

Why single use plastic production needs to be stopped to save our natural environment?

Can you think of any instances where you went somewhere and didn't see a form of plastic pollution? The answer for most is probably no. Everywhere you go plastic pollution can be seen even with the knowledge we have gained in the last few years we still produce millions of tonnes of plastic a year. I want to change this. You and I need to use less plastic and in turn the companies and producers will have to produce less as their products will not be making as much money.

Firstly, there is far too much single use plastic in the environment which creates extensive damage. Almost 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced a year and of that plastic, 91% isn't recycled and that 91% ends up in the environment one way or another, by either being dumped in the oceans or on the land or breaking down into micro plastics and contaminating the food chain. This is a shocking statistics which proves companies make far more plastic per year than we can manage. Despite this, producers are increasing the amount of plastic produced each year as we keep buying it and needing it more. We need to cut down on the amount of single use plastics we buy. If the companies stop making money from plastic products they will produce less and therefore will reduce plastic pollution and the damage it has on the environment.

Additionally, the extent of the damage single-use plastic has had on land is shocking. Wildlife can get stuck in plastic and it may cause suffocation, starvation, dehydration and sometimes death. Additionally, plastic in landfill breaks down into micro plastics and affect the soil food is grown in. These are devastating facts as it makes clear the horrific effect plastic has on the environment. Not only is plastic pollution killing animals and destroying their habitats, it is also destroying the ground we plant our crops in making it toxic and in turn infecting our diet with toxic chemicals. So, not only do we have to stop plastic pollution for wildlife, we also need to stop it for ourselves or we will continue to poison ourselves with lethal chemicals from the food we eat due to plastic pollution.

Furthermore, the extent of the damage single-use plastic has had in the oceans is just as, if not more, shocking. A whopping eight million tons of plastic pollute the world's oceans each year. Marine life is drastically affected by plastic as they can get caught in plastic and starve or suffocate. Another way plastic can also effect marine life as when left in the ocean for a long period of time plastic breaks down into micro plastics and are consumed by fish and this intoxicates the food chain traces of these micro plastic have even been found in are diet. These are staggering facts which show why we must reduce plastic production. Even with documentaries such as *Blue Planet* opening our eyes to the horrors of plastic pollution in our oceans, there is still little being done about it. However, we can make the change that is needed now if we work together in telling companies that firstly, they need to stop plastic being dumped in the ocean, but most importantly, they need to stop producing single use plastics entirely.

Furthermore, the consequences if we don't reduce single use plastic production soon are irreversible. David Attenborough on blue planet 2 said "The future of humanity and indeed all life on earth is now in our hands" this quote means that if we don't stop plastic production soon then the future of life on Earth is in danger. The quote is from a man who has studied the planet and all the wonderful things living on it for years. If there is anyone the world should all be listening to it is him as he is one of the most respected men in his field and is considered by most as a national hero.

Finally, the solutions in solving the plastic problem and stopping those irreversible consequences. Introducing waste management and clean up obligations for big companies and producers. This solution would force companies to take responsibility in cleaning up their own mess. This would also stop companies producing lots of plastic because if they had to tidy up their own mess they will limit the amount of mess they make. Cleaning up lots of plastic would also be expensive and if the companies don't make a profit that is another reason they won't produce as much plastic. We need to force these obligations on big companies and make them take responsibility for the sake of our environment.

Therefore, it is clear that plastic pollution is one of the most pressing environmental issues we are facing because of this we need to stop using plastic and Companies need to stop producing it for the sake of all life on our planet. Wildlife in both the ocean and on the land are dying, the ground we grow our food in is contaminated with chemicals due to plastic as is the water we drink from and yet still we produced more plastic than ever before this has to stop. Never before has our planet and our environment needed our help more than now. Are you willing to step up and do your bit?

Bibliography

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[BBC blue planet 2](#)

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