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Dear Martha's Vineyard Commissioners,

As I was flipping through your publication, "The Island Blue Pages: A Guide to Protecting Martha's Vineyard Waters," I noticed a new word on page 30 where you outline simple actions Vineyarders can take to keep our oceans clean: precycle. Online, the chief definition reads: "Precycling is the practice of avoiding the acquisition of unnecessary items that will eventually have to be recycled or dealt with as waste. Examples of precycling include: limiting purchases to things that you need."

By contrast, you may already know that when Huntress Associates last presented their athletic field plans at the PAC, they admitted no recycling facility even exists yet for their synthetic fields. But they assured the audience that they hoped to build one in Pennsylvania one day.

It seems critical, at this time of grave environmental concern, that we continue, as a community and individuals, to reduce our impact however we can.

I've downsized my car to improve fuel efficiency, am installing solar panels at my house and purchase groceries at the local package-free co-op and Island Grown Initiative farm share (where I bring my own containers). I voluntarily run a robust annual island-wide zero waste campaign in all the schools which grows every year. As an Island community, we're hosting climate cafes, banning single use plastics, transitioning to zero emissions buses and expanding food waste recovery efforts.

Please help Martha's Vineyard keep the momentum going. Show us a shining example of "precycling" by choosing natural grass over plastic athletic fields.

Thank you for your time and dedication to preserving our island community.

Moira Silva

W. Tisbury