, in-the-field, and on-the-boat experiences to virtual lessons, but over the past couple of months as things have re-opened we are beyond thrilled to have resumed in-person programs.

Last week we visited a classroom for the first time in over a year, explored the beach at Sandspit with campers, and had the pleasure of taking out students from the Santa Barbara School of Squash on a Seafari marine conservation education cruise aboard the *R/V Channelkeeper* to take a closer look at a kelp forest.

If you have a group in mind for an education program with Channelkeeper, please contact [us](#)!



**JULY DISPERSED
URBAN CLEANUP EVENT
July 24-25**

This month, the Watershed Brigade is excited to focus on cleaning up urban areas--neighborhoods, city streets, and parks--and we'd love your help!

The weekend of July 24th-25th, we're planning a dispersed cleanup of urban areas throughout Santa Barbara. For maximum impact, we'll spread out and clear litter

from as many different urban spaces as possible. Be sure to make it official and [sign up here](#) for your favorite neighborhood, street, or park. Let's ensure that litter doesn't make its way through local storm drains and creeks to the ocean!

Each year, [5 to 14 million](#) tons of debris flows into the ocean from coastal areas. Not only can it be toxic to aquatic wildlife and humans, this pollution degrades the water quality and also destroys the beauty of the oceans and beaches that we swim and play in. By removing trash from urban environments, we can help keep our water clean and our Channel healthy.

[Sign Up](#)



FREE HUMBOLDT DISTILLERY CLEANUP BUCKETS AND GLOVES!

We'd like to thank [Humboldt Distillery](#) for their help in keeping our coast clean! Humboldt Distillery is supporting Waterkeeper Organizations throughout California by providing over 500 awesome trash cleanup buckets, gloves, and cool swag for us to give away to cleanup participants! Channelkeeper has buckets and gloves to share with Watershed Brigade volunteers this month!

Send us an [email](#) if you would like one of these awesome Humboldt Distillery buckets or gloves.

Using a bucket when you pick up litter is a great way to use less plastic--it's bag-free! Simply collect the trash on your cleanup in a bucket and then empty the contents in the nearest trash bin!



CELEBRATE SWIMMABLE CALIFORNIA DAY
July 25

Channelkeeper works to protect the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds and to ensure that they're clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. We monitor water quality throughout Santa Barbara County and respond to pollution reports to help keep our community healthy.

In 2013, the California Legislature passed a resolution to officially commemorate July 25th as "Swimmable California Day," recognizing Californians' right to waters that are clean and safe for swimming.

This July, we invite you to take a dip and snap a photo of yourself enjoying your favorite swimming spot. Use the **#SwimmableCA** hashtag for a chance to be highlighted on our social media! Here's to clean, swimmable water!

Climate and Economics

MOVING TOWARD A CIRCULAR MODEL
TO REDUCE WASTE

7.20.21 @ 12:00 p.m. PT | Zoom



SAY NO
TO
PLASTIC

MOVING TOWARD A CIRCULAR MODEL TO REDUCE WASTE

July 20

On July 20, from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. PT, the [Community Environmental Council](#) will present a free Climate Action webinar about the plastic pollution crisis, focusing on ways in which adopting a circular economic model can mitigate pollution while promoting economic growth.

Local business leaders will discuss the transition to a borrow-use-return model that designs waste out of the equation and ensures that products and materials are reused. As they outline this circular vision, they will share how they are successfully growing their businesses while reducing impact.

[Sign up](#)



**Your support for Channelkeeper's efforts
is needed now more than ever.**

Become a member of the Channelkeeper crew today with your tax-deductible donation. You'll be investing in clean water and healthy communities along the Santa Barbara Channel today and for future generations.

With your membership, you will receive our regular newsletters, news updates and action alerts, invitations to special Channelkeeper events and fun volunteer opportunities, and a free Channelkeeper sticker. All new donors contributing \$50 or more can also receive a Channelkeeper t-shirt, and for donations of \$250 or more, bi-annual issues of [Waterkeeper magazine](#). Become a member today!

BECOME A MEMBER



Including Santa Barbara Channelkeeper in your estate planning will provide the funds needed to protect water quality, fight pollution, and educate our community about the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds for years to come. [Contact us](#) to learn more.

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



Santa Barbara
CHANNELKEEPER®



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