

# Global Issues

## SCALE OF ISSUES

### PERSONAL ISSUE

Something that only affects you



### LOCAL ISSUE

Something that affects people within a community or a small area within a country



### NATIONAL ISSUE

Something that affects all people within a whole country



### GLOBAL ISSUE

Something that affects lots of people worldwide



## CATEGORISING ISSUES

### Social

- Key Questions**
- Where do they live?
  - What do they do?
  - Are they happy?
  - Do they have everything they want?

### Economic

- Key Questions**
- How much money does a place have?
  - Does everyone have an equal share?
  - What jobs do they do?
  - Do they have enough money for schools and doctors?



- Key Questions**
- What is it like there?
  - What is the water like there?
  - What can grow there?
  - How have people changed it?

- Key Questions**
- Who makes the rules?
  - What rules do they have?
  - Can everyone make choices?
  - What do they believe?

### Environmental

### Political

## GLOBAL ISSUES



**CLIMATE CHANGE** From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding



**GENDER EQUALITY** Women and girls represent half of the world's population and, therefore, also half of its potential



**POVERTY** Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion



**MIGRATION** Some people move in search of labour or economic opportunities, to join family, or study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution or terrorism.



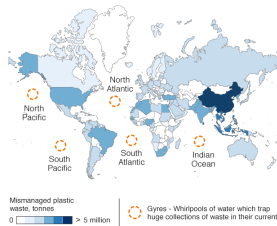
**THE OCEANS** Growing concern over the toll taken on coastal fish stocks by long-distance fishing fleets and over the threat of pollution



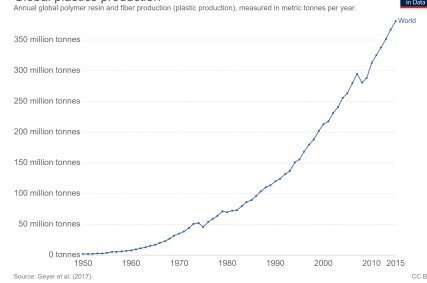
**ACCESS TO WATER** Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, energy and food production

## THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTICS

### Ocean plastic

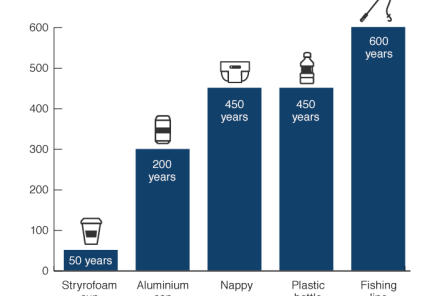


### Global plastics production

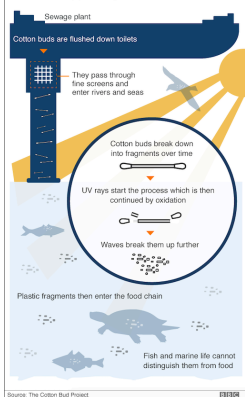


### How long til they're gone?

Estimated time taken to biodegrade

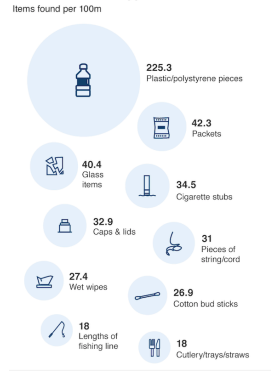


### What can happen to your cotton buds



### What kind of waste appears on UK beaches?

Items found per 100m



Source: Based on a Marine Conservation Society survey of 339 beaches across the UK.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Source: Brundtland Report, 1987

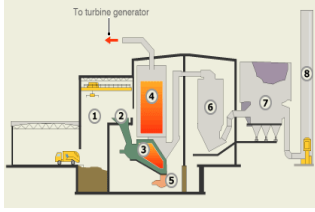


<b>1 NO POVERTY</b> 	<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b> 	<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b> 	<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b> 	<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b> 	<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b> 
<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> 	<b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> 	<b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> 	<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b> 	<b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b> 	<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b> 
<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b> 	<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b> 	<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b> 	<b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b> 	<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b> 	

## THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC DISPOSAL



Option 1 - Landfill



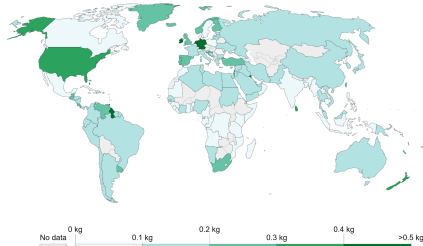
Option 2 - Incineration



Option 3 - Recycle

Plastic waste generation per person, 2010

Daily plastic waste generation per person, measured in kilograms per person per day. This measures the overall per capita plastic waste generation rate prior to waste management, recycling or incineration. It does not therefore directly indicate the risk of pollution to waterways or marine environments.



Source: Jambeck et al. (2015)

Our World in Data

### The Countries Importing the World's Plastic Waste

Cumulative figures related to the import of plastic waste from 1988 to 2016

Country	Total net weight (million metric tons)	Total trade value (billion USD)	Share of global imports
China*	170.5	80.9	72.40%
United States	8.49	5.18	3.60%
Netherlands	6.43	2.40	2.70%
Germany	5.36	2.30	2.30%
Belgium	4.15	1.81	1.80%
Canada	3.83	1.76	1.60%
Italy	3.32	1.84	1.40%
India	3.10	1.20	1.30%

\* Including Hong Kong

Source: ScienceAdvances: "The Chinese import ban and its impact on global plastic waste trade" (Brooks et al.)

statista

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

### GLOBAL COMMONS

The global commons are defined under international law as "resource domains or areas that lie outside of the political reach of any one nation State" (United Nations Law Division).

This means that an area defined as a global common is available for use by any country and cannot be claimed for exclusive use by any one country or privatised for the exclusive use of a company.

The four global commons identified by international law are:

- The High Seas
- The Atmosphere
- Antarctica
- Outer Space



## MANAGING PLASTIC POLLUTION

There are a number of things that governments can do — from running public awareness campaigns, to offering incentives for recycling, to **introducing levies or even banning certain products outright**.

In the last decade, dozens of national and local governments around the world have adopted policies to reduce the use of disposable plastic. And the number continues to grow.

### UK POLICIES



5p carrier bag tax



Banning cotton buds



Engaging young people



Banning microbeads



Banning plastic straws



Making industries take responsibility



Plastic-free aisles in supermarkets



Cutting down on plastic bottles



Removing disposable coffee cups

## THE TRUE IMPACT OF PLASTICS

And from April 2020... Nearly 400 million tons of plastics were produced worldwide last year. Since they practically last forever, they added to a stock of tens of billion of tons, only a scant percentage of which having been recycled. Nearly a third of packaging is estimated to be lost every year onto land, into rivers and oceans. According to some estimates, by 2050 the mass of plastics in oceans will exceed the mass of fish. The food chain, from minnows to humans, is already contaminated. And it's not all just about terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems: last April microplastic fibres, raised into the air by water evaporation, rained down over the Pyrenees.



## KEY WORDS