



Advancing the Plastics Pollution Solution

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Chair, Sustainable Jersey Waste Management Task Force

May 13, 2020



Announcements



More info on each initiative can be found in the rotating images at sustainablejersey.com

- **Certification Timeline Changes**
 - **Municipal** – Samantha, info@sustainablejersey.com
 - **Schools** – Veronique, lambertv@tcnj.edu
- **Energy Toolkits & Energy Efficiency Outreach Trainings -**
Nancy, quirkn@tcnj.edu
- **Free Municipal Tech Coaching** – Lauren, skowronl@tcnj.edu
- **Census Response** – Samantha, info@sustainablejersey.com

Agenda

- **Review**
 - ✓ The Complex Nature of Plastics
- **Describe**
 - ✓ What we Know About Plastics in New Jersey
- **Frame**
 - ✓ Existing and Future Potential SJ Actions
- **Discuss**
 - ✓ Challenges Ahead of Us– Problems To Overcome
- **Present**
 - ✓ Impacts on COVID-19 on Plastics Bans
- **Brainstorm**
 - ✓ What May Happen Post Lock-Down
- **Forecast**
 - ✓ Where We Need to Go in the Big Picture

Complexity of Plastics

WHAT DO RECYCLING SYMBOLS ON PLASTICS MEAN?



PET, PETE **(Polyethylene Terephthalate)**

- Soft drink, water and salad dressing bottles; peanut butter and jam jars...
- Suitable to store cold or warm drinks. Bad idea for hot drinks.



HDPE **(High-density Polyethylene)**

- Water pipes, milk, juice and water bottles; grocery bags, some shampoo / toiletry bottles...



PVC **(Polyvinyl Chloride)**

- Not used for food packaging.
- Pipes, cables, furniture, clothes, toys...



LDPE **(Low-density Polyethylene)**

- Frozen food bags; squeezable bottles, e.g. honey, mustard; cling films; flexible container lids...



PP **(Polypropylene)**

- Reusable microwaveable ware; kitchenware; yogurt containers; microwaveable disposable take-away containers; disposable cups; plates....



PS **(Polystyrene)**

- Egg cartons; packing peanuts; disposable cups, plates, trays and cutlery; disposable take-away containers....
- Avoid for food storage!**



Other **(often polycarbonate or ABS)**

- Beverage bottles; baby milk bottles. compact discs; "unbreakable" glazing; lenses including sunglasses, prescription glasses, automotive headlamps, riot shields, instrument panels...

@veganology

**Safe food containers are made from number
1, 2, 4, and 5 plastics.**

Plastics Recycling Breakouts

- IPF's or MRF's Process "Post-Consumer" Plastics;
- **Normal Breakout Categories:**
 - PET: Clear Water Bottles
 - HDPE Natural: Milk Containers
 - HDPE Color: Laundry Detergent Containers
 - LDPE Film Natural: Dry Cleaner Bags
 - LDPE Film Colored: Clothing Bags
 - Mixed Rigid: Spackling Buckets, Kids Toys
 - Other 3 – 7 Plastic: Yogurt and other Containers
 - PVC: White and Dark Piping, Etc.

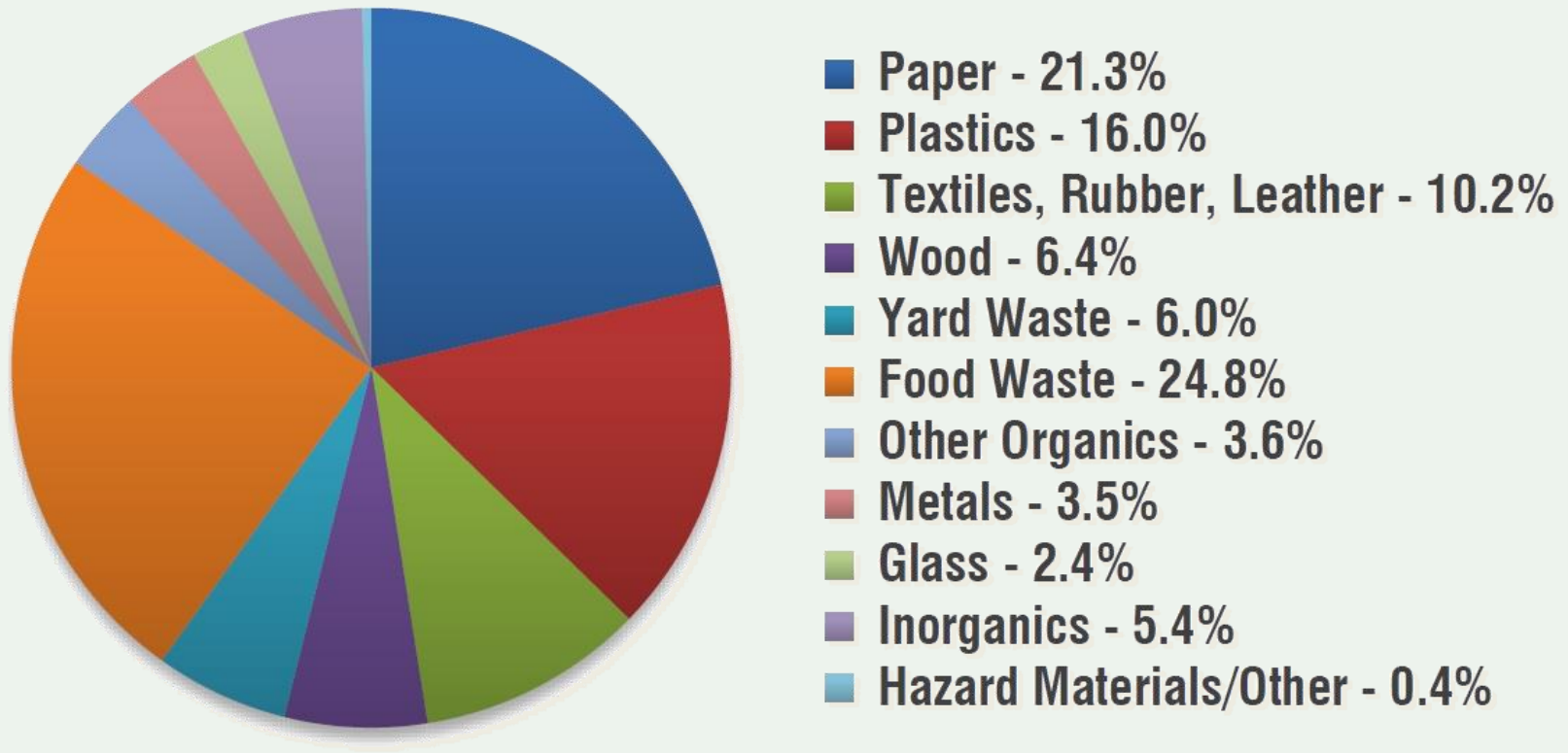
HDPE Color



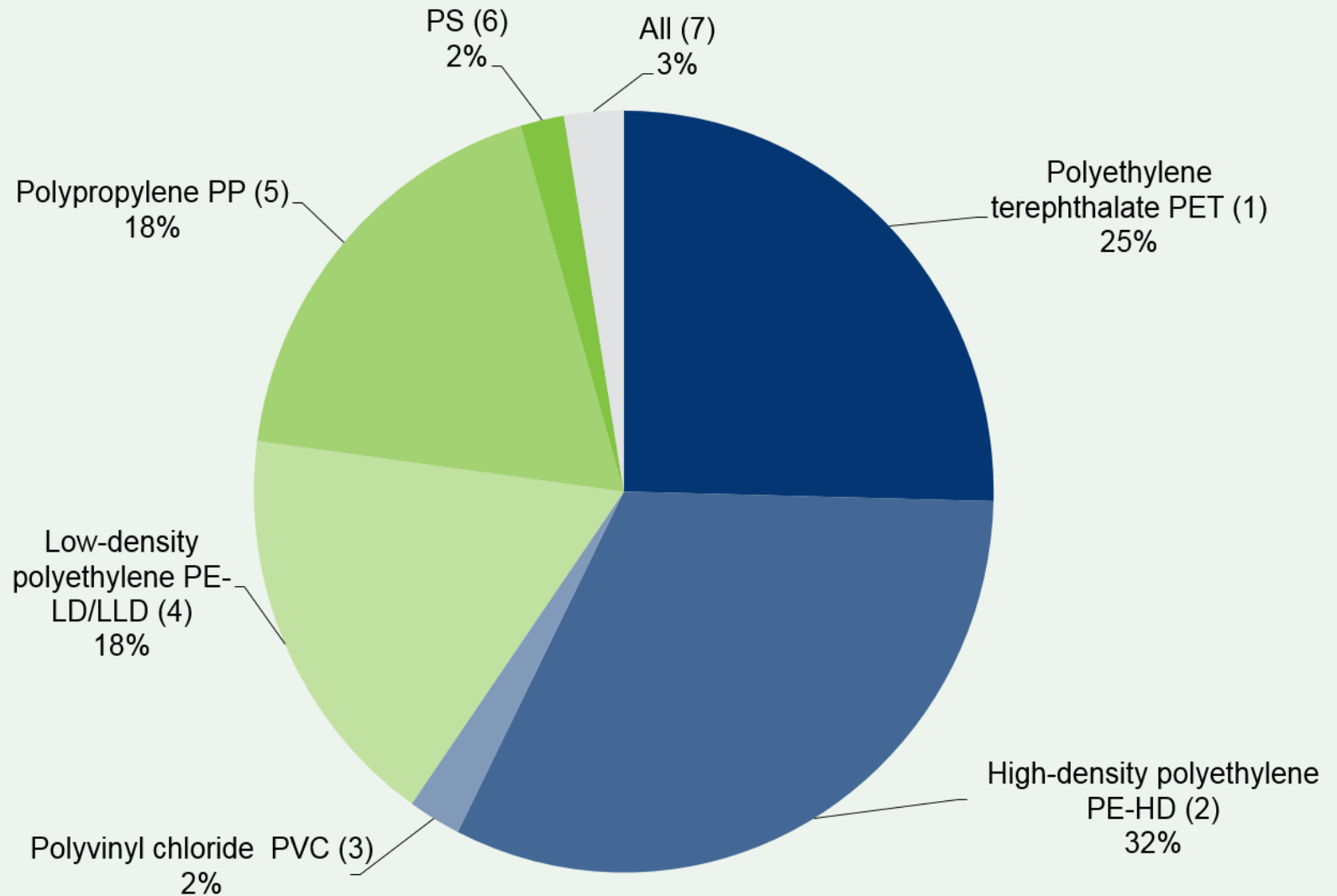
PET Water Bottles



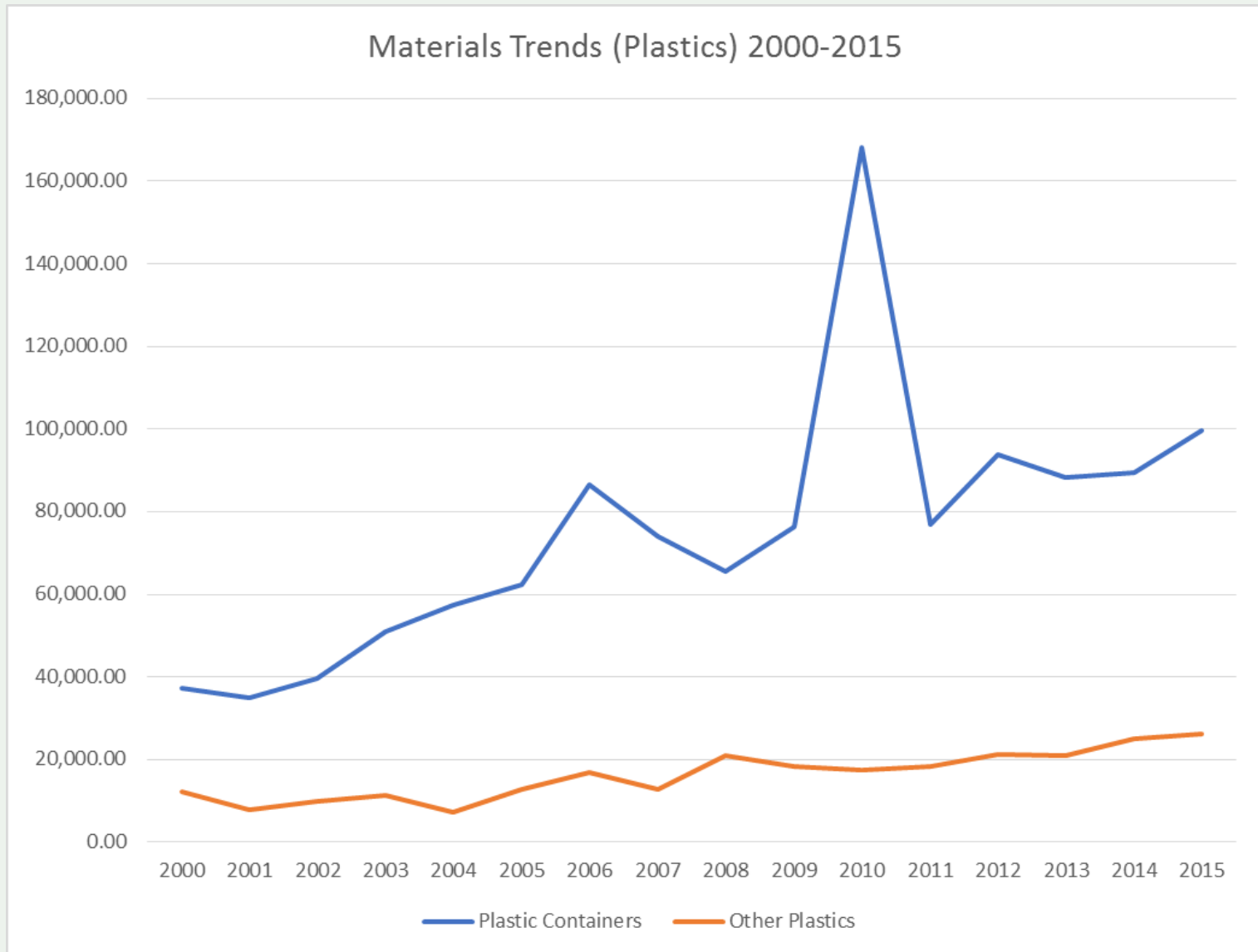
What's Left in the Can After 30 Years of Mandatory Recycling?



Composition of Plastics



Plastics Trending Up



Sustainable Jersey & Plastics

Existing Municipal Program Actions:

- Recycling & Waste Reduction Education & Compliance
- Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
- Reusable Bag Education Program

New Proposal: Single-Use Plastic Ban Ordinances

- Single use plastic bag bans – 10 Points;
- Single use plastic straw bans – 10 Points;
- Styrofoam take-out container bans – 10 Points;
- Banning the release of balloons – 5 Points;
- Disposable-Free dining ordinance – 5 Points;
- Zero Waste Events Ordinance – 5 Points

Incredibly Exciting Times!

- **Recycling Markets** are the Most Challenging in History!
- We have **Unprecedented Media Focus** on Recycling and Plastics:
 - Hollywood – “A Plastic Ocean”, “Bag It”, “Smog of the Sea”
 - Microplastics Threat – Rutgers Conference in March 2019
 - Proposed State (S864/A1978) and Federal/International Legislation
 - “Save Our Seas 2.0” Combat Marine Debris & Create Infrastructure
- Creation of the “**Alliance to End Plastic Waste**” and Pledge to Provide **\$1.5 BILLION** to Address the Problem (P&G, Shell, Veolia, Suez, Exxon/Mobile, Phillips/Chevron, Dow Chemical, PolyOne, BASF and others)
- **International Pilot** for Reuse by **TerraCycle: LOOP Program** (P&G, Nestle, PepsiCo, Unilever, Mars, Clorox, Coca-Cola)
 - Toronto, Paris and New York City Started in May 2019
- **LOOP Now Expanding** Across USA This Summer, Record Sales in March and April Due to Pandemic

Status of Ban Ordinances

- Bag Bans = 57 Towns (Jersey City, Trenton, Bayonne)
- Styrofoam Take-Out = 20 Towns (Lambertville, Paramus)
- Straws = 18 Towns (Red Bank, Summit, Belmar)
- Balloons = 29 Towns (Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Shore)
- Ordinances Pending = 19 (Newark, Edison, Princeton)
- 9 States Plus Puerto Rico with Ban Legislation
 - California New York Hawaii
 - Vermont Maine Maryland
 - Oregon Delaware Connecticut
- Jersey Pending S864/A1978 - Ban on plastics and paper carryout bags & Styrofoam, straws on demand.



Plastic Packaging Challenges

- 100 MILLION Tons Manufactured Globally Annually;
- 9 BILLION Tons of Plastic Manufactured by Mankind;
- In the U.S. – only about 10% is recovered of all Plastic;
- Problematic Packaging:
 - Pigmented Plastic (Laundry Containers);
 - Lightweighting Trend;
 - Multilayered Laminated Pouches;
 - Decorative Advertising of Different Resins;
- Single Stream Increases Volume - Much Lower Value;
- Tremendous Confusion on What is and Isn't Recyclable!



COVID-19 Impacts on Plastics

- Public Health Concerns Take Center Stage What is Safer, Reusables or Disposables??? – Jury Still Out!
- Temporary Repealing of Single Use Plastic Bans
 - Boston Reinstated Use
 - Mass Banned Reusable Bags/Preempted Local Ban
 - New Hampshire Temporarily Banned Reusable Bags
 - Maine Delayed Implementation (April 22 Effective Date)
 - Connecticut Suspended Bag Fee (10 cents)
 - Hawaii Suspended Ban
- Petroleum Glut – Lowest Gas in 15 Years – Below \$2.00
- Prices for Even #1 and #2 Have Gone Negative!

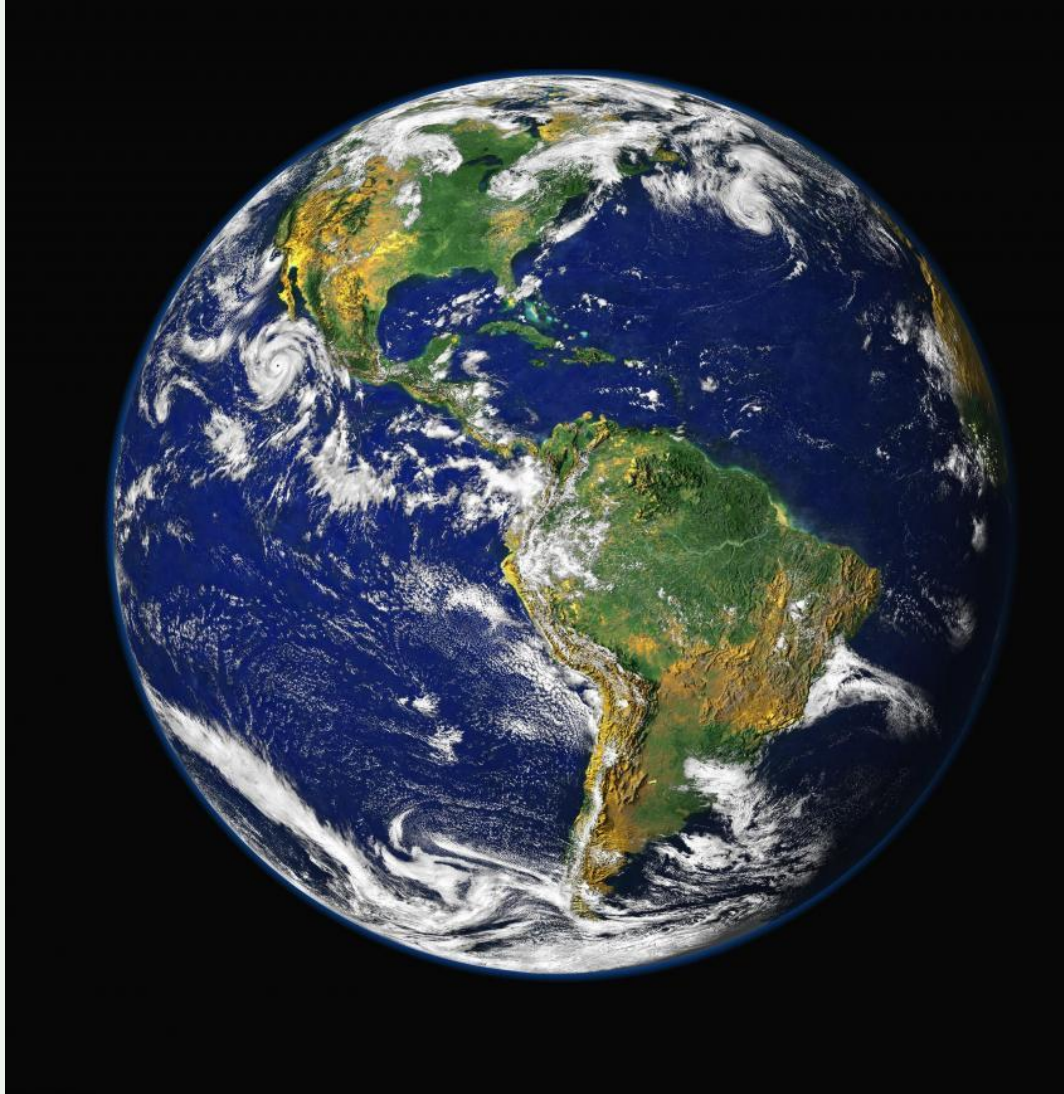


Long-Term Global Considerations

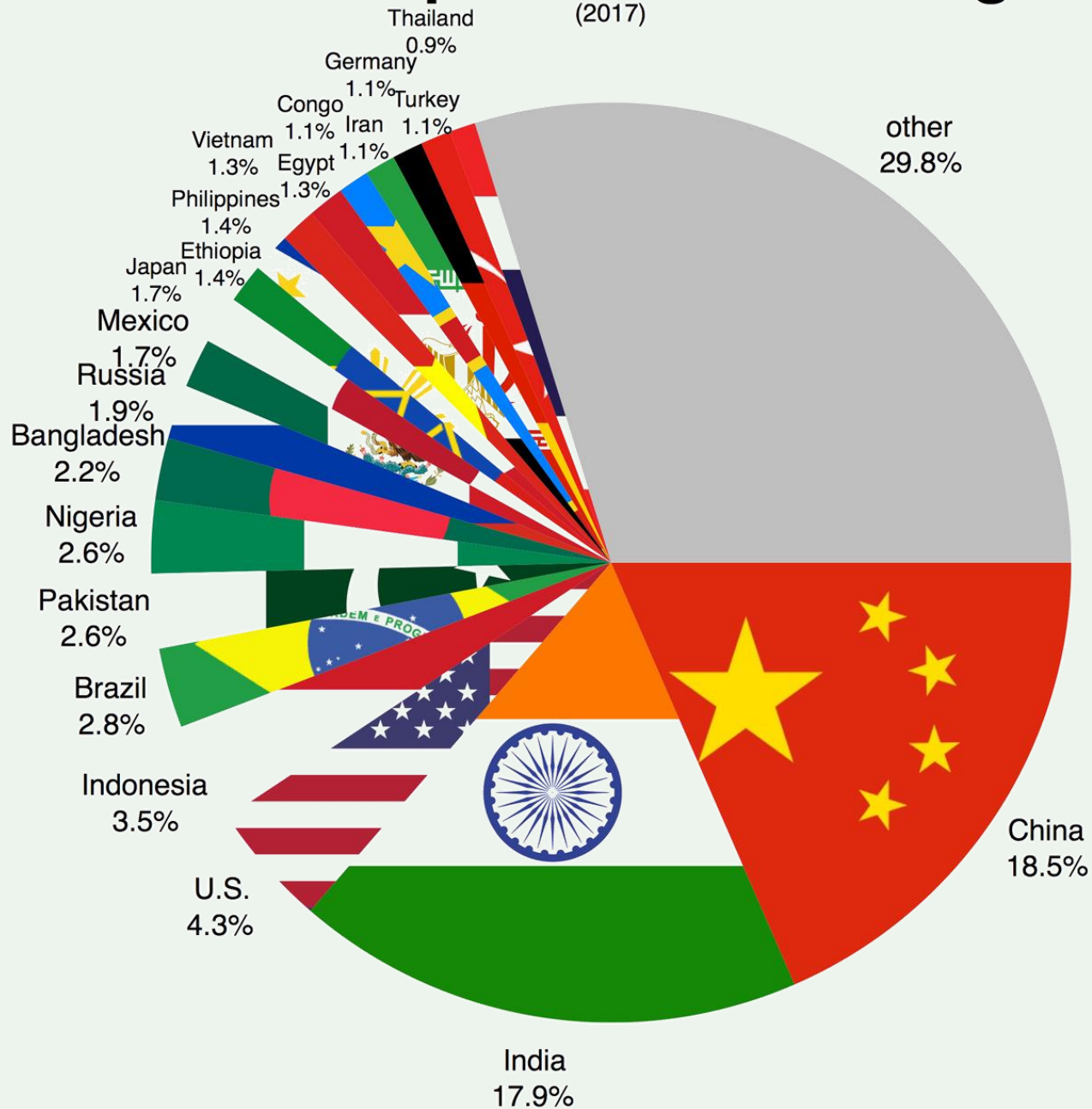
- The World Has Been Rocked By COVID-19!
- Arguably the Most Cohesive International Response In History – Shared Science and Public Policy Action
- Will we Emerge From Quarantine More United or Divided?
- Have we Had the “Wake-Up-Call” to Prepare for Climate?
- Dependence on Plastics is NOT Sustainable!
- Must Focus on Plastic Impacts to Fisheries & Public Health
- Fish is the Primary Source of Nutrition to 1 Billion People
- Behavior, Science & Public Policy MUST Come Together
(Waste Reduction, Recycling, Technology, Common Goals)



Think Globally, Act Locally



World Population Percentages



Resources

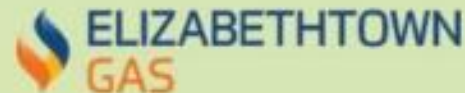
- Sustainable Jersey Actions:
<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions/>
- Clean Water Action NJ Toolkit:
<https://www.cleanwateraction.org/plastics-toolkit>
- ANJEC – “Are Reusables Safe?”
<https://anjec.org/action-alerts/>
- Clean Ocean Action – Microplastics
<http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=824>
- Rutgers University – Microplastics in the Urban Environment
<https://cues.rutgers.edu/microplastics-conference-2019.html>



PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS



SUMMIT SPONSORS



Final Week of Virtual Sustainability Summit

List of VSS events & to register -
bit.ly/NJVirtualSustSummit

Recordings of VSS events –
**www.sustainablejersey.com >
Resources > Presentations >
Sustainability Summit**

Register

Protecting Drinking
Friday, April 24, 11:00

Register

Asbury Park Dinner
Monday, April 27, 4:00

Register

Questions?

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