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The ocean supplies the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. No matter where you live, your life depends on the ocean. Year after year, trash enters our waterways and ocean, choking economies, harming wildlife and impacting the health of humans and communities.

Americans use 500 million plastic straws per day. It's no wonder they're among the top ten items collected every year during Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). In fact, ICC volunteers have picked up 10 million straws from local beaches and waterways over the thirty year history of the event! Unfortunately, many more continue to make their way into our ocean, where they pose a real danger to sea turtles, albatross, fish and other ocean wildlife. Restaurants, bars and cafes can be leaders in an important movement to Skip the Straw. Many establishments have already chosen to, preventing millions of plastic straws and stirrers from potentially entering our ocean.

Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas® Program and _____ invite _____ to join our Skip the Straw campaign. Skip the Straw simply requests that an establishment refrain from automatically putting a plastic disposable straw or stirrer in each beverage, but rather allow patrons to request a straw if they so desire. Restaurants, bars and cafes have the choice to make a difference for our ocean, by reducing the amount of plastic straws and drink stirrers that are used by their patrons daily.

The public is already on board! Over 25 thousand individuals took Ocean Conservancy's pledge to begin ordering their beverages without a straw when eating dining out. What's more, studies continue to show consumer preference toward sustainable businesses and products.

We are excited to share Skip the Straw resources with you, including "We Skip the Straw" window decals, stickers, coasters, table tents and flyers to display how your establishment is playing its part in striving for trash free seas.

For more information and how to get involved, please contact the Trash Free Seas® Program at cleanup@oceanconservancy.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Trash Free Seas® Program
Ocean Conservancy

Ocean Conservancy is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that works to bring people together to find solutions for our water planet. Our annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) has brought together millions of volunteers in over 150 countries since 1986, removing over 228 million of pounds of trash from coastlines and inland waterways. Plastic straws and stirrers continue to make the list of top ten most collected items world wide.