

# Plastic pollution

## we can make things better



**WORLD-WIDE  
PLASTIC  
PRODUCTION  
EXPLODED**



**1950**



**2015**

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. Almost 40% of plastics is used for packaging. 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



Again in 2014, although **more than 65%** of all packaging waste was recycled in the EU, **less than 40%** of plastic packaging waste was recycled.

Source: Eurostat

To make plastic, you need precious resources:



**Fossil feedstocks**

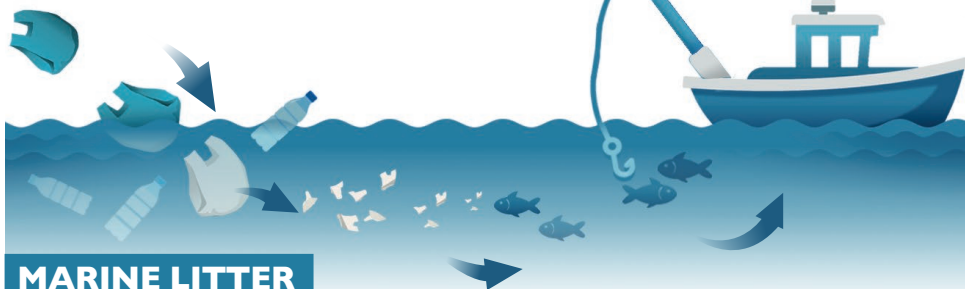


**Water**



**Energy**

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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 IS AN ISSUE IN MALTA

At 33%, the recycling rate was below the EU average



In 2014, the average citizen generated **26 kilos** of plastic packaging waste, of which **less than 9 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.