






## CASE STUDY

PAGEN IDOL, a bar in the SF Financial District, is saving \$675 every month by switching to paper straws. They started to compost the majority of their waste. They traded one large black landfill bins for a smaller size and are now saving more than \$8,000 a year off their Recology bill.

## WHAT ABOUT COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC?

5 simple truths about “PLA, bioplastics and earth friendly/plant based” plastic straws

-  PLA straws cannot be composted in home systems.
-  PLA straws are not recyclable and actually contaminate the other plastics that are recyclable.
-  When PLA straws enter the oceans and waterways are consumed by marine wildlife, endangering or killing them. Humans are put at risk via the potentially deadly toxins that become concentrated in seafood.
-  PLA plastics can only break down when all oxygen is removed and temperatures are constantly above 140° F for at least 10 days. Only a few facilities exist in the world. Even when it does break down, it leaves behind a harmful residue of “plastic soup” - microparticles that pollute the environment and threaten life at the bottom of the food chain.
-  Realistically, PLA plastics just end up in the landfill. It is impossible for them to decompose or biodegrade in a landfill, if they do it can take 1,000's of years.



**San Francisco  
Chapter**

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