

PLASTIC CONSUMPTION & ITS EFFECTS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

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A tortoise eats plastic floating in the ocean.
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The majority of global climate change is caused by human activity and its relationship with the planet. One of the biggest examples of corporate exploitation of consumerism is the plastics industry.

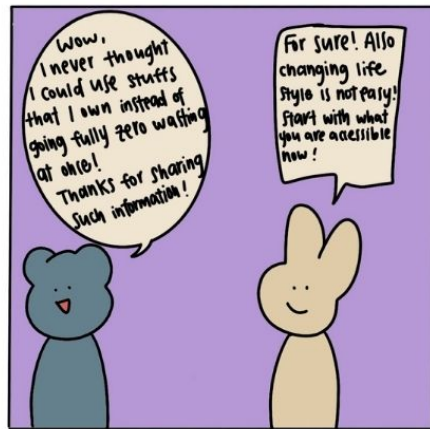


It's estimated that about **8 million tons** of plastic waste escape into our oceans each year.



Millions of animals are killed each year from plastics pollution and **700 species** are affected



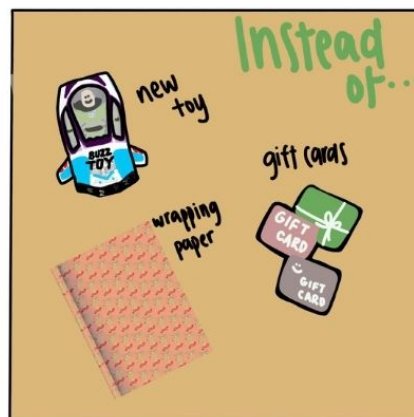
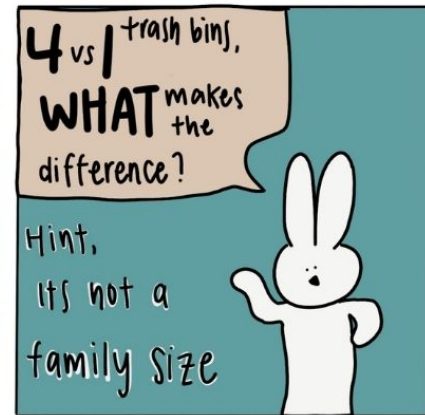


MYTH: ZERO WASTE COSTS TOO MUCH

This misconception comes from the thought that you must buy elaborate or expensive reusable substitutes to replace cheaper single use items. In fact, zero-waste strategies could help save your money! It is true that the investment you make on the alternatives will last longer, however, you don't have to start with a new gadgets! Look inside your cabinet, you might already have alternatives!

DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Small changes can make all the difference in reducing out environmental footprint during our festive break. GWP group show that an additional 30% of rubbish is produced and discarded throughout the holiday season when compared with the rest of the year. These alternatives will help you save more money and reduce amount of waste that will be created over the festive season!





THE EARTH TURNING PLASTIC

The world is producing plastic at a much higher rate than we are able to deal with it and dispose of it. Today single use plastics account for **40%** of plastics produced every year. These plastics are the same ones that end up polluting our oceans and are causing detrimental effects to our marine wildlife. These one-use-plastics such as water bottles, plastic bags, food wrappers, and various packaging only have a limited use and if they don't get recycled, they end up in our environment for an exponential amount of time because they are so often not degradable. The root of this issue are the big corporations who manufacture plastics. They only want plastic production to rise and are typically inconsiderate of appeals to begin manufacturing a more environmentally friendly plastic. This is because the products they make are continually purchased by us, the consumers, and they in turn, continue to make a profit.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Remember; YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO HELP:

- Consider going zero waste or at least as close as you can get.
- This means recycle more, refrain purchasing extra plastic bags or use your own bags at the grocery.
- Avoid single-use-plastics: straws/utensils
- Buy in bulk! It's cheaper and doesn't result in as much plastic waste.
- Finally, continue to advocate to others the importance of cleaning up our environment. We only have one planet so we have to make our time here worth it.



HELPFUL LINKS & OUR SOURCES

Helpful links:

- [Reduce Plastic Waste](#)
- [Tips to Use Less Plastic](#)
- [100 Steps to a Plastic-Free Life](#)
- [Why Should You Care About Preventing Waste?](#)

Works Cited:

- [National Geographic](#)
- [Environmental Health News](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) 2](#)
- [Forbes](#)