

Preventing Plastic Pollution

10 February 2021

The plastic pollution problem



We use 5 million tonnes of plastic in the UK every year. Nearly half of this is packaging and demand is rising.



If we don't act then marine plastic pollution will treble world-wide between 2015 and 2025.



Plastic is made from oil and its production is contributing to climate change.



In 2017, the UK recycled about 46% of its plastic packaging waste. Some sectors have much lower recycling rates. In agriculture, plastic recycling is estimated to be about 25 %

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Once released into the environment plastic doesn't decompose, it just breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces that accumulate over time.



Plastic is now found in the most remote coastlines, the deepest ocean trenches, high mountain tops and even buried in sea ice.



There is much we don't know about the impacts plastic could have on wildlife and humans. We do know wildlife can become entangled in plastic and eat it by mistake.

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Get involved to help make a difference

Once in the environment plastic can't be removed and won't disappear. We need to take action to reduce plastic pollution now.

Here are some resources to help you learn more about plastic, and understand/reduce the amount of plastic waste you create.

Quiz time

Try our quiz with your club. Plastic is everywhere but how much do you know about it?

Plastic 'health-check' and pledge

Carry out a plastic 'health-check'. Work out how much plastic you use and make a pledge to take one action to reduce it. You could follow one of our links to online recipes to make your own beeswax wraps or deodorant to help you avoid unnecessary plastic

Time to experiment

Experiment at home to understand more about biodegradable plastic. Will yours degrade?

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And finally...

To find out more, check out some of these other plastic resources available online.

WWF 'Learn To Love Nature' videos

[Fight Plastic Pollution](#)

[Fresh water pathways for plastic in partnership with the Environment Agency](#)

[Marine plastic pollution in partnership with the Environment Agency](#)

Learn Live' events online events

[WWF and Learn Live World Ocean Day event](#)

[WWF and Learn Live Protecting Our Planet Conference](#)

[Environment Agency and Learn Live- Creating a better place for people and wildlife](#)

[Eurostat European packaging waste statistics](#)