

## Wagner Families Earth Day Tips

April 22, 2019

Thank you to all our **Wagner families** who shared many ideas for reducing plastics and ways to preserve our environment. Read our list of Wagner Family ideas below (names of who submitted has been removed)

Ideas and Tips
Pack your lunch in reusable containers and bags. Bring your own reusable shopping and produce bags to markets.
Stop using plastic straws. No more straws. Buy boxes instead of bottles.
Our Dad works for a <a href="#">company</a> ( <b>Brightmark Energy</b> ) that is building a facility that is converting waste plastics into jet fuel, diesel and wax. We think it is a great solution. See attached press release for the project.
Convert old plastic bags into nanotubes which can make highly efficient batteries. <a href="#">Argonne National Laboratory</a>
Instead of buying liquid soap, shampoo, shaving cream, etc., which comes in plastic containers, our family has switched to bar soap (often bought without packaging or use paper packaging). It is also "minimalist" as one bar of soap doubles as soap, shampoo, shaving cream, etc. when we travel.

Use a safety razor. Safety razors are made from stainless steel instead of plastic disposable razors. Replacement blades are all stainless steel.

Bar soap - hand and shower soap does not need to come in plastic.

Don't use plastic wrap- use alternatives like beeswax cotton cloth.

Metal travel mug for your peets or starbucks - take a reusable travel mug to starbucks and don't get a disposable cup with plastic lid. And you save 10 cents on your order.

Reusable non-plastic water bottles: don't buy water in a plastic bottle. Much more economical and better for the environment to fill your own reusable, non-plastic, water bottle.

Natural fabric clothing- try to buy only natural fabric clothing. the best jeans don't have lycra. Wool is better at keeping you warm and dry, so don't buy a polar fleece jackets.

All birds shoes- made of natural fabrics and recycled plastic.

Restore a classic car - if you need a car, drive a classic. new cars are made of so much plastic. Classic cars have less plastic, bumpers are stainless steel, and classic cars are so much more fun to drive. Extra points if you convert to electric.

Wash and reuse plastic ziplock and vegetable bags until they are done. The kids and I for that matter bring them home after eating their lunch or snack is in and we wash it like another hand wash item.

Always carry a reusable water bottle (I take it with me more often than lipstick)

Take travel coffee cups when traveling esp if I will be in a hotel.

Avoid buying the plastic wrapped option (e.g., olive oil in metal tin rather than a plastic bottle)

Ski with a backpack with small water bottles

Re-use the plastic vegetable bags if they are the only option and just switched to great mesh bags (YIHONG Reusable Produce Bag)

Send things into Terra Cycle (they give you get free stuff for sending in certain plastics like the packaging for Bear Naked

Granola, Clif Bars and Honest Juices)

Latest endeavor is that I am planning on trying out camping tubes in place of "GoGurt" packets

Also to reduce junk mail from catalogs I use Catalog Choice (let us not forget Earth Day is more than plastics)

My little guy, Seth, loves transformers. Instead of purchasing brand new ones, that are wrapped in all kinds of packaging, we take our reusable bag to the swap meet and purchase used ones there. That keeps plastic out of landfills and it's a great way to reuse gently used toys.

We reuse our ziplock bags by washing them in hot soapy water

Lunch bots bento box lunch boxes!

I buy Bonne Maman jam (it's delicious) and use the jars as snack and lunch box containers. They have a nice shape, perfect for reuse!

Just say no to kids party favors made of plastic. If you really feel you must hand out a favor, consider a craft that kids make during the party, something edible like a yummy muffin in a paper bag, etc.

## Hard to recycle plastics drop off!

I encourage anyone who uses the following products to bring used containers to the drop off location near the Lafayette Library on April 28 from 11am to 2pm. I'll be there, and have been keeping (hoarding I should say) toothpaste tubes, old toothbrushes, oral care packaging and other health care related packaging the last couple of years and am happy to collect other families' stuff to drop off together with mine.

Lafayette's Earth Day is 4/28 Sunday on Golden Gate Way near the Lafayette Library 11am-2pm. Come by and say hello while we will have bins to collect these hard to recycle items and send them to TerraCycle (a company in the US) for recycling. Even if you can't make it to Earth Day, I am always collecting these things, so feel free to message me!

\*\*\*Oral care products, including toothbrushes, floss containers, toothpaste tubes, deodorant sticks, mouth wash containers, soap packaging. Any brand is fine. Empty please!

\*\*\*Personal cosmetics products packaging for hair care, skin care, lip care, etc. Any brand is fine. Empty please!

\*\*\*Healthy snack plastic smoothie pouches and caps (such as GoGo Squeez). Any brand is fine. Rinse and dry please!

\*\*\*Brita pitchers, dispensers, bottles, faucet systems, all filters, and filter packaging. Must be only Brita.

\*\*\*Extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, tobacco packaging, ash. Any brand is fine. If you collect these like me, put them in a sealed container so the odors don't escape!

\*\*\*Contact lenses and contact lens blister packages. Any brand is fine.

\*\*\*Bread plastic tags.

Made a dolls' house out of cardboard boxes.

Use reusable metal containers for lunches. If you need disposable, Safeway has compostable snack/lunch bags.

Ryan is just learning about sorting and takes pride in keeping our family accountable for sorting and throwing away trash in the 3 bins.

At dry cleaner: don't take the plastic cover or bring own cloth cover (can order online). Give hangers back for reuse or just carry clothes over arm at pick up. Instead of plastic wrap to cover food - bought containers to store in fridge. Supply fork/spoon for lunch in a holder and child returns home; I bring my own utensils and nicer to eat with metal! Hand wash more to avoid chemicals at dry cleaner.

We're bringing our snack in reusable snack bags now, instead of sending it in Ziplocks to be thrown away at snack recess.

At the grocery store, we use reusable mesh bags to carry our fruits and veggies.

We try to buy bulk whenever possible, e.g. Method cleaner, pasta, trail mix, etc to reduce use of packaging.

My office prints a cover sheet for each person who prints from network printer. While those cover sheets can certainly be recycled, we make one more use of them as scratch papers (use the blank side).