

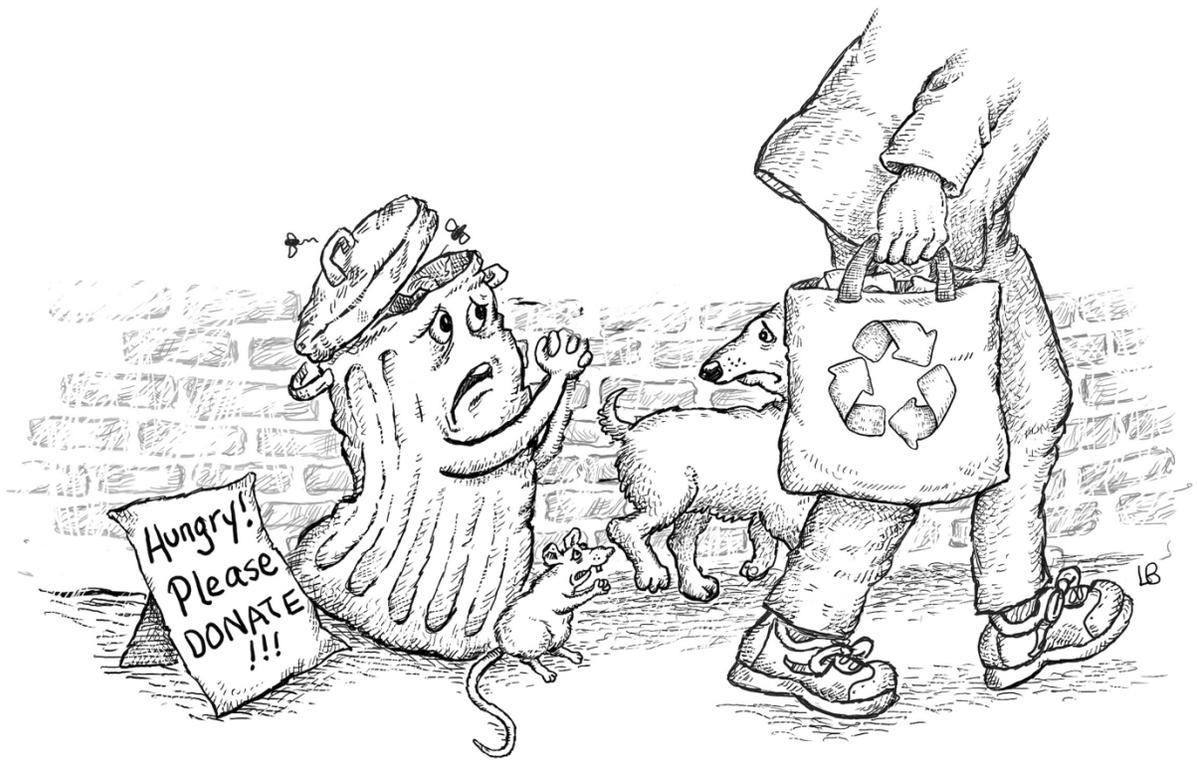
MOVING TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

A guide to products and resources



Produced by the Pelham Sustainability Working Group ♦ Pelham, MA
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Introduction

The Pelham Sustainability Committee is dedicated to helping Pelham residents and town departments take action in promoting sustainability. As we learn more about the dire condition of our planet, it is important to pay attention to the ways we can change our consumer habits to reduce waste, eliminate plastic, and contribute to the health of the environment. We are in this together; we are participating in a broad movement of individuals and groups working to achieve necessary change. To move toward Zero Waste requires conscious attention as well as habit change. It isn't always convenient or cheap. It can be confusing and overwhelming. Sometimes we will make mistakes. Sometimes it seems futile to act individually.

And yet there is good news! Many companies and organizations are emerging that are trying to make a difference for consumers—changing the form or packaging of their products, avoiding toxins, reducing or eliminating plastic, and providing recycling opportunities for their packaging.

To help each other cut through the confusion of how to begin, we have compiled a list of companies and resources that offer sustainable alternatives to products we use on a daily basis. This list is not a recommendation of products or companies, nor is it a complete list. We hope it will get you started as you think about the steps you can take toward a more sustainable and ecological lifestyle.

Additionally, we have listed some websites that rate companies that make and sell sustainable products, as well as articles about sustainability. On your journey toward a more sustainable life, you too may come across products, useful websites and articles not listed here. Please let us know so we can update our postings. You can contact us at jessica.g.barr@gmail.com.

Table of Contents

Zero Waste Product Guide: Item/Company Index	2
Company Descriptions and Information	3-7
Zero Waste Resources	8-9

Zero Waste Product Guide: Item/Company Index

Because companies are rapidly expanding into zero-waste products, this list cannot be comprehensive.

How to Use this Index: Across the top are categories of commonly-used household items. On the left are companies that specialize in zero-waste versions of those products. In the following pages, we give web links for each company and a brief description of their products and/or zero-waste philosophies.

	Hair care	Skin care	Oral hygiene	Feminine hygiene	Soap	Deodorant	Cosmetics	Laundry	Dish soap	Cleaning	Art	Pet	Paper products	Kitchen	Bathroom
Bestowed Essentials			X		X			X							
Blueland		X			X			X	X	X				X	X
Dropps								X	X	X				X	X
Earth Hero	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Eco Collective	X	X			X	X	X			X	X				
Eco Roots	X	X	X			X		X	X						
Full Circle Home														X	
Green Eco Dream	X	X			X			X		X			X	X	X
Grove Collaborative		X			X			X	X	X		X	X		
If You Care													X	X	
Kind Laundry								X							
Lovett Sundries	X	X			X	X		X	X					X	
Meliora Means Better		X			X			X	X	X				X	X
Natural Earth Paint											X				
Net Zero Company								X	X	X				X	
No Tox Life	X	X	X		X	X			X					X	X
One World Zero Waste	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Public Goods	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Seventh Generation				X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X
Sustainable Tomorrow			X												
The Earthling Company	X	X			X										
Tru Earth								X		X					X
Ware	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Who Gives A Crap													X		X
Zero Waste Cartel	X		X		X			X							X
Zero Waste Outlet	X		X		X			X	X					X	
Zero Waste Store	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Company Descriptions and Information

Bestowed Essentials

bestowedessentials.com/

Conscious body & home goods; no animal testing; plastic-free packaging; carbon-neutral shipping. Products include hand-crafted bar soaps, solid dish soap, laundry powder, tooth powder, and more. They write, “From using upcycled food in our soaps to using recycled materials for our packaging, we’re always looking for ways to not only minimize the trash we make ourselves, but to reuse waste from other businesses.”

Note: The website says that they will soon launch a new name & website: **Rewild**



Blueland

blueland.com

Plastic-free (including polyvinyl-alcohol-free) refillable hand soaps, laundry soaps, dish detergents, toilet cleaners, etc. in plastic-free packaging. Subscriptions for refills are available.

Droppps

droppps.com

Droppps sells cleaning products that use plant- and mineral-based ingredients that are meant to reduce single-use plastics. They have ingredient transparency and use high standards for their sourcing. They offer a variety of laundry detergents and softeners as well dishwasher detergents and hand soap.

Earth Hero

earthhero.com

Earth Hero’s website allows you to “shop by values,” including such values as US-made, woman-/Black-/ LGBTQIA+-owned, organic, plastic-free, and repurposed materials. They offer a large range of products, including audio and tech accessories, cosmetics, kids’ products, pet products, and sports gear. One percent of each year’s profits are donated to sustainability initiatives and organizations.

The Earthling Company

theearthlingco.com

The Earthling Co. advertises “thoughtfully designed products that nurture earth-friendly habits and routines,” including haircare and skincare items. Plastic-free starter kits available. This company defines “sustainability” as “involv[ing] multiple angles, including improving the way products are made and consumed, and reducing negative environmental impacts throughout a

product's lifecycle. We also take into consideration the sustainability of our company's operations." The Earthling Co. is a Climate Neutral Certified business.

Eco Collective

<https://www.ecocollective.com/>

Primarily sells skin- and self-care items, as well as a few cleaning products and stationery. Paper products are made of recycled materials.

Eco Roots

ecoroots.us

Eco Roots focuses on goods that are used in one's everyday routines, such as skincare products, laundry detergent, and basic household cleaning supplies. Their products use minimal plastic and they ship with plastic-free packaging. A portion of all proceeds goes to sustainability initiatives.



Full Circle Home

fullcirclehome.com

Sells kitchen products and utensils that are made out of paper. They claim to offer "our newest material innovation that takes the shape of a breathtaking, high performing collection of kitchen tools. Handles are made from a minimum of 75% kraft paper." Products are food- and dishwasher-safe and intended to be long-lasting.

Green Eco Dream

greenecodream.com

Green Eco Dream was created to be "a one-stop shop for everything sustainable." They sell a variety of personal care and cleaning products, as well as paper products.

Grove Collaborative

grove.com

Grove is a customizable recurring shipment service that offers environmentally friendly, non-toxic, cruelty-free household and personal care products. Their website features 200+ vetted brands. "Everything at Grove has met our standards for ingredient transparency, is cruelty-free, and is 100% plastic neutral." You can use free subscriptions to personalize your monthly shipments.

If You Care

ifyoucare.com

If You Care manufactures and sells products such as coffee and tea filters; baking, cooking, and household wraps; firelighters; and trash bags. They "analyze the entire life cycle chain in developing products, from raw materials sourcing, to production process, to packaging, to

disposal” and base their environmental claims “on the best available science, and in accord with national and international standards and regulations.” Products are available online or from a wide distribution of stores across the country.

Kind Laundry

kindlaundry.com

Produces laundry products including detergent sheets, stain remover bars, scent boosters, and wool dryer balls that are primarily plant based plus a few laundry related accessories. (Please note that most detergent sheets include polyvinyl alcohol, which is a plastic product.) It also sponsors a blog that gives laundry advice. You can buy in bulk, or in bundles, including a small bundle of supplies for laundry while traveling.

Lovett Sundries

lovettsundries.com

Lovett Sundries offers handmade personal care and cleaning products, as well as some products for gardens. They use plastic-free, recyclable packaging and shipping materials and provide thorough information about ingredients. Their retail store is located in Wilkesburg, PA, where their storefront window signage says: “All Natural, Handmade, Small Batch, Family Owned, Vegetarian, Sustainable & Recycled.” They sell online to both retail and wholesale customers.

Meliora Means Better

meliorameansbetter.com/

A woman-owned company that produces cleaning and personal care products. It also sells refills for laundry powder, home cleaner, and hand soap tablets, as well as laundry detergent in bulk. It is a member of 1% for the Planet, a group of businesses that donate 1% of their annual revenue to nonprofit organizations working on critical environmental causes. Also publishes a newsletter.

Natural Earth Paint

naturalearthpaint.com

This company sells naturally-derived, non-toxic paints and art supplies for children and adults. Their packaging is locally-made, 100% post-consumer recycled and/or home compostable, and their facility is 100% solar-powered facility. A portion of their proceeds goes to environmental organizations.

Net Zero Company

<https://www.netzerocompany.com/>

Low-waste kitchen and laundry products, including kitchen storage items (replacements for plastic wrap, etc.). Also sells Tru Earth products.

No Tox Life

notoxlife.com

This company is a small, woman-owned, family business that sells vegan personal and home care products and equipment. They sell to both retail and wholesale customers.

One World Zero Waste

oneworld-zerowaste.com

One World Zero Waste specializes in plastic-free, reusable replacements for single-use plastic. Their items include household goods such as unpaper towels, reusable straws, laundry sheets, and bowl and plate covers, as well as personal care items like menstrual pads, deodorant in zero waste tubes, toothpaste in glass jars, bamboo toothbrushes, and cosmetics.

Public Goods

publicgoods.com

The ingredients in these products are healthy, clean and sustainable. They do use plastic for some of their containers but use refills to reduce the use of plastic.

Seventh Generation

seventhgeneration.com

Seventh Generation produces plant-based home cleaning products for laundry, dish-washing, and general cleaning. They have made commitments and investments that support climate action, sustainable sourcing, reducing plastics, equitable values, and reducing toxins. Labeling describes all ingredients (mostly plant-based). Products are available at local stores and directly from their website.

Sustainable Tomorrow

thesustainabletomorrow.com

This company's main product is a bamboo electric toothbrush and various accessories that go along with it. Also offers a few other zero-plastic toiletry products and a bamboo acoustic speaker for cell phones.

Tru Earth

tru.earth/



Tru Earth is a “Humbly Canadian and Proudly Global” company offering a variety of products for bathrooms, laundry, kitchen, and fabric softeners. (Please note that most detergent sheets include polyvinyl alcohol, which is a plastic product.) They seek to reduce the carbon footprint of these products by reducing water content of detergents and using recyclable, non-plastic packaging. Offers subscriptions.

Ware

warealv.com

A retail store in Asheville, NC that also has an online business. They sell housewares for kitchen and bath, and personal care products, as well as home cleaning supplies & equipment. They also publish newsletters on zero waste practices, products, and careers, and have options such as a refill station at their physical store in North Carolina. Their motto: “Low Waste. High Standards.”

Who Gives A Crap

us.whogivesacrap.org/

Sells recycled-content and bamboo toilet paper, tissues, etc. in plastic-free packaging. Their website also includes products by companies that sell plastic-free shampoos and other personal hygiene products. The company donates 50% of their profits to organizations that provide sanitation facilities and clean water to areas in need. Offers subscriptions.

Zero Waste Cartel

zerowastecartel.com/

Zero Waste Cartel “is all about organic, cruelty-free and gluten-free sustainable products.” Their products include shampoos, beauty & bath items, kitchen and laundry items. The company claims to offer zero-waste alternatives to these everyday products and to advocate for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Zero Waste Outlet

zerowasteoutlet.com

Zero Waste Outlet offers many plastic-free or minimal plastic household products with wooden (instead of plastic) handles; they also sell toothbrushing tablets, cleaning cloths, soaps, lip butter, deodorant, produce bags, floss, and metal straws. They use minimal, eco-friendly packaging and ship via USPS to reduce their carbon footprint.

Zero Waste Store

zerowastestore.com

This site is promoted as a sustainable alternative to Amazon with a lower delivery footprint and more sustainable packaging. They sell a variety of everyday household items.



Zero Waste Resources: Websites and Articles

Zero-Waste Shopping

Pebble: “19 Zero Waste Online Stores to Level Up Your Plastic-Free Lifestyle” (2023)

<https://pebblemag.com/zero-waste-online-stores/>

Reviews of various online plastic-free retailers that sell everyday items.

Earth Friendly Tips: “The 14 Best Zero Waste Online Shops” (updated 2024)

<https://earthfriendlytips.com/best-zero-waste-online-shops/>

Geared towards and chosen by youth. The site contains additional links to zero-waste resources and articles.



Cleaning Products

Good Housekeeping: “The Best Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products for Your Home” (2024)

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/cleaning/g35665355/eco-friendly-cleaning-products/>

Recommends eco-friendly cleaning products for laundry, dishwashing, bathroom cleaning, and all-purpose cleaning. The article features products with non-toxic ingredients and reusable packaging.

The Good Trade: “11 Best Natural and Nontoxic Cleaning Products” (2024)

<https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/natural-nontoxic-cleaning-products/>

A guide to “naturally derived, nontoxic, and biodegradable cleaning products made using sustainable manufacturing practices.” Also highlights companies that “give back to communities and social causes” and/or “offer zero waste and refill options.”

Sustainable Jungle: “9 Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products That Won’t Dirty Our Planet” (2023)

<https://www.sustainablejungle.com/sustainable-living/natural-eco-friendly-cleaning-products/>

Sustainable Jungle independently researches its products and asks all brands to confirm their claims. To avoid waste, they only test products on an as-needed basis.

Wired.com: “Best Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products for Your Home” (2024)

<https://www.wired.com/story/best-eco-cleaning-products/>

Offers critiques of different companies and their cleaning products. Addresses questions about “green washing,” etc. (This is a different article from the *Good Housekeeping* article of the same title listed above.)



Beauty Products

Beauty Packaging: “Sustainability in Beauty: 11 Brands that Walk Their Talk” (2023)

https://www.beautypackaging.com/contents/view_experts-opinion/2023-01-23/sustainability-in-beauty-11-brands-that-walk-their-talk/

Identifies companies that have “sustainability as an integral part of their core values” and that are committed to reducing packaging waste.

Brave in Bloom: “Understanding Clean Beauty Certifications: What Do They Mean?” (2023)

<https://braveinbloom.com/blogs/brave-in-bloom-journal/understanding-clean-beauty-certifications-what-do-they-mean>

Explains what different “clean” and “eco-friendly” certifications for beauty products mean so that consumers can make informed decisions.

The Conscious Insider: “14 Clean Beauty Certifications and Labels You Can Trust” (2024)

<https://theconsciousinsider.com/14-clean-beauty-certifications-and-labels/>

A guide intended to help consumers make more sustainable shopping choices by highlighting the work of organizations that are meant to fight misleading “green” claims. These organizations for the most part “are independent and use third-party entities to complete checks and verifications. Eco-friendly certifications are useful to avoid most greenwashing traps.”

Pebble: “What Is Sustainable Beauty? Tips for a Clean and Green Beauty Routine” (2024)

<https://pebblemag.com/what-is-sustainable-beauty/>

A comprehensive explanation of what sustainability means in the personal-care and beauty industry.

Refinery 29: “2022’s Most Innovative in Sustainable Beauty” (2022)

<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/best-sustainable-skincare-hair-products-2022>

Spotlights people, companies, and organizations that are making the biggest strides in reducing the beauty industry’s carbon footprint.

Sustainability Consortium: “Beauty and Personal Care Product Sustainability Rating System”

<https://sustainabilityconsortium.org/download/beauty-and-personal-care-product-sustainability-rating-system/>

Eighty-three-page assessment system for rating beauty and personal care products.

Zensa: “Sustainable Beauty: How to Lower Your Carbon Footprint in 2024” (2024)

<https://www.zensaskincare.com/en-us/blogs/news/sustainable-beauty-how-to-lower-your-carbon-footprint-in-2024>

In addition to explaining what “sustainable beauty” means, this article provides a set of tips for reducing the carbon footprint and environmental impact of one’s personal care routine and recommends eco-friendly companies.

