

Plastic pollution

we can make things better

WORLD-WIDE PLASTIC PRODUCTION EXPLODED



Source : PlasticsEurope

Plastic waste has a significant impact on the environment

Every day, a gigantic amount of plastic leaks into the environment, the seas and oceans (5 to 13 million t/year).

It stays there for a very long time, damaging nature and the ecosystems that support life on Earth. To prevent this leakage, we need to manage waste better and we need to see plastic waste as a valuable resource. Raising recycling rates and stopping plastic packaging from becoming litter aren't easy, but they must be done.

Source: Sciencemag

Plastic use has grown steadily in the EU, but recycling lags far behind.

In 2014, less than a third of Europe's plastic waste was recycled, another third ended up in landfills, and from the rest only the energy was recovered.

Source: PlasticsEurope



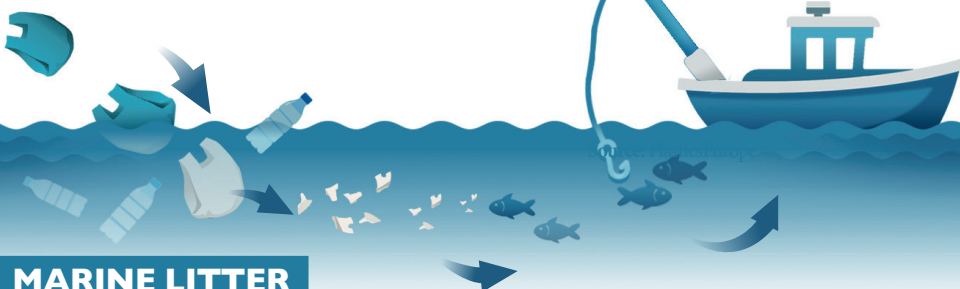
63% of plastic waste comes from packaging

Source: GREEN PAPER On a European Strategy on Plastic Waste in the Environment, COM(2013)123 final

To make plastic, you need precious resources:



On land, some plastic items can take **400 years** to break down.



MARINE LITTER

In the sea and the ocean, plastics disintegrate into tiny pieces, which are eaten by plankton, which are eaten by fish... which can end up in our food.

DID YOU KNOW?

In every km² of water of the Mediterranean Sea, there are around 40 pieces of marine litter

Source: Expeditions Foundation

The EU Commission aims at reducing marine litter by 30% by 2020

PLASTIC WASTE - AN ISSUE IN THE EU

While more than 80% of packaging waste from paper was recycled in the EU in 2014, **less than 40%** of plastic packaging waste was recycled



In 2014, every EU citizen generated **30 kilos** of plastic packaging waste on average, of which **only 12 kilos** were recycled

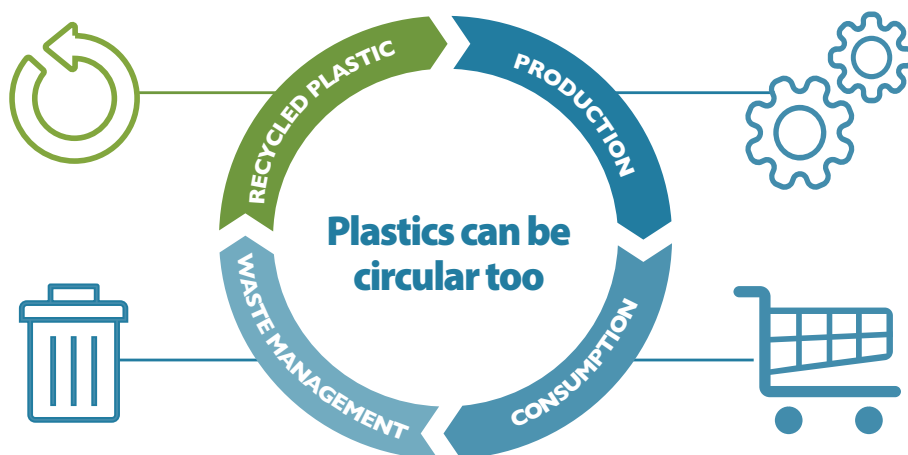
WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS

Source: Eurostat

We need a different kind of economy. A more circular economy, where we prevent and recycle waste much more, so that valuable resources aren't lost.

Producing less waste will benefit both the environment and the economy, creating new business opportunities and durable new jobs. It's a win-win situation for society.

In a circular economy, we rethink the whole approach – from how we produce and consume to the way we manage waste, turning it back into raw materials ready to be used again.



Better design

of plastics for less toxicity, more durability and easier recycling



More information

to raise awareness and encourage responsible behaviour



Actions

to encourage the use of recycled plastic



Stronger incentives

to collect, sort and recycle all plastics

OBJECTIVE

A more circular economy and a new strategy for plastics will make Europe's economy more sustainable and more competitive, with benefits for business and citizens alike.