

LOCAL ISSUE

ENVIRONMENT

Plastic is everywhere and the world makes so much of it. It is being blown around in the wind and washed in our waterways. We find it in the oceans and even as far south as the South Pole.

Plastic in its regular form, like bags and bottles, does great harm to animals. Not only can they get caught in it or get sick from eating it, but once it breaks down, the microplastics look like food and can be dangerous to the animals.

You can help by making sure that plastic is thrown away properly - put in recycling bins. Or you can use products made from other things besides plastic. But one of the best ways to help is to tell people about the problem. Educate others about the harmful effects of plastic and encourage them to reduce their usage.



Sustainable Development Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

We use 5 trillion plastic bags per year. That means every person on Earth uses over 700 a year.

A plastic bag is used for an average of 12 minutes, but it takes over 20 years to decompose.

Almost 75% of plastic is not recycled. 40% ends up in landfill and 32% becomes pollution.

The website Earth911.com will tell you where you can find recycling near you.

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Discussion Questions

- 1 If each person in a class of 20 students uses a plastic container each day, that is 7,300 containers per year. What could you do to reduce that number?
- 2 How could you make a plastic-free lunch?
- 3 Think of a room in your house. Name three plastic items you could replace with sustainable alternatives. For example, buy larger bottles of shampoo and refill the smaller ones instead of buying new ones.

Go Deeper

Check out more info in the Let's Go Green Campaign at <https://educationplus.org/initiatives>

Take Action

Reduce your negative impacts and boost your positive ones with Let's Go Green.



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