Most plastic containers can take up to 450 years to completely degrade. But well before it’s gone, plastic litter breaks into smaller and smaller pieces that continue to persist in the environment. These tiny plastic particles, called microplastics, can be consumed by marine organisms. Effects from microplastics are especially pronounced in the estuaries that foster a diversity of wildlife species.

Plastics, Microplastics, and Wildlife
Litter finds its way into our estuaries. Plastics break into tiny particles that are hard to see, but their molecules are resilient enough to remain intact for thousands of years.

Did You Know
You could fit more than 400 microplastic particles on the head of a pin. The best way to keep waters free of microplastics is to clean up plastics before they break apart.

You Can Help
• Buy fabrics made of natural materials like cotton, flax, and wool.
• Carry a refillable drink bottle instead of using single-use beverage bottles.
• If you do drink from a disposable container, be sure it gets recycled.
• Take part in clean-up efforts to make our neighborhoods and estuaries free of plastics.

Think about all the plastics you use, and strive to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.