

The United Nations, in partnership with the Green Up Film Festival,
presents:

Bag It



Isabelle Durant

Is the European deputy, Vice-president of the European Parliament. After years of working as a teacher, Isabelle Durant began her political career in 1991 in the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region and worked as the Federal Secretary and Spokesperson for Ecolo (Green Party) with Jacky Morael between 1994 and 1999. In 1999, she served as Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Mobility and Transport until 2003. Between 2003 and 2009, she served as a Senator. In 2009, she was elected to the European Parliament as Vice-President.



Joan Marc Simon

Is the Executive Director of the organisation Zero Waste Europe. Trained as an economist, Joan Marc Simon has worked for the last seven years on sustainable waste management policy and local organizing in Europe, coordinating policy/ advocacy work with national organizations and networks such as GAIA Europe and Health Care Without Harm Europe. In ZWE Simon manages the organisation and coordinates the activities and work programs.



Chris Van den Bilcke

Mr. Vanden Bilcke is the Head of UNEP's Liaison Office to the European Union in Brussels. Prior to joining UNEP, Mr Vanden Bilcke, served as Head of Unit for Environment and Sustainable Development in the Belgian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs. His professional career included assignments with the cabinet of the Belgian Federal Environment Minister, with the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Union. Under the Belgian EU presidencies in 2001 and 2010 he co-chaired the Working Party for International Environment Issues.

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A LIFE LESS PLASTIC—TEN ALTERNATIVES

CARRY REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

Whether you're shopping for groceries, clothes or electronics, be sure to bring along the reusable bag(s) of your choice. Keep them in your car so you don't forget to use them.

GIVE UP BOTTLED WATER

By drinking your water from a glass jar or a reusable bottle, you can help reduce the environmental costs associated with producing bottled water and save money while you're at it.

SAY NO TO PLASTIC PRODUCE BAGS

Bagging your produce is generally unnecessary. If you do want a separate bag for produce, cloth options are available.

BUY FROM BULK BINS

You can find almost all dry foods, as well as some personal care products, from bulk bins. If you can't find bulk bins in your neighborhood, you can still buy non-perishable goods in large packages, which will decrease the amount of plastic used.

MAKE YOUR OWN SOFT DRINK

When it comes to carbonated drinks, you can avoid the need for purchasing disposable bottles by making your own soft drink.

PACK FOOD IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS

Bring reusable containers to restaurants to take home your leftovers. Ask the butcher or deli server at your grocery store to package your food in your reusable container. Use them to pack your lunch, and don't forget to carry along reusable utensils.

CHOOSE MILK IN RETURNABLE GLASS BOTTLES

Many communities have local dairies that provide milk in returnable glass bottles rather than plastic or plastic-coated cardboard.

USE BAR SOAP AND SHAMPOO

Make the change from liquid to bar shampoo and soap!

CHOOSE LOTIONS AND LIP BALMS IN PLASTIC-FREE CONTAINERS

Organic Essence is packaging its body lotions in compostable cardboard jars and its lip balms in ingenious cardboard tubes that squeeze from the end. Or you can even make your own products.

MAKE SURE YOUR PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS ARE PHTHALATE-FREE

Phthalates, which are plasticizers, have become standard as additives to scented products because they help fragrances last longer. But research has shown reasons to be concerned about the impact of phthalates on our health .