



POLLUTION OFF THE LOUISIANA SHORES!!

There have been headlines in the news about an ocean tragedy caused by human activity – discarded plastics, fishing nets and other garbage endangering sea-life and possibly entering our food chain. A simple search of the Internet will reveal photos and testimonies of what our disposable society is doing to sea-life and the health and esthetics of our beaches. Many countries have banned the use of plastic shopping bags as grazing animals will ingest the bag and sea creatures such as turtles will be attracted to the partially or totally submerged plastic bag as it closely resembles a favorite food source- jelly fish.

“Recent scientific studies have found that some plastics eventually break down into smaller pieces due to the combination of the sun’s radiation and temperatures of the warmer waters. These pieces may be so small that they appear to be fish eggs and are consumed by tiny organisms and small fish at the bottom of the food chain. Research has indicated that as the plastic breaks down chemicals used in manufacturing the plastics are released either to the water or inside the stomachs of the animals ingesting them. Many of us have read of the hazards of consuming certain fish species because of the high level of mercury found in them. Will chemicals from plastics be the next toxins of concern? Perhaps pseudoscience, perhaps not. It is estimated that roughly 20% of the plastic debris found floating in our oceans originated from vessels or people gathered on our seashores. The rest originated from rivers and their tributary systems located throughout the world”.

Plastic litter is thru-out Bossier City. A look into any drainage ditch will prove that. This is debris that has been tossed out of vehicle windows, left to blow into the street from grassy yards and the backs of pick-up trucks, parking lots or from the emptying of dumpsters on garbage pick-up days. When it rains the plastic is carried down the street and into the storm drain inlets that lead to the drainage ditches. These ditches lead to the rivers, the rivers to the gulf. This is a problem that we all can do something about. Please, if you see litter, pick it up. Call Keep Bossier Beautiful to participate in neighborhood clean-up events. If you don’t recycle, please consider doing so. There’s so much improvement needed, so much to be done.

City of Bossier City Environmental Affairs	213-2159
Keep Bossier Beautiful	213-2100
City of Bossier City Recycling Center	754-5465