KVMR PLASTIC FREE JULY script

We have all likely heard of the single-use plastic crisis in the oceans, rivers, killing sea life, littering our streets and parks - and now the research is showing that it is in US - in human bodies in the form of Micro and nano-plastic. It is believed to be negatively affecting human endocrine systems, among other things. It is no longer out there. It is right here, in our water, soils and air as a pollutant. I am asking the California Water Board to require testing of our County water supply.

Now WE can be part of the solution! Right here at home. Plastic Free July is a worldwide campaign to reduce single-use plastic waste and mostly to help people start new habits to avoid plastic in the first place! The local Nevada County kick-off event is Monday June 27 from 6:30-8pm at the Nevada County Media headquarters on Whispering Pines Rd. Please look at the Nevada County Climate Action Now website for details.

Are we down on all plastic? Of course not. There are many good and necessary plastic items, like on a car where it helps to make the car lighter to save on Energy and emissions. We do need to be careful of where it is used since it contains toxins. It is made from fossil fuels and other chemicals after all. A plastic water bottle left in the sun can warm up enough to release toxins into the water. Research show that Bottled water has a very high percentage of microplastics present, in addition to toxic chemicals from the packaging. According to research conducted by Orb Media, [93% of the 11 bottled water brands sampled](https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/bottled-water-microplastics-1.4575045), all showed traces of microplastics.

We are targeting the single-use plastic packaging for snacks, chips, bottles and containers that are only used for a short time and trashed. None of that can be recycled at this time except for #1 and 2 bottles – although the industry is working on ways to deal with it. What a waste of money to pay 5-50% of the cost of an item just for packaging that will get thrown away into the landfill where it creates Methane to add to the greenhouse gases and the climate crisis.

This June 27 event is only the first of the events that will help to gain awareness to create a nationwide movement to reduce this material. Since we are the consumers who buy it, we can change to become more discriminating on what we really need to buy that comes in a plastic container – and more responsible for how we dispose of it. June 27 speakers will give you information on the actions to start taking in your own life – and in our community – like what happens to the plastic you put in the bin. And a list of alternatives to the take-out plastic containers to share with those eateries to encourage change. Now - the new refill revolution is happening – buy bulk and refill rather than buy a new container. If you must take a plastic bag, how can you get it recycled responsibly? Our local Rotary clubs are helping us with their program to recover bags and the enormous amount of shrink wrap in the back rooms of stores, and the food banks. If you love the Yuba River (as most of us do), SYRCL will talk about how much trash is taken out of the river each year left behind by unresponsible people who do not think about the results of their actions.

Nevada County Climate Action Now website will have information about the June 27 event as well as the July 13 screening of an award-winning documentary called The Story of Plastic. This plastics crisis touches almost every segment of our society including social justice issues. Come have fun being part of the solution to make personal and community changes to reduce single-use plastics and the negative ramifications they have on our Precious Earth, here and around the world.