



Sixth Annual Sustainability Essay Contest

The North Carolina Bar Association's Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Section is pleased to announce a sustainability essay contest, open to interested high school students.

Deadline for Submissions

Friday, May 29, 2020

Submissions should be sent to

mskenned@email.unc.edu

The Winners of the Contest Receive

First prize: \$750; Second prize: \$500; Third Prize \$250! The winning essays will be published¹ in the fall edition of *Environmental News*, the quarterly publication of the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.

2020 EENR ESSAY CONTEST PROMPT

THE PLASTICS PROBLEM: Although we may think of plastic as “recyclable,” the environmental and health problems stemming from the manufacture of plastics (for example, air pollution), its use (see the PBA health impacts of water bottles) and its disposal (much ends up in landfills, not to mention the massive floating island of plastic in the Pacific Ocean), illustrate the need for using sustainable alternatives to plastic. How can we encourage people to use less plastic? In an essay 2000 words or fewer, please explain why our continued creation, use and disposal of plastics is problematic, and how we can disincentivize the use of plastics in order to reduce plastic pollution. How does North Carolina currently address this issue and what more can be done at the state and local community level? Cite all materials (laws, studies, websites, news articles, etc.) that you rely upon in your analysis.

Please respond in an essay of 2000 words or fewer, citing all materials (laws, studies, websites, news articles, etc.) that you rely upon in your analysis.

¹ The Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Section reserves the right to edit the essay for content or length prior to publication. All edits are subject to author approval. In the event the author and the Section have an irreconcilable conflict over content-related or other edits, the essay will not be published in *Environmental News*.