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OF HULL



Be Plastic Clever

Our home. Our responsibility.

Our rivers and oceans are our lifeblood – a resource that connects us all and provides us with food, travel, trade, recreation, inspiration and beauty.

But climate change and pollution are threatening to destroy our marine environment.

Over the last 50 years, plastic has revolutionised the way we live and is now an essential part of our lives. But today, we generate a staggering amount of plastic waste, with an estimated 12 million tonnes* entering the oceans each year. We're polluting all corners of our greatest resource, with little regard for the impact on marine life and the ocean ecosystem.

Despite our best efforts to keep plastic from our waterways with bans and recycling plants, there's only one way to stop it altogether: and that's cutting our dependence on plastic.

In Hull, we're rising to the challenge and getting on with helping to solve some of these problems - making a difference to people here on our doorstep and all over the world to protect the future of those we care about.

Unless we take radical action, there will be more plastic than fish in our waters by 2050**

* Greenpeace.org

** Ellen MacArthur Foundation and World Economic Forum

What's your *plastic pledge*

Here at the University of Hull, we're rising to the challenge by inspiring colleagues, students, graduates and partners to make a small everyday changes that collectively will have a huge impact on our oceans.

I pledge to

Say no to plastic straws

PLEDGE



I pledge to

Use a reusable coffee cup

PLEDGE



I pledge to

Use a reusable water bottle

PLEDGE



I pledge to

Use reusable shopping bags

PLEDGE



I pledge to

Use reusable containers and cutlery

PLEDGE



I pledge to

Share your pledges with 3 friends

PLEDGE



Find out more

hull.ac.uk/myplasticpledge



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Recycling myths busted: What can you actually recycle?

Trying to do your bit for the planet can feel like an uphill struggle. The sheer amount of items you've probably put in the recycling, thinking they'll be off to a green haven, only for them to be rejected and sent to landfill... well, it happens more often than you think.

Check out our handy list of items that will only jam up the recycling process if you put them in the wrong bin.



Takeaway Coffee Cups

Paper coffee cups seem almost designed to be ditched in recycling bins around town. And maybe they would be, if it weren't for the plastic coating that keeps the cup waterproof. Seems obvious now, doesn't it? Coffee cups that find their way into recycling plants contaminate the process and lead to lower quality, less environmentally-friendly paper. Yikes.



Pizza Boxes

Pizza is heaven on the mouth and hell on the planet. The grease that soaks out your dough makes the box not only useless for reuse, but also actively contaminates other paper it touches during the recycling process.



Plastic Bags

If only it were true that all plastics could be recycled. Unfortunately plastic bags like nothing more than to rip and jam recycling machinery. The only thing to do is hand your bags back to the shop for reuse or to make a nice kite out of them.



Aerosol Cans

This one shouldn't be too surprising when you consider how combustible these things are. Even the smallest amount of paint or body spray left in an aerosol can make it hazardous during the recycling process. To make them recycle-safe, ensure you've squeezed out every last drop from the can. And even then some recycling workers won't touch them... and we can hardly blame them.



Polystyrene

It may be great for protecting your fine china when moving house, but polystyrene is death for the environment. It doesn't matter if it's moulded around your new TV or carrying your takeaway tea, polystyrene can't be recycled or biodegraded in any form.

And a few you (surprisingly!) can



Plastic

Well, some plastic. Not all types are the same, meaning that they can be disposed of and recycled in different ways. Milk, detergent and shampoo bottles are widely recycled, as well as many other items - so don't write all plastic off as single use. When in doubt: **check the triangle.**



Carpet

Believe it or not, with its microfibres and mixed materials, carpet is primed for recycling. In fact, much of the carpet you walked on today was probably another carpet at some point in its life. So the next time you choose to expose your floorboards, don't automatically stick the



Toothbrushes

You might think that no one's interested in your dirty old toothbrush, but actually it's made of a myriad of different materials that are useful to manufacturers in the recycling process.

Find out more

hull.ac.uk/myplasticpledge

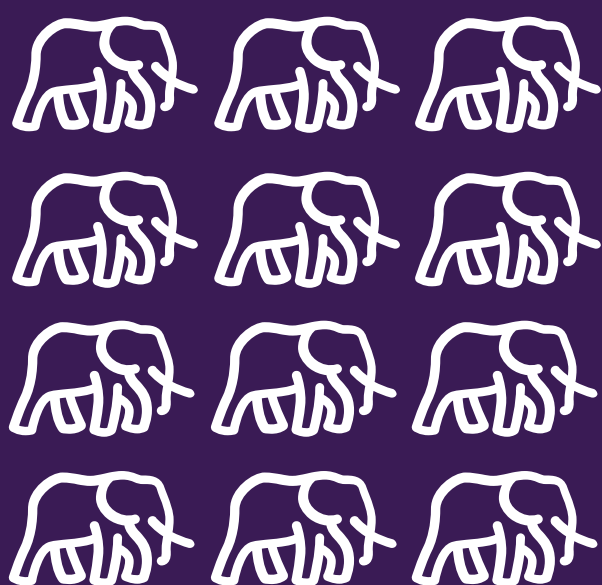
FROM LAND TO SEA

PLASTIC'S JOURNEY IN OUR WATERWAYS



Over the past 50 years, plastic has revolutionised the way we live. It's **cheap, convenient, tough and virtually indestructible**. But the problem with indestructible is that, well, it's indestructible.

So it'll probably be no surprise to you that a staggering amount of our plastic ends up clogging our oceans every year – but **how does it get there?**



The ocean, via litter

Humans have produced a lot of plastic in the short time since inventing it. How much you ask? **About the equivalent weight of one billion elephants, according to Greenpeace's latest figures.** That's a lot of noodle wrappers and friendship bands.

And while we all like to think that letting one plastic bag blow away at the park isn't going to make much of a difference, six billion of us doing the same thing soon adds up. You've seen the beach after holiday makers leave or the park after a festival, well that mess is blowing into rivers becoming part of more than **12 million tonnes* of plastic that end up in our oceans every year.**

The ocean, via land fill

If you put plastic in anything not marked recycling then it's going to landfill. That may sound obvious, but it's something we never think of. I mean, how often do we picture those stinking mountains of man-made trash when popping a crisp packet in the kitchen bin?

On top of that, a surprising amount of rubbish is lost in transport between your house and the depot. And even if it does get there, it's still at risk of blowing into the nearest river or ocean. Whether it's through mishandling by well-meaning sanitation workers or simply the fact that **plastic is lightweight and can be blown away with the gentlest of breezes...** the result is the same. Plastic floating into rivers or washed into our drainage systems and once again out to sea.



The ocean, via your sink

It might seem hard to believe, but there was a time when people washed their faces with nothing but a flannel and a bar soap. Shocking, right? Nowadays of course there's a cosmetic for every occasion and many contain microbeads, **small exfoliating plastics that are too small for our water systems to filter** and consequently end up in not just our sea, but the bellies of sea life and the cod in your fish and chips.

While a recent UK ban on microbeads is a step in the right direction, it's only a first step. We might not realise it, but even washing clothes can release microfibrils into our drains, while for some reason people still think it's ok to flush their wet wipes. Just think of the poor sewage workers!

So...

Despite our best efforts to keep plastic from our waterways with bans and recycling plants, there's only really one way to stop it altogether: and that's cutting our dependence on plastic.

* greenpeace.org (2018)

Find out more

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