

January-March 2024

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WELCOME BACK TO WFO'S NEWSLETTER

Short summary of our actions in Q1!

Ongoing Project

- **GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY 2024** - Actions in Belgium & Germany



Ocean News

- **PPWR** - EU agrees on new packaging and packaging waste rules
- **INC4** - The 4th meeting on a global plastics treaty taking place in Canada



Events

- **Podcast Release - Plastic, Climate Future** - Interviewing our project manager Victor Préaux
- **SURPASS-Presentation** at the European Food Contact Plastics Conference 2024

What's next?

- **New partnership** - ECO Eyewear, sustainable brand

Ongoing Projects

Global Recycling Day 2024

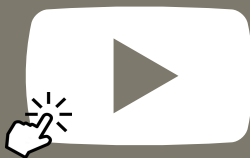


Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. Held on the 18th March it stimulates people, governments, corporations and organizations to take part in clean-ups and promote the recycling of waste.

For this occasion, WFO organised clean-ups in Belgium and Germany.

Together with our partners Cohabs and Restless Brussels, and as part of our European-funded project [SURPASS Project](#), we gathered with 40 volunteers at the Canal in Brussels with the aim of cleaning an area, notorious for being illegal discharge points. What a success it was, we collected over 160kg of waste and got the attention of the national news on the RTBF!

WATCH THE VIDEO OF OUR CLEANUP FOR GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY LAST MARCH!



In Germany, we once again teamed up with our partner, Green Dot to clean up the surroundings on their sites in Hörstel and Cologne! In Hörstel our team collected 15 bags, amounting to around 30 kg of waste! In Cologne, we collected 24 bags (5 general waste, 12 plastic, 5 paper, and 2 metal bags) and 5 baskets of glass! The collected waste was collected and recycled by the municipal waste services.



Events



WFO invited to the Plastic. Climate. Future Podcast

Mid-March, our Project Manager Victor Préaux joined John Sewell and Mateusz Wielopolski in their Podcast Plastic. Climate. Future. to talk about the various actions WFO undertakes.

We had the opportunity to cover some of our projects such as the Ocean Titans docu-series we made in the Dominican Republic, or the construction of waste prevention barriers in Tanzania with our partners the Recyclers.

It also provided an opportunity to cover some of our clean-up operations such as the ones in Brussels and Germany last month!

The recording is available on all streaming services. Go check it out!

SURPASS at the European Food Contact Plastics Conference 2024

We are excited to report on the latest developments from our European-funded project, SURPASS.

Geraldine Cabrera Alvino, representing IPC Centre Technique Industriel de la Plasturgie et des Composites, recently presented at the European Food Contact Plastics Conference 2024 in Brussels.

With keen insight, she delved into the intricacies of the SURPASS Project, spotlighting Case Study 3 within the Packaging Sector.

Specifically, she discussed the innovative MultiNanoLayered (MNL) films developed to replace traditional multi-layer films in food packaging. This presentation marks a significant milestone in our efforts to revolutionize packaging practices for a more sustainable and safe future.



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Ocean News

EU agrees on Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

Early March, the European Union approved a new packaging law aiming for a 15% reduction in waste by 2040. In the past ten years, Europeans produced 25% more waste and were on track to produce another 19% more by 2030 – resulting in a quarter ton of waste per citizen.

The law, also known as the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) also seeks to restrict single-use plastic packaging such as for instance films around individual vegetables and packaging for sauces. PFAS, colloquially known as “forever chemicals”, will be banned from packaging that comes into contact with food.

The EU’s new packaging law will bridge a European divide between countries with a deposit return scheme for plastic bottles and cans and those without. Countries like Italy and Spain, which currently do not have deposit return schemes, will have to adopt them until 2029 to achieve the 90% target for returns of plastic bottles and drink cans.

4th session on a global plastics treaty happening in Canada

The fourth session of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee](#) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), is scheduled to take place from 23 to 29 April 2024 in Ottawa, Canada.

Once again, WFO will be pressing for concrete decisions to be taken through the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty. The Coalition is calling for treaty negotiations to:



1. Focus discussions on critical elements: restrictions, reuse policies, product design, extended producer responsibility, and waste management for immediate change.
2. Utilize lessons from voluntary efforts to establish global rules for tackling plastic pollution, ensuring transparency and fair industry practices through harmonized regulations.
3. Adopt a "start-and-strengthen" approach, prioritizing sectors like packaging where alignment exists to expedite negotiations.

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Thanks For Reading Us!

NEW PARTNERSHIP

We are delighted to continue our impactful collaboration with Eco Eyewear, a globally renowned brand renowned for its strong dedication to sustainability. The forward-thinking brand has been pioneering sustainable eyewear since 2009 and is one of the first carbon-negative brands in the world.

This partnership marks a significant step forward in our mission to address ocean pollution. Together, we are focused on making tangible changes in Tanzania and the Dominican Republic. In Dar Es Salam, we are working alongside our local partner, The Recycler, to install a new river barrier aimed at intercepting and collecting trash. Meanwhile, in the Dominican Republic, Eco Eyewear is actively raising awareness for our projects.

Stay tuned for further updates as we continue our dedicated efforts toward a cleaner and healthier ocean environment!!



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CARBON NEGATIVE EYEWEAR

