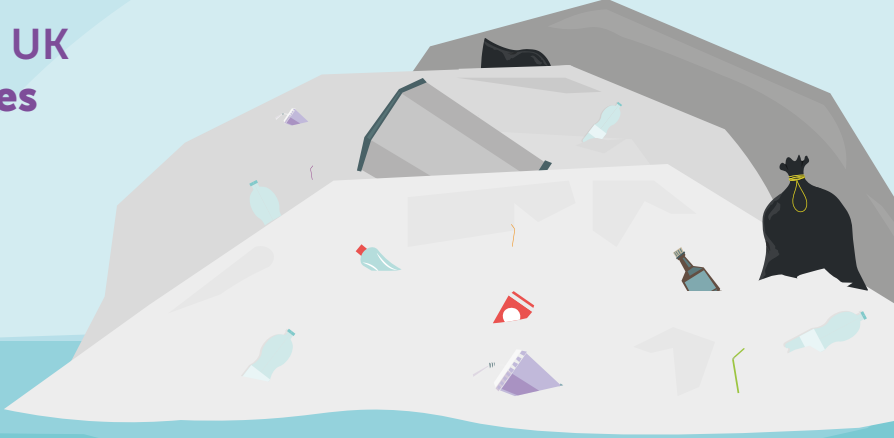


Full of rubbish.

How much do we waste in the UK and what are the consequences to people and planet?



Every day in the UK, we use

38.5million

plastic bottles, including beverage bottles, milk bottles and toiletries bottles

(House of Commons, 2017)

Of this,

15million

are not currently recycled

(House of Commons, 2017)



Around

700,000

plastic bottles are littered every day in the UK

(House of Commons, 2017)

Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W light bulb for

6 hours

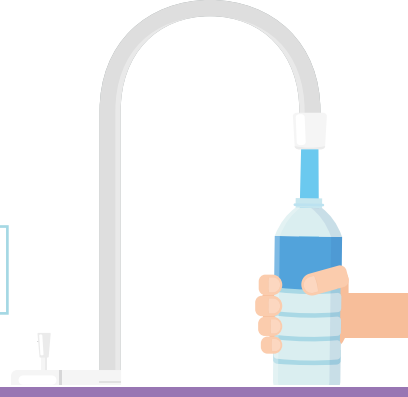
(Bryson Education, 2017)

65%

of the UK public wouldn't buy bottled water if tap water refills were freely available.

(BRITA / Keep Britain Tidy, 2017)

Simple solutions are being looked into to help reduce the amount of plastic bottles we use. One option would be to have more freely available drinking water in public places



Plastic bags

Since the 5p plastic carrier bag charge was introduced in October 2015, the number of single-use plastic bags sold by large supermarket retailers has decreased by

83%

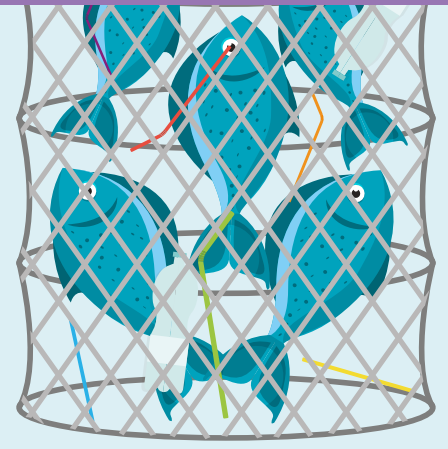
(DEFRA, 2017)

It is estimated that the UK uses

8.5billion

plastic straws a year

(Marine Conservation Society, 2018)



Plastic straws were one of the most commonly found items in the Great British Beach Clean 2017

10

(Marine Conservation Society, 2017)

Plastic waste often ends up in our seas, causing around

12.2 million tonnes

being deposited into the marine environments around the world every year

(#OneLess Campaign)

Plastic bottles make up a **1/3** of all plastic pollution in the sea.

(Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016)

If marine pollution continues to rise at its current rate, the amount of plastic in the sea will outweigh fish by **2050**

(Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016)

Every plastic bottle takes **450 years** to break down. The process of plastic breaking down is itself hazardous to marine habitats and ecosystems, as plastic breaks down into tiny plastic particles called 'micro-plastics' that can kill marine wildlife including birds and fish through poisoning the water.

(#OneLess Campaign)

What do you think of the plastic waste problem?

Join the debate on our website:

www.social-change.co.uk/blog