

The logo for the Mercy Earth Challenge features the words "MERCY", "EARTH", and "CHALLENGE" stacked vertically in a bold, green, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a colorful, stylized flower or sunburst icon with five petals in shades of green, yellow, orange, red, and blue, with a small globe in the center. The logo is set against a white background with green triangular accents in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

MERCY EARTH CHALLENGE

Time to Make 2021 Plastic Commitments

Over the past few weeks, we've explored the problems of plastics production, pollution and recycling. We want to conclude the month on a note of hope.

Zero-waste communities, like this effort in the Philippines ([4-minute video](#)), are emerging around the world. Many localities are banning plastic bags or plastic-foam take-out containers. Activists are pressuring manufacturers to take responsibility for the waste their products generate and to build solutions into product designs.

The [#breakfreefromplastic](#) movement (described in this [2-minute video](#)) is engaging people around the world in reducing plastic in their homes, schools and communities. You may find [here](#) resources for making your campus plastic-free, holding corporations accountable for the plastic waste they generate, and pushing for policies at all levels of government.

Now that we're nearing the end of the month, we encourage you to make a commitment to reducing plastic for the rest of 2021 and/or to addressing the more systemic issues related to plastic. You may find some ideas in our [January calendar](#).

Please email your commitments, and any photos that will illustrate your new practices, to justice@sistersofmercy.org. We will compile these commitments and share them with all of you, so you can see the collective impact our efforts will be making this year.

