

Welcome

My name is Lydia and I am a Green Champion for the Northampton District. I am creating these Eco club resources to encourage you to live more environmentally friendly. If you haven't read the first edition of the eco club, you can find it on the Northampton District Facebook page, on the Northampton district website or follow this link. <https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f19e84677cd9/content/pages/documents/1594295782.pdf>

Microplastics: a problem not so micro

Located a few hundred Kilometers north of Hawaii, you can find the 'Great Pacific garbage patch' but the reality is far from great. The patch is a giant collection of marine debris, most of which is plastic. More than 7 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the world's oceans each year and if we carry on as we are, by 2050 there could be more plastic in the sea than fish! Plastic is such a huge problem because it isn't biodegradable. It just gets broken down into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics. These microplastics leach out toxins into our seas and act like magnets to other harmful chemicals. Once the microplastics mix with plankton it disguises as food for all types marine life from shrimps to whales. When inside the sea creatures these microplastics are then passed through the food chain all the way to humans. 92% of people living in America have traces of plastic and the chemicals from plastic in their systems. Exposure to these chemicals can cause health problems for humans. But it's arguably the effect on marine life that is the most devastating. One million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed every year due to the plastic in the ocean. Turtles mistake carrier bags for jellyfish, seals entangle in discarded fishing nets. It's a problem so huge it's impossible to know exactly how much plastic there is polluting the oceans. But its also a problem that you can help reduce. Differences you make will have an impact!



"WE ALL HAVE POWER AS INDIVIDUALS AND CONSUMERS TO KICK THIS ADDICTION"

- TANYA STREETER, PLASTIC OCEANS AMBASSADOR

5 Ways to save our seas:

- If you see some litter pick it up- litter such as plastic bags are super lightweight and get blown into waterways by the wind. If it's safe to do so, pick it up even if you're not by the sea.
- Use reusable bottles- 500 billion plastic bottles are used worldwide every year, many of which don't get recycled.
- Support charities- there are many incredible charities that work hard to clean our oceans that depend on donations to continue their planet saving work. For example, 4Ocean is a company who use plastic from the sea to make jewelry. The purchase of one bracelet funds the removal of one pound of rubbish from the oceans!
- Shop smart- when shopping for groceries choose foods that aren't wrapped in plastic; only 14% of plastic packaging gets recycled.
- Invest in reusable items- there are so many environmentally friendly alternatives to single use plastic, from reusable straws to beeswax cling film.

Want to find out more?

'A Plastic Ocean' - a multi award winning documentary, available on Netflix or to rent on Amazon, reveals the effects of plastic on the planet's marine ecosystems and on human health. Praised by David Attenborough as 'one of the most important films of our time' you can also host a socially distanced screening at your church.

<http://aplasticocean.movie/>



'Coronavirus: Pandemic 'causing new wave' of plastic pollution' - an article by the BBC, telling the story of a Cornwall based charity 'Surfers Against Sewage' and how the pandemic has caused an increase in new types of plastic waste found on our coastlines in England.

Get in touch

We want to hear from you! If you have any feedback, ideas, questions, or environmental news please don't hesitate to email me!

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