

## A SOLUTIONS piece: BEYOND PLASTICS

Some say that there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050. "Beyond Plastics," a Zoom Presentation by the local Sierra Club, takes us to new thinking on plastics. Even Congress is talking about new ideas in plastics. New Jersey's Congressman Pallone, Chair of the powerful Commerce Committee, who already has plenty to do, has announced that he is chairing a special committee on recycling. So in this environment, "Beyond Plastics" is taking on new urgency. Emily Reinhold has been passionate about the plastics crisis since college. Her Senior Thesis, "Perpetual Plastics No More: Large-Scale Plastic Waste Mitigation in a Circular Economy," explored potential policy solutions to the plastic waste crisis. Since graduating, Emily has sought opportunities to engage in grassroots activism around the topic, which led her to Beyond Plastics. She took Judith Enck's class on plastics (Judith Enck was previously EPA Region II Administrator), completed Beyond Plastics' training on environmental activism, and founded a local chapter of New Jersey Youth Beyond Plastics. The group seeks to engage young people in the Beyond Plastics' mission, provide public education on the plastics crisis, and take concrete steps to tackle plastic waste in NJ and beyond. (You can follow the group on Instagram at @NJYouthBeyondPlastics.) Originally from Belarus, Emily immigrated to the U.S. with her family when she was six years old. Emily holds a B.A. in Public Policy from Princeton University, with a certificate in Environmental Studies. She works on a team that partners with high-impact companies to reduce their agricultural emissions and/or the amount of toxic chemicals in their products.