

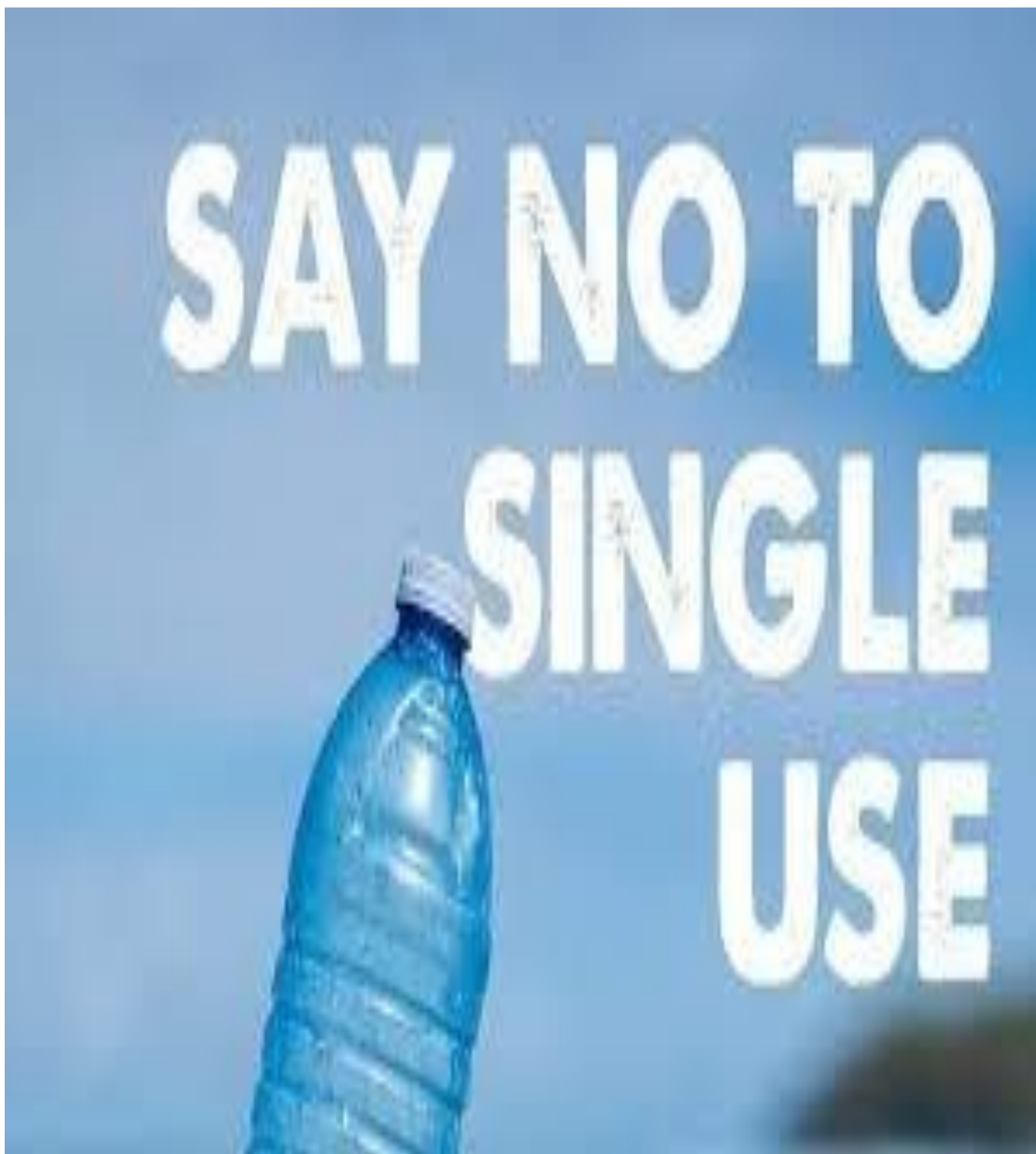
ENVIROKIDS WORKSHOPS



**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
GO GREEN
WITH US**
TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND



SINGLE USE PLASTIC & RECYCLING



Recycling and single use plastic -The benefits of plastic are undeniable. The material is cheap, lightweight, and easy to make. This had led to the fact that nearly everything we buy is made from plastic or wrapped in plastic. This will continue as global plastic production skyrockets over the next 20 years. We are already unable to cope with the amount of plastic waste we generate, unless we change the way we make products and the use of plastics. Ultimately, tackling one of the biggest environmental scourges the world has ever seen.

Over the last 60 years the making of plastic has passed out almost every other material. Nearly all the plastic we produce is designed to be thrown away after being used only once or (Single use Plastic). As a result, plastic packaging accounts for about half of the plastic waste in the world as we discovered in the last issue, The Garbage Islands. A lot of these single use plastic are in Asia, while USA, and Europe are the world's largest producers of plastic packaging waste.

Some of the biggest Single use Plastics are the main brands like Coca cola, Nestle and Pepsi. In a cleanup operation in over 50 countries throughout the world, these big-name brand products were found. These companies need to address this now. In this issue we will look at how we can help. Recycling is one big way in which we can help.



To stop scenes like this we all need to do better.



How did this bottle end up in the ocean



We need to recycle. All of these bottles were picked on a beach.

Single use Plastic

The plastic bag ban in 2002 was a huge step for Ireland causing a 90% drop in plastic bags in our country. Together, we can help to put an end to Single use plastic by cutting out small, everyday plastic use. Let us have a look at ways to help reduce our plastic waste. (1) By using reusable drinks beaker or bottle, you will help save our planet. Plastic bottles are one of the most frequently found items on beach cleans globally. The lids commonly end up in seabirds' stomachs. (2) Straws are sucking the life out of our oceans. But there is an easy fix to this one, if you do not need one, do not use one. Plastic straws and stirrers can take up to 200 years to decompose. Use paper straws, or ditch them altogether and try the age-old sipping technique. Is it worth taking a plastic straw with your Strawberry Milkshake when the straw could remain in landfill long after your 100th birthday? (3) Other items are cling film. It cannot be recycled, foil is recyclable. So, if you are using foil, make sure you put it in the recycling bin after use! Another alternative is the new **Beeswax Wraps**. Made using 100% cotton and local Beeswax they are 100% natural and environmentally friendly. (4) Glitter is made from plastic of such a small size it is especially lethal to our oceans as we spoke about in the Garbage island issue. This microplastic can eventually end up in our food chain as plankton and shellfish can ingest it. There are many ranges of eco-friendly, **biodegradable glitter** out there.



Why we need to Recycle

Recycling is important to preserve the environment and to leave the planet in a better condition than we found it. Did you know that the average person throws away nearly four pounds of rubbish each day? That is more than 1.5 tons of waste per person per year, add that to all the people on the planet, that will make a lot of rubbish. We have a big problem in the world today with electronic waste (e-waste) that is produced. The mobile phone, toaster, laptops and tv's if not recycled, will end up in the landfill producing toxic waste. It poisons our soil, water, trees, and other precious resources. E-waste is especially bad for the environment and is something that you can help to prevent as you learn to recycle many things in their communities: papers, magazines, cans, plastic, glass bottles electronics and more. All E-waste should be brought to a suitable waste facility for recycling, NEVER put in your home bin. The good news is that all of us can do our part to recycle, including you and your family and classmates. If children learn from early on to recycle, they will carry that good habit with them for life. With some easy effort and correct introduction, you can learn how to become part of the solution to recycling for a healthier planet and a better future for us all.

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

You can help by learning about and practicing the three R's of waste management: **Reduce, reuse, and recycle!** Practicing all three of these activities every day is not only important for a healthy environment, but it can also be fun too. So let's take a look at how to learn more about waste and waste management, so you can become a key player in making our world a safe and healthy place. Your recycling mission is not impossible! In fact, it is amazingly simple: Don't throw away anything that can be recycled! Buy **ONLY** what you need and use all of what you buy.



Recycling is how we take certain rubbish and transform it into new products for use. There are several types of recycling processes that allow some materials to be used one or more times. Recycling is good for us and the environment because it reduces the use of new raw materials and to produce new products. It also reduces the energy we use, improves the quality of air and water, and most of all it fights climate change. Another way to help is reducing. Keeping our new purchases to a minimum is a way to reduce our use of natural resources. Reducing consumption of physical objects is important, so when out shopping think of ways to reduce the number of products we don't need and cutting down on items entering our landfill.



Recycling correctly

There is a certain way in Ireland to recycle, and for our waste collection, companies will accept our recycling bin. Remove inner linings or packaging and flatten cardboard containers to help with the **recycling** process and to save space in your bin. Do not put food waste or other compostable materials (such as soiled pizza boxes) into your recyclables bin, these materials should be placed into your compost bin. All food cans like beans, spaghetti or pet food cans should all be washed out before placing in your recycling bin. Milk cartons or yogurt containers also should be washed out. All items should be clean, and any non-recyclable material separated before being put in the bin. Simple tasks we need to follow to protect our planet.

Save our natural resources and wildlife. Recycling helps to reduce the rubbish in landfills that can take hundreds of years to break down. It also helps to preserve trees by reducing the need for new paper. If we do more to preserve natural resources, we also help to support wildlife for us to enjoy throughout our lives and for the future.

A single aluminum can will sit in a landfill for at least 500 years. All aluminum cans may be recycled.

If you lined up the plastic bottles tossed away each year, they would circle our planet four times.



Activities to do at home

Find 5 ways in your home that you think you can recycle better.
 Create some of the items below for a home project or school project.
 Have a look at the mywaste.ie for more information on recycling.



Quiz

- 1, Name the 3 brand names that produce the most waste?
- 2, How much waste does one person produce each year?
- 3, What should you do with your food or pet cans before recycling?
- 4, Can you put a toaster in your recycling bin?
- 5, Is glitter good for fish?
- 6, How long do aluminum cans sit in a landfill?
- 7, What are the 3 Rs?
- 8, Plastic straws take how long to decompose?
- 9, What should you do with cardboard before recycling?
- 10, If you lined plastic bottles thrown away, side by side, how many times would they circle the earth?

All answers will be on our next issue (Arctic and Antarctic)

Quiz answers from the Garbage islands.

- 1, How many Garbage islands are there in the world? .5
- 2, Where is the great pacific garbage island? From California to Hawaii.
- 3, Name 3 of the main items found in the ocean? Cigarette, Food wrappers, Plastic bottles
- 4, How many times bigger than Ireland is the great pacific garbage island? 24 times.
- 5, Who was the captain who is said to have named the pacific garbage island? Captain Moore
- 6, What are the net's discarded by boats called? Ghost nets
- 7, Who from Holland set up the ocean cleanup? Boyan Slat
- 8, Plastic that breaks into very small pieces is called what? Microplastic
- 9, What is the name of the river cleanup boat? Interceptor.
- 10, How much rubbish is the ocean cleanup hoping to clean up every 5 years? 50% of the rubbish.



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