

The Plastic-Free Campus Initiative (PFCI)

An Extension of the Honors
Program



OUR CREDO

It is our moral imperative to eliminate single-use plastics on this campus.

Everyone is affected by reckless plastic use.

We as students know that foresight and ingenuity are important for the vitality of our future, and if we continue to ignore the problem, the solution becomes exponentially more unattainable.

By investing in a plastic free campus, we are investing in the quality of our collective, worldwide health.

"Put simply, **single-use plastics** are goods that are made primarily from fossil fuel-based chemicals (petrochemicals) and are meant to be disposed of right after use—often, in mere minutes. Single-use plastics are most commonly used for packaging and serviceware, such as bottles, wrappers, straws, and bags."

Courtney Lindwall

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/single-use-plastics-101>



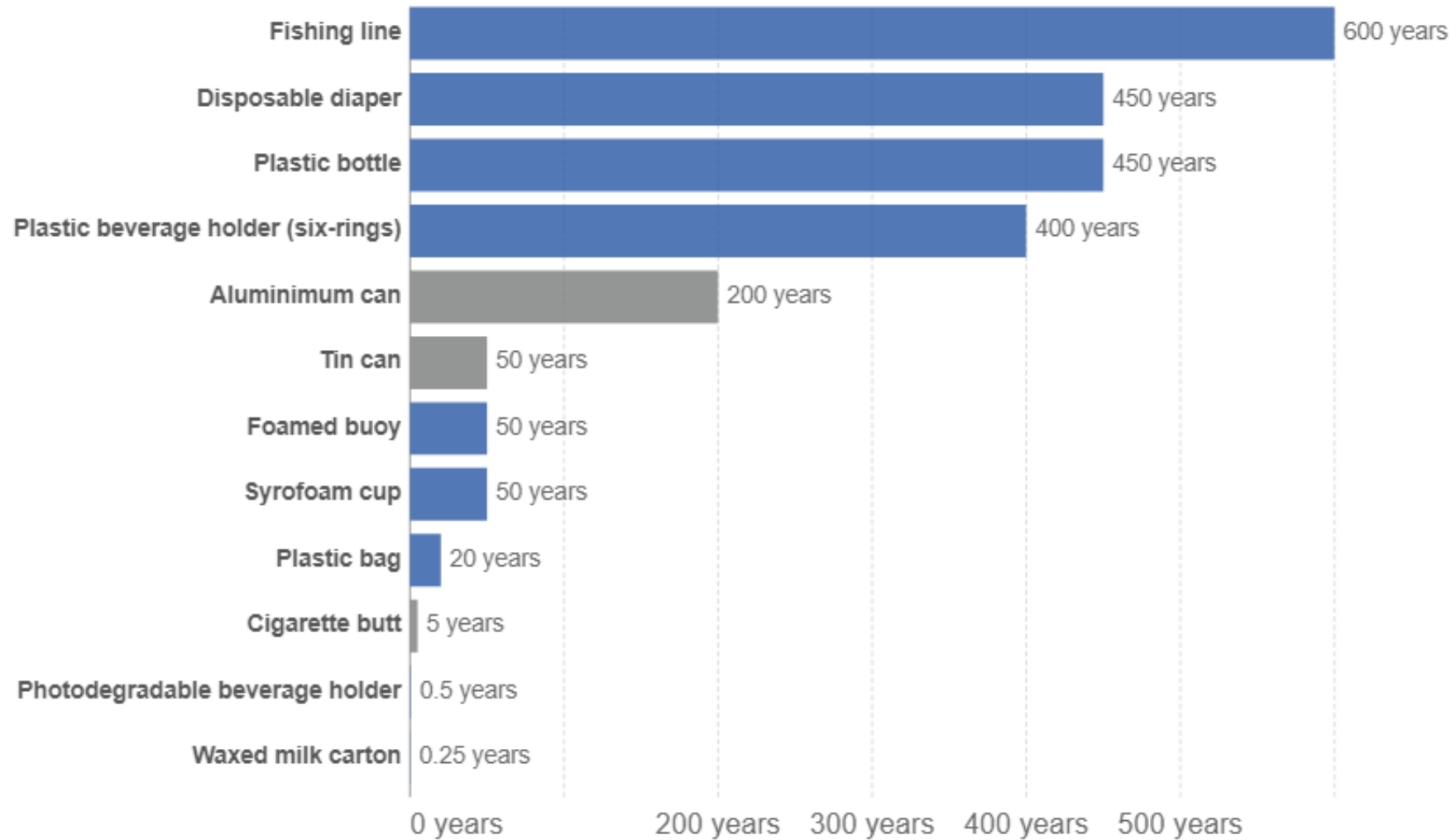
The Ecological Impact

- Plastic is toxic and is frequently ingested
- Petro-Chemical plants are commonly located in areas settled by people of color, driving a decline in the quality of living
- By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans
- Every minute of every day, the equivalent of one garbage truck FULL of plastic waste is dumped into the ocean
- Nearly 700 species are known to have been affected by plastics, microplastics have been found in 100+ aquatic species



Decomposition rates of marine debris items

Average estimated decomposition times of typical marine debris items. Plastic items are shown in blue.



Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program

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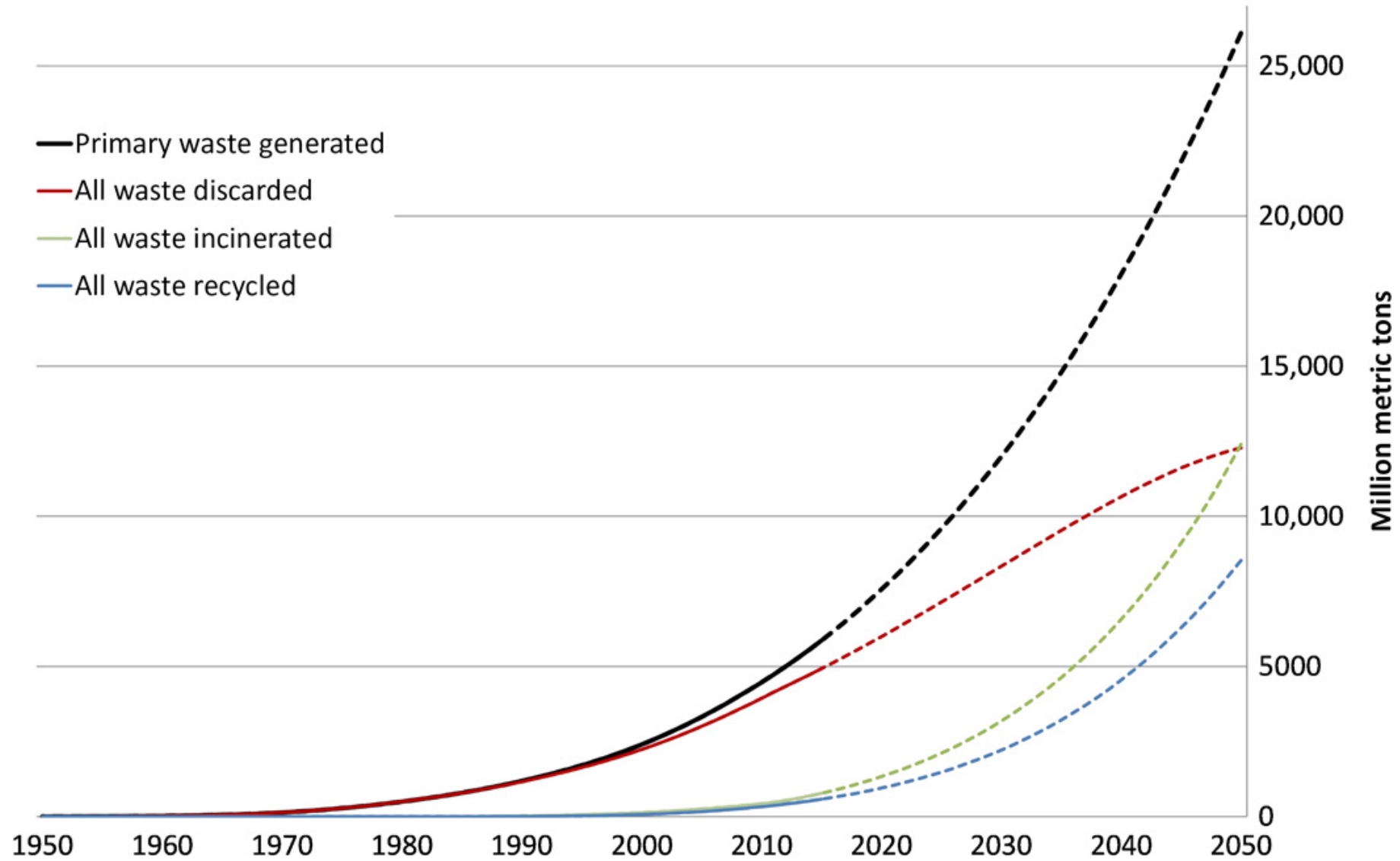
<https://ourworldindata.org/faq-on-plastics>
How long does it take plastics to break down?



The Waste Factor

- Plastic in the environment increased by 300 million metric tons in 2021
- 367 million tons of plastic were produced in 2021
- 91% of “recyclable” plastic isn’t recycled
- Half of all manufactured plastic is single-use
- Since 1950, 8.5 billion tons have been produced—with roughly 6.5 billion of those in the environment
- Plastic breaks down into micro and nanoplastics

Cumulative plastic waste generation and disposal



<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.1700782>
Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made

Riddle's Plastic Problem

A look around campus is all it takes.



Many Sources of Plastic

- Plastic water bottles
- Plastic food containers
 - Starbucks & Sodexo

Inadequate Infrastructure

- Campus does not recycle
- Lack of waste reduction policies
- No alternative solutions
- Lack of ecological accountability



Campus-Wide Plastic Solutions

How we are working the
problem

- Researching alternatives for plastic use
 - Personal audits, cost analysis, accountability
 - Campaigning and spreading awareness
 - We are working with Sodexo, the Bookstore, COAS, SGA, O-Team, Housing and more organizations
 - The Plastic-Free Campus Pledge
 - Outreach and advocacy
 - Enacting policy change from the bottom-up
- 



How Can You Help?

- Stop buying plastic, avoid it if you can!
- Reusable silverware and bottles
- Spread the plastic-free word
- Help us convince Sodexo, we need an army
- Get involved in PFCI next semester

Thanks!

Send us your feedback, ideas and questions!

doucettc@my.erau.edu (President Camdyn Doucette)

BOSSIER@my.erau.edu (Secretary Regan Bossie)

kaing@erau.edu (Advisor Dr. Kain)

- Weekly meetings Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 in NR3 153 (honors classroom)
- Sign a pledge! Pledges are available to sign for individuals and organizations

Thank you for your time and consideration

DISCORD SERVER

