Plastics in Europe



EUROPE PRODUCES A HUGE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC: 58 MILLION TONNES EVERY YEAR



Most of the raw material is fossil fuel based. Thus, if the current production trends continue, **by 2050** plastics could account for 20% of oil consumption, 15% of greenhouse gas emissions, and **there could be more plastics than fish in the sea**.

Source: PlasticsEurope

EUROPE PRODUCES 25 MILLION TONNES OF PLASTIC WASTE



Source: PlasticsEurope, 2014

EU initiatives like higher recycling targets and more effective legislation for drinking water (cutting the need for bottled water) are improving the situation, but stronger action is needed.

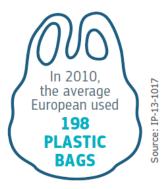
More than 60% of plastic waste still comes from packaging, but only 40% of that packaging is recycled.

Sources: PlasticsEurope and Eurostat



Plastic leakage

Plastics are very durable, so they accumulate in nature, damaging ecosystems we rely on. In the oceans they break down into tiny fragments, which enter the food chain. The microplastics are eaten by plankton, which are eaten by fish, which are eaten by... us.







It's time to rethink plastics

It's time to change the way we design, produce, use and dispose of them. Let's reinvent plastics!

The EU has a new strategy to address the whole life-cycle of plastics. The aim is to make them:

LONGER TO REUSE & TO COLLECT

We also need to stop using plastic where there are better alternatives available, and ensure that the plastics we use keep their economic value for as long as possible, and don't end up in landfills.

By 2030, all plastic packaging placed on the EU market should be reusable or recyclable. As well as cutting the industry's carbon footprint, this will reduce plastic waste and marine litter, and slow the proliferation of microplastics.





Europe is tackling the 10 most found plastic waste items on Europe's beaches promoting sustainable alternatives.

~	Cotton buds	Ban on single use cotton buds made with plastic, to be replaced on the market with sustainable alternatives.
1991	Cutlery, plates, straws & stirrers	Ban on single use cutlery , plates , straws and stirrers made with plastics, to be replaced with more sustainable alternatives.
	Sticks for balloons and balloons	Plastic sticks for balloons to be banned and replaced with sustainable alternatives. On balloons , producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection, waste treatment and introduce new labelling on the environmental impact of the product and recycling options for consumers.
	Food containers	Significant national consumption reduction of plastic food containers . Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection and waste treatment.
	Cups for beverages	Significant national consumption reduction of plastic cups for beverages . Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection and waste treatment.



Ocenymope-178279439548in		Beverage containers	Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection and waste treatment of beverage containers; product design requirements to attach caps and lids to beverage containers; 90% separate collection target for plastic bottles.
		Cigarette butts	Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean- up, collection and waste treatment of cigarette butts and other plastic tobacco product filters.
	3	Bags	Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection and waste treatment of lightweight plastic carrier bags, in addition to existing measures in the existing Plastic Bags Directive.
		Crisp packets/ sweet wrappers	Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection and waste treatment of plastic packets and wrappers.
		Wet wipes and sanitary items	New labelling requirements for sanitary towels and wet wipes to inform consumers on environmental impact of the product and howtodispose of it properly. Producers to contribute to awareness-raising, clean-up, collection and waste treatment of wet wipes.
	Fishing	gear .	Producers of fishing gear containing plastics will be required to cover the costs of waste collection from port reception facilities and its transport and treatment. They will also cover the costs of awareness-raising measures.



CO2 BENEFITS OF PLASTICS RECYCLING



Plastics production and the incineration of plastic waste give rise globally to approximately 400 million tonnes of CO2 a year





Learn more about the plastics strategy and the circular economy:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm