

Not the Cling Wrap!

“Industrial pollution and the discarding of plastic waste must be tackled for the sake of all life in the ocean.”

– Sir David Attenborough

“Plastic waste is now found in the most remote areas of the planet. It kills marine life and is doing major harm to communities that depend on fishing and tourism.”

– António Guterres, UN secretary general.

“Not only are plastics polluting our oceans and waterways and killing marine life – it’s in all of us and we can’t escape consuming plastics.”

– Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International.

“We humans have become so dependent on plastics for a range of uses, from packaging to products.

Reducing our use of plastic bags is an easy place to start getting our addiction out of control.”

– David Suzuki, Canadian scientist, author and

As I prepared lunch for my grandson to take to kindy, I reached for my roll of cling wrap. Little Mister Three-year-old startled me by declaring that I shouldn’t use plastic. ‘We don’t like plastic at my day care,’ he informed me, hands on hips. ‘It’s not good for the planet.’

I had started to change my habits in order to reduce my carbon footprint but not to the point of giving up cling wrap. After all, it’s very useful stuff. I had encouraged members of Mothers’ Union to submit recipes to use up left-overs so we could address food waste. I avoided ‘fast fashion’ and encouraged recycling. I had banned single use plastic plates from our family occasions, lugging around a box of plates and cutlery I’d picked up at Lifeline. But it took a child to make me think about something as obvious as plastic wrap.

This happened some time ago and my grandson is now a wonderful young man, but I haven’t forgotten how indignant he was that day. I guess he thought Grandma should have known better.

This year I am reminded of his comments when I look at the theme for Earth Day 2024 which is ‘Planet vs. Plastics’. Earth Day has been celebrated every year since 1970 to raise awareness of the need to protect Earth’s natural resources for future generations. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22, the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. The celebration includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org involving 1 billion people in more than 193 countries, and this year calling for a commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040.

Are you taking part? I am not a scientist with buckets of knowledge, but there is plenty of material on the internet to give you guidance on this topic and information on how to be involved.

Susan Skowronski

AMUA Social Issues & Action Coordinator

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>

An Environmentally Friendly Alternative To Cling Wrap 2:46 mins

Click ► <https://youtube/mAO1BkhtCds>

