

How Using Plastic Contributes to Climate Change

THE PROBLEM

Chemicals derived from fossil fuels are used to make 99% of all plastics. The more plastic we make, the higher the demand for gas, oil and even coal - the fossil fuels driving climate change. It also takes more than 1,000 years for plastic to decompose.

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Half of the plastic produced each year is single-use like bottles, bags, and food packaging. These “throwaway” plastics often end their short life-cycle polluting the oceans, being burned, or dumped into landfills. By 2050, there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish.

RECYCLING

Recycling barely makes a dent in plastics pollution. Only 5% of plastic waste is actually recycled into new products. Most ends up in landfills or as litter. Plastic producers have led efforts to promote recycling, attempting to shift responsibility for plastic’s environmental impact onto consumers.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Notice all the single-use plastic in your life.
2. Reduce or stop your use of single-use plastics.
3. Pressure businesses to stop using and producing single-use plastic.
4. Support policies that incentivize sustainable packaging and reduce plastic waste.
5. Buy products from companies committed to reducing plastic use.
6. Educate others about the impact of plastics.

TO LEARN MORE



SCAN ME

bit.ly/climate-change-short-guides