

Plastic pollution we can make things better

WORLD-WIDE PLASTIC PRODUCTION EXPLODED

Plastic waste has a significant impact on the environment

Every day, a gigantic amount of plastic leaks into the environment, the seas and oceans (5 to13 million t/year).

It stays there for a very long time, damaging nature and the ecosystems that support life on Earth. To prevent this leakage, we need to manage waste better and we need to see plastic waste as a valuable resource. Almost 40% of plastics is used for packaging. Raising recycling rates and stopping plastic packaging from becoming litter aren't easy, but they must be done. Source: Sciencemag

I.5 MILLION t/year

1950

Plastic use has grown steadily in the EU, but recycling lags far behind.

••••



In 2014, less than a third

of Europe's plastic waste was recycled, another third ended up in landfills, and from the rest only the energy was recovered. Source: PlasticsEurope

Aga Model of a

Again in 2014, although **more than 65%** of all packaging waste was

recycled in the EU, less than 40% of plastic packaging waste was recycled. Source: Eurostat

322 MILLION t/year

Source : PlasticsEurope

To make plastic, you need precious resources:





Fossil feedstocks Energ

On land, some plastic items can take **400 years** to break down.



DID YOU KNOW?

In every km² of water of the Mediterranean Sea, there are around 40 pieces of marine litter

The EU Commission aims at reducing marine litter by 30% by 2020

MARINE LITTER

In the sea and the ocean, plastics disintegrate into tiny pieces, which are eaten by plankton, which are eaten by fish... which can end up in our food.



At 33%, the recycling rate was below the EU average

WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS

We need a different kind of economy. A more circular economy, where we prevent and recycle waste much more, so that valuable resources aren't lost.

Producing less waste will benefit both the environment and the economy, creating new business opportunities and durable new jobs. It's a win-win situation for society.

In a circular economy, we rethink the whole approach – from how we produce and consume to the way we manage waste, turning it back into raw materials ready to be used again.



Better design

of plastics for less toxicity, more durability and easier recycling



In 2014, the average citizen generated **26 kilos** of plastic packaging waste, of which **less than 9 kilos** were recycled

Source: Eurostat



More information

to raise awareness and encourage responsible behaviour Actions to encourage the use of recycled

plastic

Stronger incentives

to collect, sort and recycle all plastics

OBJECTIVE

A more circular economy and a new strategy for plastics will make Europe's economy more sustainable and more competitive, with benefits for business and citizens alike.