#### **Meet Jen Cole**



**Clean Fairfax Council's Executive Director** 





#### CLEAN FAIRFAX COUNCIL

Reduce. Reuse. Reclaim. Rot. Recycle. In that order

### THE BIG PICTURE

#### The Problem:

- The trash we throw out here ends up everywhere—there is no such thing as "away"
- No one wants our dirty recycling and plastic is really cheap-no incentives to use recycled
- We're not taking very good care of the planet-climate change is a real threat
- If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the pollution.

### THE BIG PICTURE

#### The Solution:

- Accept that cannot recycle (alone) our way out of this problem
- Work on gateway changes (just start with one thing)
- Change the way we present information to those who are lagging behind
- Press for behavior AND policy changes at local, regional and national levels.

## Is this yours? Local Trash



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### BIG PICTURE TRASH PICS!



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### PLASTIC TRASH KILL BIRDS



### TRASH VS ECOSYSTEM



### THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE THE PLANET



### STAY IN MOTION-KEEP MAKING SMALL CHANGES

- More than 80 percent of plastic containers are not recycled in the US
- We will not recycle our way out of our plastic problem.
- If you won't drink a beverage without a straw because you are worried that the glass is not clean...
- Plastic heated up in the microwave is probably not healthy to most of us- Switch to glass, or ceramic
- What is not being recycled is being incinerated in facilities in poor neighborhoods or dumped in poor countries

### 1. A BODY IN MOTION TENDS TO STAY IN MOTION

### Single use should be exception, not rule. PERIOD.

- Free grocery bags are not free-they have a huge environmental cost and ACTUAL COST
- Single use items are not STERILE
- Farmers, Farmers Markets and Plastic bags?
- There will always be plastic bags to line your bathroom trashcan I PROMISE

## 2. Do Better @Home/Work, @Meetings/Events

### Single use should be exception, not rule (etc.)

- Think about all the things you reuse at home in a day-
  - Towels and washcloths
  - Bed sheets
  - Silverware
  - Dishes

WHY AREN'T YOU DOING THIS EVERYWHERE YOU CAN?

### CLEANFAIRFAX.ORG/SHOP

Clean Fairfax has a little amazon shop where we highlight items we use in our own homes.



Bee's Wrap Reusable Beeswax Food Wraps

**BUY NOW** 



BeeGreen Reusable Grocery Bags

BUY NOW



Bioluz 40 Watt LED Light Bulbs

BUY NOW



BlueAvocado Reusable Storage Bags

BUY NOW



Brush with Bamboo Plant-based Toothbrush

**BUY NOW** 



ChomChom Reusable Pet Hair Roller

BUY NOW



Colony Co Waxed Canvas Tote Bag

BUY NOW



DII Swedish Dishcloths, 100 %, Natural Cellulose

**BUY NOW** 

### OTHER OUTLETS

We also subscribe to a "one sustainable item" box from a company called Mighty Nest

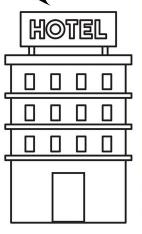


#### 2. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

#### HELP SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

You can show your respect for nature and help save the environment by reusing your towels during your stay.

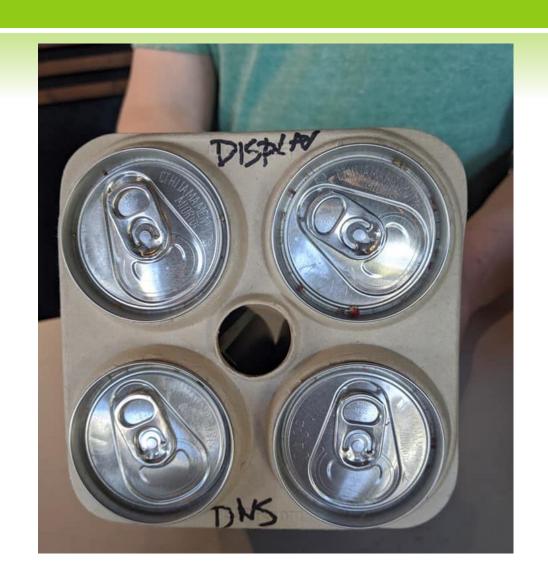
Which one works?



### JOIN YOUR FELLOW GUESTS IN HELPING TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Almost 75% of guests who are asked to participate in our new resource savings program do help by using their towels more than once. You can join your fellow guests in this program to help save the environment by reusing your towels during your stay.

### 2. MAKE GOOD CHOICES



### 3. CREATE CHANGE THAT IS MEANINGFUL!

- Get involved beyond your pet projects
- Know your elected officials
- Vote in all the elections
- Share information liberally
- Never stop learning how to make meaningful change that is sustainable

#### RECAP-THREE THINGS

- Give up one thing, and keep going.
- Lead by example
- Create change that is SUSTAINABLE!

#### INFORMATION

- www.CleanFairfax.org
- www.LitterFreeVa.org
- www.etsy.com
- www.MightyNest.com
- www.vosrp.org
- www.GreenAllOver.org (coming soon!)



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# CLEAN is COOL

#### CLEAN FAIRFAX COUNCIL

Keeping Fairfax County Clean, Green, and Sustainable since 1985