

No serious conversation about protecting the health of the planet can be had without a candid look at America's culture of consumerism and the devastating impact it has on people, animals, and ecosystems across the globe. Before starting or completing your holiday shopping, give [a new documentary on Netflix, "Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy,"](#) a watch. [The film](#) highlights, with heartbreaking visuals and undeniable evidence, how large corporations have fueled America's runaway capitalism to boost their profits without conscious, creating a world of waste in the process.

LINK: <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/best-black-friday-deals-watch-netflix-buy-now-instead-rcna182236>

LINK: <https://grist.org/arts-culture/buy-now-netflix-documentary-flora-bagenal-shopping-conspiracy-polluter-pays/>

Here's the film's trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVfZw_eqJW8&t=3s

The film details how corporations have mastered a three-pronged strategy of "sell more, waste more, lie more" to make more money at the expense of the planet. "Buy Now!" makes the case that companies — not the public — should be held financially responsible for dealing with the waste they generate.

How can you [back away from consumerism this holiday season](#) and the environmental ruin that goes along with it?

LINK: https://oceana.org/blog/celebrate-with-care-tips-for-a-sustainable-holiday-season/?utm_campaign=decemberenews&utm_source=en&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2024

Shopping small is always a good place to start. Support community-owned businesses. Their energy use, supply chains, and waste are always infinitely smaller than giant corporations. Local artists and crafters make lovely, thoughtful, unique gifts with little environmental impact. Consider gifting memberships to IXIA or the Jacksonville Zoo, St. Augustine Alligator Farm, or Catty Shack Ranch big cat rehab. Buy someone a native plant or tree and help them install it.

I firmly believe the No. 1 action anyone can take in their daily life to meaningfully help conservation efforts is to [BUY LESS STUFF!](#)

LINK: <https://grist.org/looking-forward/rampant-consumerism-is-bad-for-the-planet-underconsumption-core-offers-an-alternative/>

Strategies for [spending less money and buying fewer gifts](#).

LINK: <https://grist.org/culture/the-case-for-spending-less-money-expensive-holiday-gift-christmas-hanukkah/>

Much of that "stuff" is plastic. A study from 2020 estimated that the total amount of plastic in the world would outweigh all animal life. And of that mass of plastic, the United Nations Environment Programme estimated that about a third produced each year is for single-use products such as wrappers, packaging, bottles and bags.

[Coca-Cola is doubling down on its production of single use plastics](#), attempting to greenwash its corporate environmental abuse by promoting the recycling scam.

LINK: https://oceana.org/press-releases/coca-cola-doubles-down-on-single-use-plastic-abandons-reduction-and-reuse-goals-in-wake-of-stalled-plastic-treaty-negotiations/?utm_campaign=decemberenews&utm_source=en&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2024

Here's a deep dive on [the plague of plastics](#) – a regular topic of the Conservation Newsletter.

LINK: <https://www.newsweek.com/2024/12/13/ocean-plastic-pollution-water-microplastics-environment-impact-1991162.html>

A global plastics conference aimed at reducing the output of plastics via treaty was [tanked by Russia and Saudi Arabia](#) – two of the world's top oil producers. Plastic is made from oil.

LINK: https://grist.org/international/broken-consensus-decision-protocol-hobbled-plastics-treaty-negotiations-busan-south-korea-inc5/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

[America is in league with those eco-villains](#), the Biden Administration in November backing away from a promise it made to support a plastics production cap in a global treaty to limit plastic pollution, instead now favoring of a more general – re: meaningless, unspecific, unbinding – goal to reduce production.

LINK: <https://www.eenews.net/articles/biden-admin-drops-push-for-production-caps-for-unplastics-treaty/>

Kudos to the Duval Audubon folks whose advocacy has encouraged the Jaguars to seek partnership with the American Bird Conservancy on the team's new stadium design to make sure the facility uses bird safe glass.

[Video](#) of an alligator swimming with an enormous invasive Burmese python in its mouth. The visual is a chilling reminder of the scale of the problem.

LINK: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/12/03/alligator-python-video-florida-everglades/76729375007/>

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC is still full speed ahead with its [plans to mine for titanium and zirconium](#) on the doorstep of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge despite major opposition from citizens and conservation organizations.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/12/07/mining-company-vows-to-forge-ahead-when-permitted-despite-feds-okefenokee-refuge-expansion-plan/>

A public comment period to offer support in favor of expanding the Refuge's acquisition boundary to include land owned by the mining company has been extended, with a new deadline to submit a written comment set for December 13. Comments can be emailed to Okefenokee@fws.gov.

The Florida Native Plant Society supports the boundary expansion and your comment can be as simple as, "I support expanding the refuge acquisition boundary."