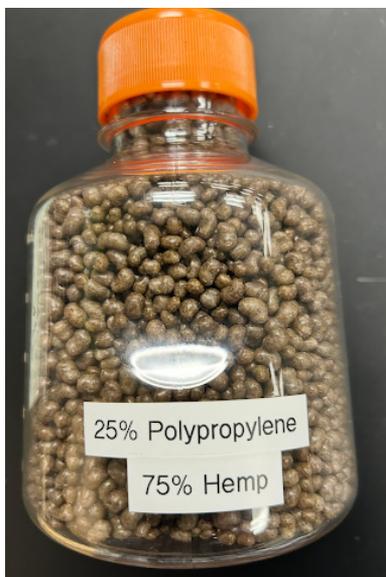


General Chemistry

STORYLINE
People of Integrity

THROUGHLINES
Creation Care

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Deep Hope

My deep hope is that we fully integrate the actions of our Creator with the actions of our lives to become people of integrity.

Learning Target

*I can appropriately question my consumption single use plastic.
I can propose solutions to plastic pollution that better care for creation.
I can catalyze meaningful change by personal choices.*

Formational Learning

The Organic Chemistry unit includes an in-depth exploration of plastics—examining their historical origins as substitutes for over harvested animal products, their development from crude oil, and their pervasive presence in today's environment. This investigation aligned with our Creation Care throughline, prompting students to engage with the guiding question: "In what ways can we handle plastic more effectively, efficiently, ethically, and beautifully?" The overarching goal was for students to recognize that individual, small-scale changes can contribute to broader environmental impact. By choosing to eliminate even one single-use plastic item from their daily lives—and encouraging others to do the same—students can play a meaningful role in reducing plastic pollution.

Student Reflections

As caretakers of the world, we are called to be good stewards of creation. However, as consumers, we often contribute to pollution through our excessive use of plastics, which can lead to environmental damage and the spread of microplastics. There's no doubt that we can—and should—do better in how we care for the earth.

I believe that small, intentional changes made by many people can lead to significant positive impact. Creation itself calls us to respect and protect all that God has made. Yet, too often, people dismiss this responsibility with attitudes like "keep digging" or "it doesn't matter because we won't be here forever."

This mindset is contradictory. While we may not be here permanently, our actions affect the world now and for generations to come. As stewards of God's creation, we are responsible not only for the present but also for the future that God's children will inherit.

Teacher Reflection

This marks the third iteration of my "commitment to try," and to date, it has been the most successful. The key difference this year was tying the topic directly to a unit in organic chemistry. In previous years, I had the passion to address plastics and our role in creation care, but struggled to make a strong curricular connection—the efforts felt disjointed. Teaching chemistry this year allowed prior practice runs to come together seamlessly. The integration not only reinforced the scientific concepts but also deepened the spiritual message: as followers of Christ, we are called to be at the forefront of caring for His creation. Connecting this call to the issue of plastics made the message tangible and personally relevant for students.