

NOVA's Annual Green Festival 2017

We Are All Downstream - What's in our oceans, rivers, streams, and creeks?

ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA, USA, April 20, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Northern Virginia Community College is hosting its Annual Green Festival at its Annandale Campus – in the CE Gym and Theater from 9:15am until 4:00pm on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. This event is free and open to the public with free/open parking in the B Lots & the parking garage. <u>Register here.</u>

This Green Festival includes a Vendor Fair, career information and Job Fair, booths featuring local, regional, and national environmental organizations



including international clean energy and sustainability professionals with "Leaders in Energy" along with a screening of the recently released (January 20, 2017) documentary "A Plastic Ocean," and a Keynote Address by Sandra Postel, Freshwater Fellow of the National Geographic Society and cocreator of "Change The Course."

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No Water, No Life. No Blue, No Green."

Dr. Sylvia Earle

A Plastic Ocean

A Plastic Ocean is a new feature-length adventure documentary that brings to light the consequences of our global disposable lifestyle. We believed we could use plastic once and throw it away with negligible impact to humans and animals. That turns out to be untrue.

In A Plastic Ocean, an international team of adventurers, researchers, and Ocean ambassadors go on a mission around the globe to uncover the shocking truth about what is actually lurking beneath the surface of our seemingly pristine Ocean.

The results will astound viewers-just as it did our adventurers-who captured never-before-seen images of marine life, plastic pollution, and its ultimate consequences for human health.

During its four-year production period, A Plastic Ocean was filmed in 20 locations around the world in beautiful and chilling detail to document the global effects of plastic pollution. It introduces workable technology and policy solutions that can, if implemented in time, change things for the better.

The proliferation of plastic products in the last 70 years or so has been extraordinary; quite simply we cannot now live without them. We are now producing nearly 300 million tons of plastic every year, half of which is for single use. More than 8 million tons of plastic is dumped into our oceans every year.

Plastic is cheap and incredibly versatile with properties that make it ideal for many applications. However, these qualities have also resulted in it becoming an environmental issue. We have developed a "disposable" lifestyle and estimates are that around 50% of plastic is used just once and thrown away.

Plastic is a valuable resource and plastic pollution is an unnecessary and unsustainable waste of that resource.

Packaging

- Packaging is the largest end use market segment accounting for just over 40% of total plastic usage.
- Approximately 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide annually. More than one million bags are used every minute.
- A plastic bag has an average "working life" of 15 minutes.
- Over the last ten years we have produced more plastic than during the whole of the last century.

Beverage Bottles Alone

- According to the Container Recycling Institute, 100.7 billion plastic beverage bottles were sold in the U.S. in 2014, or 315 bottles per person.
- 57% of those units were plastic water bottles with 57.3 billion sold in 2014. This is up from 3.8 billion plastic water bottles sold in 1996, the earliest year for available data.
- The process of producing bottled water requires around 6 times as much water per bottle as there is in the container.
- 14% of all litter comes from beverage containers. When caps and labels are considered, the number is higher.

Keynote Speaker Sandra Postel

Sandra Postel directs the independent Global Water Policy Project, and lectures, writes and consults on global water issues. In 2010 she was appointed Freshwater Fellow of the National Geographic Society. Sandra is co-creator of Change the Course, the national freshwater conservation and restoration initiative pioneered by National Geographic and its partners, which has restored billions of gallons of water to depleted rivers and wetlands.

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