

+ Positives of Plastic

Plastics: The Sustainable Choice

Industries across the economy choose plastics as a sustainable choice because they are **lightweight, durable, versatile and the most resource-efficient option available**. Though critics tend to be more in favor of alternatives like glass, metal and wood, studies prove that **plastics should be a go-to** for consumers and companies alike seeking to conserve energy, water and carbon.

Plastics conserve energy at all points in the product life cycle.



A standard plastic straw uses **substantially less energy** during production than paper.



Substituting plastic packaging with alternative materials can **increase transportation energy** usage.



At **end-of-life**, recycling one pound of plastic requires far less energy than recycling one pound of paper.



All of this means savings for business and consumers.

Plastics conserve water in a variety of consumer-based and industrial applications.



Drip irrigation systems made from polyethylene and soaker hoses made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) **increase water efficiency** in backyards and agricultural areas.



Plastic piping can help reduce the **850 broken pipe incidents** that occur daily.



Plastic pool covers prevent **up to 95%** of pool water evaporation, **saving thousands of gallons** of water that float into the sky every month.

Plastics conserve carbon across the economy.



Replacing all plastic bottles with glass would create carbon emissions equivalent to the amount produced by **22 coal-fired power plants**.



Airplanes made with plastic use **less fuel** than those with fewer plastic parts.

50%
plastics by
volume



10%
plastics by
weight

Plastics make cars lighter, conserving fuel and lowering emissions.