



STUDENT WORKBOOK

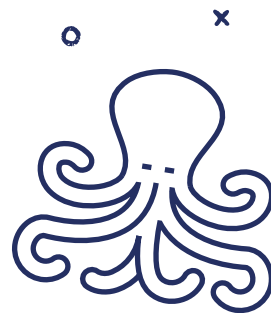
GLOBAL ACTION



x



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HEY! • +

WELCOME TO PLASTIC CLEVER SCHOOLS

We're so happy you're here because we need your help to make every school Plastic Clever. Plastic pollution is a big problem - you'll find out more about that later - but we know a way you, your school, and all your friends and family can help.

Why is it important to be plastic clever?

Plastic pollution is a local, regional, and global issue - chances are, it's one you've seen yourself already.

Every year, humans produce a huge 220 million tons of plastic waste! Of this plastic, 22% directly pollutes our environment and just 9% is successfully recycled. Plus, it's getting everywhere.

Plastic has now been found at the deepest and highest places on Earth, in tap water, and even in our blood. It's not too late to fix this problem, but we need everyone to play their part- including you.

This workbook will help you lead your school to become Plastic Clever.



Amy & Ella's top tip

"Don't be afraid to speak up about what you care about! If you think there is a problem in the world that you're passionate about tackling, then don't underestimate the power of your voice!"

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LEARN
MORE

Look for this sticker to find out more about the plastic problem and how you can help.

LEVEL ONE INSPIRE



Organise a community cleanup

Learn about plastic pollution and spread the word with a school assembly

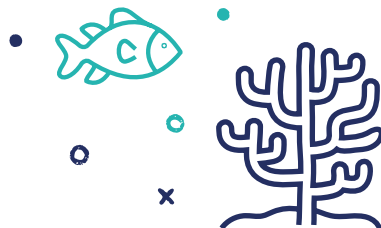
Make a Plastic Clever Pledge!

LEVEL TWO INVESTIGATE



Do a plastic count in your school

Create an action plan to reduce plastic waste



LEVEL THREE ACT



Motivate your community to join the cause with a campaign

Share the changes you have made to reduce single use plastic in your school

Showcase your success



CONGRATULATIONS

**YOU'RE A
PLASTIC
CLEVER
SCHOOL!**

BEFORE YOU START

- Rally a team to help you become a Plastic Clever School. You can start an eco-club that meets regularly at lunchtime, or as an afterschool activity.
- Inspire a teacher in your school to help you.



Want to earn a plastic Clever Schools Award?

Each stage has an evidence checklist- ask a teacher to help you upload this evidence on plasticcleverschools.co.uk



LEVEL ONE

If you want to help solve the plastic problem, you need to know more about it.

INSPIRE

EVIDENCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Do a community cleanup
- ☐ Host an assembly
- ☐ Make a Plastic Clever Pledge!

1 DO A COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Kick things off with a community cleanup!

By cleaning up litter, you can learn more about problem plastics in your local environment—such as the types of plastic and even where they come from. You can clean a local beach, a river, or your school yard! Get lots of people involved while taking your first step to becoming Plastic Clever.

Your teacher has more information about how to keep your cleanup safe—work together to make it a great event.



Remember to take pictures.

**DO
MORE**

What lives in your local environment?

Local biodiversity refers to all the living things in your area. Use the Biodiversity Activity Sheet (page 13) to discover different species around your school while you're out on your clean-up.

2 ASSEMBLY TIME

Introduce everyone to the beauty of our incredible rivers and ocean, so they feel inspired to help protect them from plastic pollution. Let the school know about your plans to become a Plastic Clever School.



Remember to take pictures.

Want to present?

We've put together a presentation that you, your teacher, or everyone together can deliver.



[You can find it here](#)



Hayden's top tip

"Get lots of people involved by planning a regular community cleanup. This can really improve the atmosphere of the school by bringing people together to do something good for the planet."

3 PLASTIC CLEVER PLEDGE

Share your pledge to become a Plastic Clever School.

You can make a poster, arts & craft piece or even a video!

Here are some questions to help you:

- Is plastic pollution a problem in your local community?
- What marine animals do we protect by reducing single use plastic use?
- How would your school, local environment and planet improve if everyone helped become Plastic Clever?
- Why is this award important to you?

Share your creation with your school and with us!



LEVEL TWO

INVESTIGATE

Welcome to Level Two - Investigate! As a Plastic Clever School, you need to take steps to cut down on single use plastic waste. It's time to start looking at the problem plastics in your school.

EVIDENCE CHECKLIST

- Complete a school Plastic Count
- Create an action plan to tackle two plastic items

1 PLASTIC COUNT

Use the "Plastic Count" Student Sheet (see page 11) or make your own record sheet, to count single use plastic items in your school.

This will help you understand more about plastic waste, so you can know which plastic items you need to tackle.

Gathering data is a really important skill that scientists and explorers rely on to make new discoveries and solve problems.



Inaaya's top tip

"The more people on your team the easier it'll be to make a difference. Get creative to encourage your whole school to reduce single use plastic and protect our amazing ocean."

2 ACTION PLAN

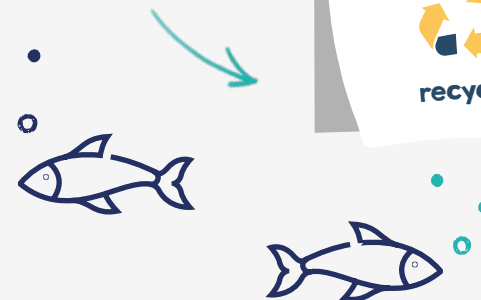
Now that you've discovered the **problem plastics** in your school, it's time to plan how you can tackle them. An action plan is a simple way to get really clear on your next steps.

Your plan must tackle at least TWO problem plastics.

Check the "Action Plan" Student Sheet (page 12) to answer some questions that will help you get started.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE 6 SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS?

Recycling is an important part of dealing with plastic waste, but it's not the best option. Try looking at how you can use the first 3 actions - rethink, refuse and reduce - as a starting point for the next step: your action plan.





LEVEL THREE

ACT

You're onto the final stage of your Plastic Clever journey - fantastic! This is the most exciting part of the process- leading campaigns to encourage your school community to wave goodbye to single-use plastics.

1 RUN YOUR CAMPAIGN

Work together to put your action plans into... action!

It's time to run a campaign and motivate your community. Whether you're creating a presentation, an information stand, a poster, or an advocacy letter to your principal, parents, or teachers (or taking another creative approach), start by thinking:

- Who is your audience?
- What message do you want to communicate?
- What's the best way to reach your audience?



Remember to take pictures! These are essential evidence for this part of the award.

2 SHARE THE CHANGES

What changes (big or small) have you made in your school to reduce the problem plastics identified in your Plastic Count? Tell us in a paragraph or show us with a picture.



Jaz's top tip

"It can get difficult when trying to be plastic clever but persevere and remember all the good you're doing! Don't be scared to help educate people around you who want to learn. Keep going!"

EVIDENCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Motivate your community to join the cause with a campaign
- ☐ Share the changes you have made to reduce single use plastic in your school
- ☐ Showcase your success

3 SHARE YOUR SUCCESS WITH A CELEBRATION

Celebrate the moment or achievement you are most proud of through your Plastic Clever journey.

Get creative! We would love to see a photo, video, news article, student blog post, or any other approach you can think of to tell this story.

Reflect:

- Which plastic items have you reduced?
- How do you know your campaigns have been a success?
- What are you most proud of?
- What are you going to do next?



Spread the word!

Why not ask your teacher to help you share your celebration on the schools website, or with a local newspaper to really capture the attention of your whole community and celebrate your amazing work!

LEARN MORE



Inspiration & innovation

+



There are some incredible projects happening around the world that can help inspire us all. Here are some of our favourites...



Refuse and Reuse

Refuse and Reuse is a youth led organization created by school students Jeff Li and Ashley Du, after they identified the amount of single use plastic floating in Qing Hai lake – a lake significant in the bird migration routes of Asia.

Refuse & Reuse promotes environmental education and youth leadership through events, school-based action groups, and digital campaigns aimed at reducing plastic waste and inspiring sustainable habits.



Bye Bye Plastic Bags

(BBPB) was a youth-led organization based in Bali, founded by sisters Melati and Isabel Wijsen. Its mission was to inspire people to say no to single-use plastic bags. After six years of advocacy and campaigning, BBPB played a key role in the Bali government's decision to ban all single-use plastics in 2018.

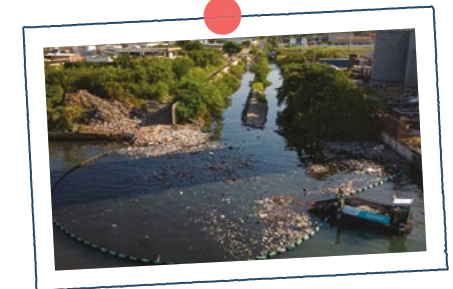
Following this success, Melati and Isabel launched YOUTHTOPIA, an online platform that provides changemaker training to empower young people to make a difference in the world!



The Plastic Bank

The Plastic Bank is a global organization that helps protect the environment and support communities at the same time. In countries like Egypt and South Africa, they encourage people to collect plastic waste and exchange it for money, food, or other helpful items.

This not only helps reduce plastic pollution—especially in the ocean—but also gives people a way to earn a living. By turning plastic into something valuable, The Plastic Bank is helping to fight both pollution and poverty.



Ocean Cleanup

Ocean Cleanup uses long, U-shaped barriers that float on the ocean and guide plastic into a central collection area, where it can be removed and recycled. They also developed Interceptor machines that are placed in rivers to stop plastic before it reaches the ocean—since rivers are one of the main ways plastic pollution spreads.

Boyan Slat, a Dutch inventor, founded Ocean Cleanup when he was 18 years old, and was inspired by a school project!



Extra activities

Take further action! Ready to wave goodbye to plastic waste?

Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Start a newsletter
- Give a presentation to your school leaders
- Get another local school involved!
- Plan an event
- Create a blog or social media account
- Create posters to put up in plastic hotspots
- Need money to make some of your ideas possible? Come up with a fun way to fundraise!

Start an Eco Business!

Ideas:



School Party Pack: Buy reusable party items (plates, cups, washable table cloth) and rent them out to school parents or community members.



Secondhand marketplace: Create an online or physical marketplace to sell previously used school uniforms, books or toys.



School Garden: Grow a school garden and sell produce to the community or use them as the school's food source.



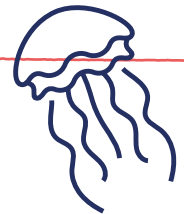
School Waste Bank: Create waste collection points with a reward system that provides discounts at local shops. Can you sell the recycled materials to recycling partners?



YOUR OWN IDEA!

Remember

these are not required evidence pieces to complete your Plastic Clever Schools award - but, they are a great way to spread even more awareness of plastic pollution and empower your wider community to join the action.



Biodiversity Investigation

While you are doing the Community Cleanup, encourage your students to take notice of the school's local flora and fauna. The student Biodiversity Investigation Student Sheet (see page 13) will help with this, or let them draw a map of the school to illustrate the different habitats and local biodiversity.

A NOTE TO TEACHERS



Hello!

A Plastic Clever School not only reduces plastic waste, it equips young people to become active global citizens beyond the classroom walls, providing real-world experiences in which to apply new knowledge, practice skills and build confidence for a future without plastic waste.

We want to support you in inspiring and equipping young people to be part of solving the marine plastic challenge, starting in their schools and local environment.

Plastic Clever Schools guides your students through three simple, yet powerful stages: Inspire, Investigate and Act. Each stage puts your students at the heart of the action, equipping them to make a tangible and positive impact on plastic waste.

Thank you and welcome aboard!



TEACHER TOOLKIT:

We've created a guidebook to support you every step of the way as your school works toward becoming a Plastic Clever School. As a teacher, you play a vital role in inspiring and empowering your students to lead meaningful change and make a lasting impact.

Inside the Teacher Toolkit, you'll find everything you need to achieve the Plastic Clever Award—from essential resources and step-by-step guidance to creative ideas and curriculum-linked activities. You'll also discover ways to involve your wider school community and embed sustainability into everyday learning.

Together, let's help your students become confident changemakers for a plastic clever future.

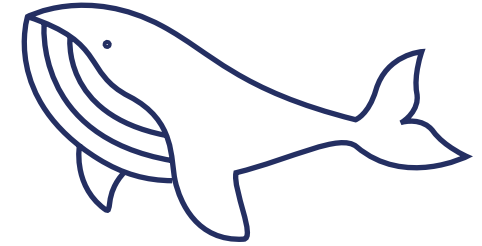


CLICK HERE TO
SUBMIT YOUR
EVIDENCE

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wow! How does it feel to be waving goodbye to single use plastics?

If you've ticked off everything on your checklists, then you are really really close to becoming an official Plastic Clever School.



**YOU'RE A PLASTIC
CLEVER SCHOOL!**



INSPIRE ✓



INVESTIGATE ✓



ACT ✓



Student worksheet 2a

Plastic Count

Ever wondered how much single-use plastic your school goes through?
A Plastic Count helps you find out!

Once you spot the top two plastics causing the biggest problems, you can take action to reduce or replace them—and help your school become Plastic Clever!



School name:

Date: School area: ☐ Classroom ☐ Office ☐ Canteen/Cafeteria
☐ Kitchen ☐ Bathroom ☐ Playground ☐ Other

TIP: If doing this activity in your school is not possible, you could count the single use plastics from your Community Cleanup.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Whiteboard pens



How many?

Plastic stirrer



How many?

Food container (e.g. yoghurt pots, plastic tubs)



How many?

Plastic plates



How many?

Other

Pens



How many?

Single use plastic bags



How many?

Food packaging (e.g. for fast food/takeaway)



How many?

Single use plastic cutlery



How many?

Other

Glue Sticks



How many?

Water bottles



How many?

Snack wrapper (e.g. crisp packet, sweet wrappers)



How many?

Plastic film



How many?

Other

Plastic Folders



How many?

Other drink bottles



How many?

Plastic straws



How many?

Soap dispenser (not refillable)



How many?

TOTAL

Sellotape



How many?

Tetra pack juice carton



How many?

Single use plastic cups & lids



How many?

Sanitizer (not refillable)



How many?

WHICH TWO SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS ARE YOU GOING TO TACKLE?

Things to think about:

- which items cause the most amount of waste?
- are there any items that it will be easier or more difficult to reduce?
- did you notice any of these items polluting your local environment?

OPTIONAL: Talk to the person responsible for purchasing the items. If you know how many items are purchased per month or year, you can roughly calculate how many are used per day.

Student worksheet 2b

Plastic Clever Schools Action Plan



INVESTIGATE

**What problem plastic(s)
are you going to tackle?**

Eg: Single use plastic food
bags



**What can you do to
reduce it?**

Eg: Encourage a switch to
re-usable containers



What help will you need?

Eg: Help spread the
message to other students
and parents



**How will you know you
have been successful?**

More and more students
use reusable food
containers!



DO MORE Biodiversity Investigation

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity means all the different kinds of living things—like animals, plants, bugs, and even tiny organisms. It's important to have lots of different species in an area because it helps nature stay strong and healthy. In nature, everything works together like a team, and every plant and animal has an important job to keep things running smoothly.



School name:  Date:

Area of investigation Country:
(schoolyard, neighborhood, special place of interest):

Current weather: Temperature:
Clear, Scattered Clouds, Complete Cover, Rain

Can you see now, or have seen before, any...		YES/NO	NUMBER	TYPE
TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS	Birds			
	Mammals			
	Reptiles & Amphibians			
	Insects & Spiders			
MARINE ANIMALS	Fish			
	Marine Mammals (eg: whales, dolphins, seals, dugong)			
	Reptiles (eg: sea turtles, sea snakes)			
	Invertebrates (eg: corals, jellyfish, clams, crabs, plankton)			
PLANTS	Grass			
	Flowers			
	Bushes			
	Trees			

Other organisms you noticed:



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- How do you think plastic pollution affects your local biodiversity?
- Is your school close to a river, port or the sea?
- How important is fishing, tourism or seafood for your community?

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INVESTIGATE

The 6 sustainable actions



REDUCE

You & me

Reduce the number of single use plastic products we buy.

Shops selling plastic products & packaging

Reduce carbon emissions by transporting straight to consumers rather than to warehouses and shops.



REFUSE

You & me

Refuse products that have lots of plastic packaging and single use plastic bags for transporting goods.

Shops selling plastic products & packaging

Stop buying from businesses who won't change their packaging to more sustainable materials.



REUSE

You & me

Reuse plastic products as many times as possible, or change their purpose for reuse (eg: a plastic bottle as a planter!). Sell or donate products that we no longer use ourselves.

Shops selling plastic products & packaging

Reuse cardboard and plastic packaging wherever possible.



RETHINK

You & me

Ask yourself "Do I really need this product?"

Shops selling plastic products & packaging

Choose packaging that is easier to recycle.



RECYCLE

You & me

Make sure that we recycle things in the correct way. Choose shops that support recycling.

Shops selling plastic products & packaging

Sell products from businesses who support recycling.



REPAIR

You & me

Repair items such as clothing and furniture rather than replacing when damaged.

Shops selling plastic products & packaging

Choose manufacturers who repair goods rather than replacing.

DO
MORE

Building Effective Campaigns

Building an effective campaign can feel like a big task, but we love this diagram because it helps us make sure we are covering all our bases when it comes to having a positive impact.



There are four things we need to remember when we are trying to make change.

1. Give me a reason to do it

Why should I take action?

Example

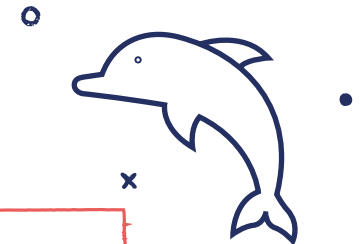
Help your community fall in love with the ocean by showing a documentary about amazing marine life.

2. Show me how to do it

How can I make a change?

Example

Make a 'How-to' poster to help people reduce the amount of single-use plastic they use.



3. Show me others doing it

Inspire me to join the movement.

Example

Share the stories of your favourite environmental activists around the world.

4. Make it easy for everyone to do it

If we want our whole community to make change, then we need to ensure it's easy to do

Example

Example Ensure everyone knows where they can refill their reusable bottle.

DO
MORE

How to write an advocacy letter

Letters are a great way to communicate your opinions with others to encourage positive change. There are several questions that you should ask before writing your letter such as what, who, and why?



What?

What is it that you want to change? Do you want to learn more about plastics in your school curriculum? Or perhaps you wish there was fewer plastic items in the canteen. Focus on one or two key points that you would like to communicate.

Who?

Once you have decided what you want you can then think about who the best person would be to contact.

Contact your school leadership team

When it comes to making change, your school is the very best place to start. You might need to contact your headteacher, deputy principal, parents or the team who run your canteen.

Contact local government

Your local government is responsible for all the services in your area. This includes transport, health, the environment and much more. You can usually find a contact email through the local government's website.

Contact a local business

Local businesses can produce a lot of waste. Generally, they want happy customers, so getting in contact to share your opinion on a product or service they do or don't deliver can be very helpful. Local business can also help reduce waste! For example, you could find out if any businesses will let you refill your water bottle when you're out and about.

Why?

After outlining what you want and who you will write to for support you can consider why it is important. In your letter you will have to be persuasive so you will need to consider why it is important to you and why it is important to the person you are writing to.

SOME IDEAS FOR WRITING YOUR LETTER...

Introduction: State why you are writing

Paragraph 1: Outline the problem (For example - We've done a plastic count and found that 70% of our plastic waste is coming from food wrappers.)

Paragraph 2: Provide a solution

Paragraph 3: Explain how the solution will benefit you, them, and others.

Summary: Thank them for reading your letter and ask that they contact you back.

Here are some persuasive sentence starters to get things going:

I believe... Did you know... Imagine if... As a matter of fact...
Everyone knows that... Firstly... In addition... In my opinion...
I'm sure you agree... However... Even though...
Having considered... In conclusion....



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Different types of plastic



PETE
Polyethylene
Terephthalate
Water bottles



HDPE
High-density
Polyethylene
Milk bottles and
shampoo bottles



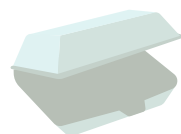
PVC
Polyvinyl Chloride
Cleaning products
and shower curtains



LDPE
Low-density
polyethylene
Bread bags and
plastic films



PP
Polypropylene
Yoghurt cups,
straws and
hangers



PS
Polystyrene
Takeaway, hard
packaging and toys



OTHER
Polycarbonate
Baby bottles,
nylon and CD's



Easy to
recycle



difficult to
recycle



Can't be
recycled

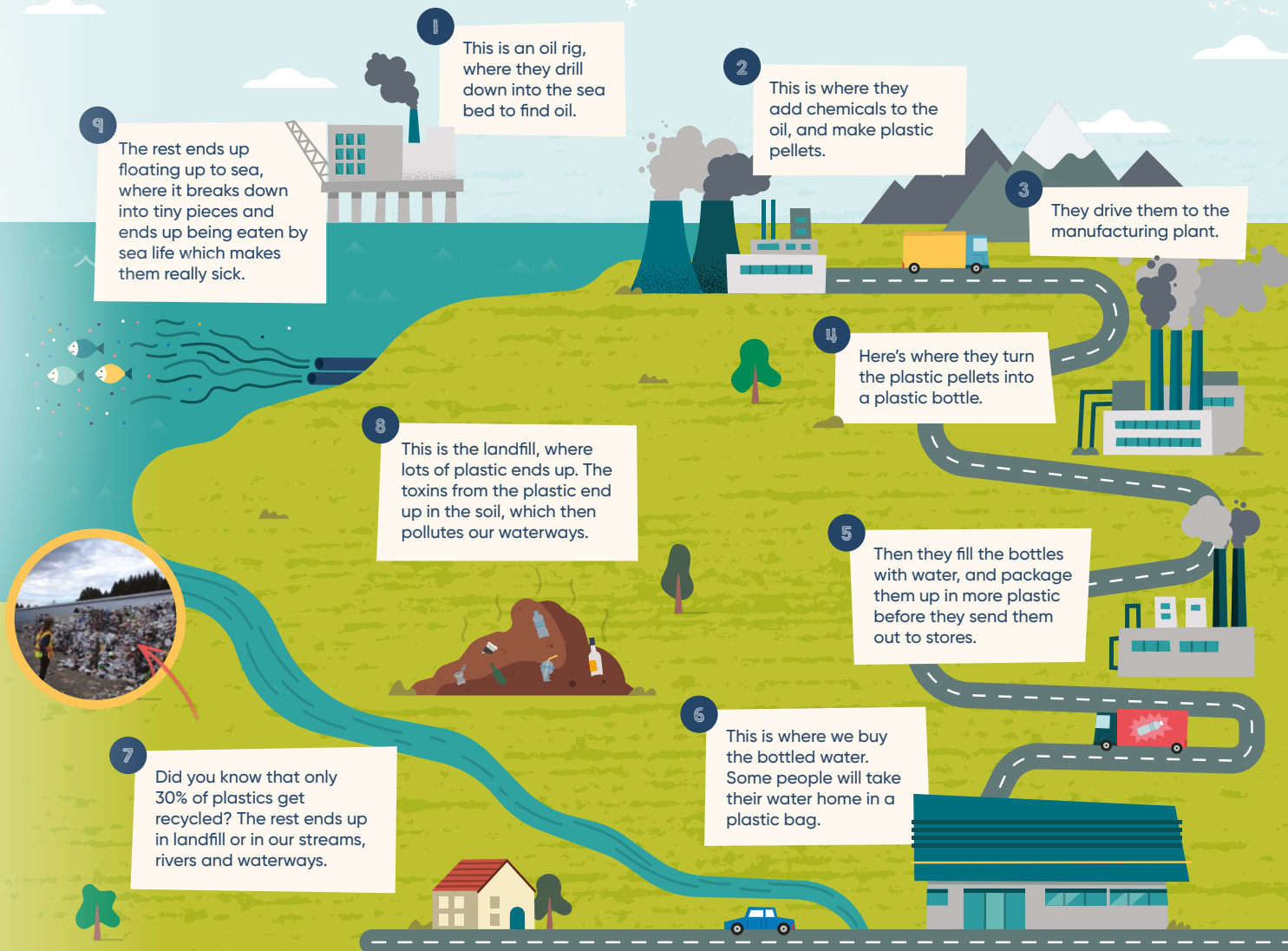
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INSPIRE

The life cycle of a plastic bottle



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How does plastic end up in the ocean?



INVESTIGATE



Where does all the plastic come from? And how does it end up in the sea? Did you know that approximately 80% of plastic flows from land-based sources? The other 20% is plastic littered at sea, from fishing and shipping.

Even if you live hundreds of miles from the coast, the plastic you throw away could make its way into the sea.

Plastic pollution

What do you picture when you think about plastic pollution? Close your eyes and take a moment to think about it.

Whatever you imagined, we're sure it wasn't pretty. Plastic pollution is a big deal and causes a lot of problems in our local environment and across the planet – especially in our ocean and rivers.

Now close your eyes and imagine what this environment could look like if it was free from plastic waste – this is the difference you can make!

See page 21 to learn some surprising facts about plastic...

How does plastic pollution impact marine life?

Plastic pollution is bad news for the natural world. Did you know that plastic in rivers and the ocean impacts all species, big and small – from marine mammals like whales and dolphins to the smallest fish and plankton.

How does plastic travel



Wind blows plastic and plastic litter into the environment.



Rain sweeps plastic into the waste and stormwater system or directly into rivers and streams.



People might dump plastic waste near to or directly into rivers and streams.



Waste and stormwater systems can overflow during storms and high tides.



Every year, about 8.8 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean—mostly carried there by rivers. That's like dumping a garbage truck full of plastic into the sea every single minute!

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Everyone's talking about...

Climate change



What is Climate Change?

The climate is the pattern of weather over a long period of time in a specific place. Different countries have different climates depending on where the country is in relation to the sun and the oceans. What is the climate like in the country you live in?

But the world's climate is changing!

Climate change is sometimes referred to as global warming. Global warming is a natural process where greenhouse gases capture some of the earth's heat and warm the planet. This process is what makes our planet so perfect for life to survive. However, human behavior is making it warm up.

Burning fossil fuels, transportation, agriculture and deforestation, are all examples of human activities that add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, preventing heat from escaping and warming the earth.

Climate change is already leading to global problems such as an increase in extreme weather (like storms and droughts), rising sea levels, burning crops and the extinction of animals.

Plastics and the climate crisis

The lifecycle of a plastic product will leave a lasting impact on the environment, including our climate!

How?

Not only are plastics made from fossil fuels, but they emit GHGs at every stage of their lifecycle.

The production, use and waste management of plastics alone currently contributes around 3.4% of global GHG emissions – more than flying!

Plastic is harming the ocean – our best natural defense against climate change – reducing its ability to absorb and store greenhouse gases.



Millions of young people protested the lack of action on the climate crisis by world leaders. So, what climate change have to do with plastic?

Are the effects of climate change worth the 12 minute use of single use plastic food packaging?

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The Facts

Plastic pollution



Plastic food containers and packaging make up **31.7%** of solid waste in the ocean.



Only **9%** of global plastic waste is recycled and **19% is incinerated**. The remaining **72% ends up in landfills** or in the environment, where it will stay forever in one form or another, as plastic does not decompose.

Every day, around **10 million kilograms of plastic waste** end up in rivers and natural environments.



Over the last ten years we've **produced more plastic** than during the whole of the last century.



Almost **every single piece of plastic** ever made exists in some form on this planet.



More than **50% of plastic** is used just once before it's thrown away.



Plastic constitutes approximately **90%** of all the rubbish floating in the oceans, with 46,000 pieces of plastic per square mile.



Most plastic bottles put in the recycling bin aren't actually 'recycled'. Instead, they're **downcycled** into items like fleece and carpets.



In many countries with fewer resources, not managing waste properly can lead to serious diseases. These illnesses are estimated to cause up to **1 million deaths each year**.



When clothing that contains plastic (e.g. a shirt made from polyester) is washed, **thousands of microplastics are released** directly in rivers or through washing machines into waste systems.



Approximately a **truck load of plastic** waste enters our oceans every minute.

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Impact on wildlife

Plastic pollution has a really negative impact on the natural world. Did you know that plastic in the ocean impacts all species, big and small - from marine mammals like whales and dolphins to the smallest fish and plankton.



How does plastic pollution impact marine life?

Entanglement

Fish, birds and turtles can become entangled in discarded fishing nets and other plastic items and drown. Check out this website - it shows that over 2,000 animal species are known to die from plastic, or be affected by it. And that number is constantly increasing.

Plastic enters the food chain

When an animal eats plastic it can stay in its body. When one animal eats another animal, the plastic can move through the food chain and build up (accumulate). This is called Bioaccumulation. We are still learning about the impact these plastics are having on animals, including us!

Have a look at the food chain below. How do you think the plastics accumulate, and which animal will be the most impacted?

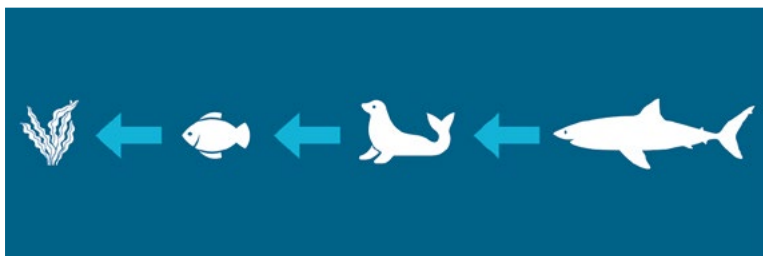
Eating plastic

Animals often eat plastic because they can't tell the difference between plastic and food, or by accident because it's too small to see. Lots of animals of all kinds are effected, including plankton, shellfish, turtles and whales.

Pollution causes threats to marine ecosystems

When plastic gets caught on corals the likelihood of disease outbreak increases from 4% to 89%. That means corals that come into contact with plastic are 20 times more likely to get sick than those that don't. Scientists have some theories around why plastic contaminated reefs are more likely to get sick. Part of the problem is that plastic can block light and oxygen from reaching the coral. These are two things which corals need to survive.

litterbase.awi.de/interaction



Did you know!

Plastic waste can take anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose, and even then it just breaks down in smaller pieces and never fully disappears.

LEARN The 5 gyres

MORE



When ocean water moves together it forms a current. Wind patterns and the forces from the Earth's rotation can make these currents move in circles (like slow moving whirlpools) known as 'gyres'.

The most famous gyre is the North Pacific Gyre. It's been nicknamed 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch' because it has the highest concentration of plastic waste and covers an area equal to 3 times the size of France.



Skye's top tip

"Use what you found out on your community cleanup as well as your plastic count results to plan your action and keep plastic waste out of your school and your local environment. Taking action is really easy when you're protecting something you care about."



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Circular economy⁺



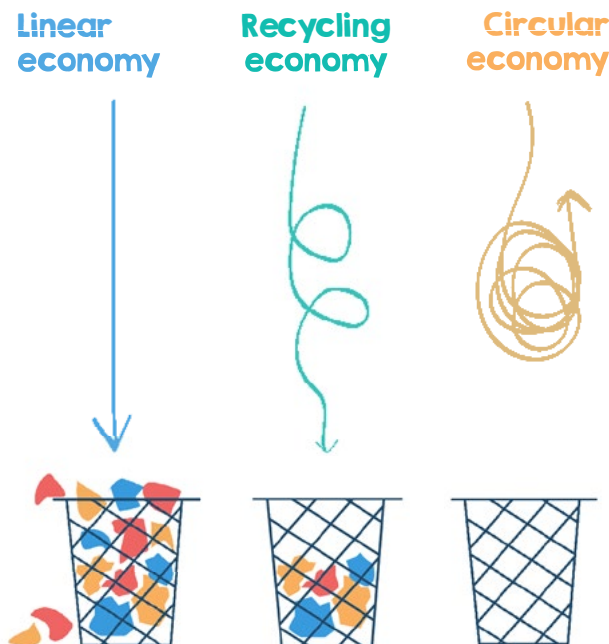
A new economy

Humans produce A LOT of waste. This is because we often design things to be used once and then thrown away.

This is known as the linear economy. In a recycling economy, products at the end of their life (when we're finished using them) are collected and their materials recycled to make new things.

This prevents them being wasted, saving raw materials and energy.

So is this the answer to a more sustainable approach? Unfortunately not. Especially when we're talking about plastic.



What about a circular economy?

In a circular economy, much less is wasted because everything has value. Products are designed and made to last much longer and to be easily re-used, repaired and recycled.

Ideas for driving circular economy in your community:

When you have finished with a product, make sure that it can stay in the cycle. There are lots of different scenarios for this, here are some examples:

- Collect, sort and separate for recycling.
- Collect, clean and offer to the next person.
- Keep at home, remember to take to the store and use again.
- Collect, upgrade/repair and use for the same thing again.



Can you think of any examples of the circular economy at school?

E.g. Plates in the canteen that are washed and reused each day.
If yes, how much plastic waste is it preventing each day? Could this approach be used elsewhere in school to reduce plastic waste further?

About us



KIDS
against
PLASTIC

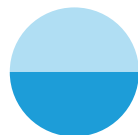
Welcome to the Plastic Clever Schools community! We're so happy to have you on board.

Amy & Ella at Kids Against Plastic

Kids Against Plastic was founded by teenagers Amy and Ella Meek. When they found out about the harm caused by plastic pollution they needed to do something about it. They created KAP – a charity by kids, for kids – to inspire and motivate others to take action too.

To stay plastic clever, you'll need to keep on learning, doing and sharing to help your whole school and your community wave goodbye to single use plastic for good!

The work you have done to get this far is amazing and we are so excited to see where you go next!



**Common
Seas**

Common Seas is a social enterprise tackling the plastic pollution crisis by driving new policy, investing in the circular economy and catalysing a cultural shift in how we make, use and dispose of plastic. Our mission is to quickly and significantly reduce the amount of plastic produced and stop it polluting our rivers and seas. We want every child to experience the wonders of our ocean, while learning about the complex problem of plastic pollution, so they can be part of a future freed from plastic waste.



**RIVER
CLEANUP**

We are a global organization on a mission to clean rivers by empowering people, preventing pollution, and accelerating change. We have teams in Belgium, Indonesia and Cameroon, and plan to expand our activities to more countries soon. Our school program is part of River Cleanup's efforts to empower people of all ages to take care of their local rivers.

