

# LIFE OF A PLASTIC BOTTLE IN GEORGIA

If the lifespan of a plastic bottle were scaled to 24 hours, the average consumer uses it for less than a second.



First, fossil fuels are extracted. Most plastics are made from petrochemicals like shale gas.



Bottles are manufactured, sent off to be filled with water or soda, and then shipped to retailers to be sold.



## HIDDEN COSTS: PRODUCTION

3:1

3oz of water used for every 1oz of water storage.

5:1

5 oz of CO2 is created per 1 oz of PET produced.



## USE BY CONSUMERS

The average person uses 156 plastic bottles annually, and more are used commercially. In 2003, 89,577 tons of plastic bottles were landfilled in Georgia.



But plastic is nonbiodegradable, and will exist on Earth for approx. 450 years. What happens to the billions of plastic bottles discarded in Georgia annually?

## HIDDEN COSTS: DISPOSAL

Litter Cleanup: cost \$12 million dollars in 2001, but the vast majority of litter is cleaned by unpaid volunteers.

Landfilling Costs: at \$43.80/ton in Georgia, landfilling plastic bottles alone costs more than \$4 million dollars annually.



## RECYCLING,

Only 5 to 6% of plastics are recycled. Plastic recycling is logistically challenging, expensive, and often dangerous, as plastic is manufactured with toxins. 1/3 of North America's recycled bottles are brought to Northwest Georgia to become carpet.

Plastic bottles are easy for you but a burden to all of us.

Consider using less plastic and buying a reusable water bottle!

Improperly discarded plastic pollutes the environment and threatens wildlife. 87% of surveyed Georgia residents agree litter affects their quality of life.



## OR LANDFILL

Plastics constitute 15% of waste in Georgia landfills, with over a billion tons disposed. Right now there are 56 landfills in Georgia.



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