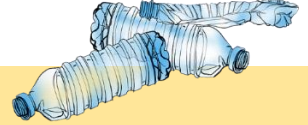


THE PLASTIC PROBLEM



DID YOU KNOW...

- Throwaway/single use plastic packaging makes up 40% of the demand for plastic
- 40% of plastic packaging waste is disposed of at sanitary landfills, 14% goes to incineration facilities and 14% is collected for recycling. Incineration creates the most CO2 emissions among the plastic waste management methods.
- Usage of single use plastic has increased dramatically in the past decade. By 2050 plastic will be responsible for up to 13% of the total “carbon budget” – equivalent to 615 coal-fired power plants
- According to research by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, by 2050 the ocean will contain more plastic (by weight) than fish. Studies also found that tiny particles of plastic are already in our food chain and an average person who consumes seafood ingests 11,000 tiny pieces of plastic per year.
- Plastic takes more than 400 years to degrade, so most of it still exists in some form. Only 12 percent has been incinerated.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS GENERATE:

- Huge production and transportation costs yet they are used only once, mostly for a few minutes or seconds, then thrown away
- Long lasting rubbish: Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (most plastic bottles), which is highly recyclable plastic, but can take about 400 years to degrade naturally.
- Micro-plastics which are almost impossible to clean up
- Many plastics contain chemical additives which can leach back out of the material, getting into our food, our water, and ultimately our bodies.

SOURCES

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