



PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE PRESS

COMPILATION BY PLASTIC TIDES

— The most visual representations of the issue of plastic pollution we've come about —

Albatross — The Film

<http://www.albatrossthefilm.com/trailer.html>

Plankton eating plastic — University of Exeter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vKLokx6iGg>

Largest ever study of plastic pollution — NY Times article describing Science Advances study

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/19/climate/plastic-pollution-study-science-advances.html>

When Plastic Enters the food chain — BBC News

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-39217985>

➤ This is a complex topic and there is a lot of research to be done on this front, but the fact that zooplankton eats plastic has the potential to disrupt the entire ocean carbon cycle which we depend on for every aspect of life.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160229135927.htm>

Small particles of plastic such as microbeads, microplastics, and microfibers act as magnets for toxins, ending up in our plates — the Independent

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/plastic-microplastic-microbeads-pollution-toxic-environment-house-of-commons-environmental-audit-a7011256.html>

Related videos:

The Story about Microbeads: <https://storyofstuff.org/movies/lets-ban-the-bead/>

The Story of Microfibers: <https://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-microfibers/>

A Whopping 91% of Plastic Isn't Recycled — Nat Geo 2017

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/>

Sea salt contaminated by plastic: The Guardian Sept 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/08/sea-salt-around-world-contaminated-by-plastic-studies>

David Attenborough's Article 'I remember being told plastic doesn't decay'

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/sep/25/david-attenborough-on-the-scourge-of-the-oceans-i-remember-being-told-plastic-doesnt-decay-its-wonderful>

'There's literally a ton of plastic garbage for every person on Earth' — Washington Post
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/07/19/theres-literally-a-ton-of-plastic-garbage-for-every-person-in-the-world/?utm_term=.5476d3008396

SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The Ocean Cleanup, designed by 21-year-old Boyan Slat, is a system of modified oil booms (used during oil spill cleanups) that aim to collect floating plastic in our oceans. While we certainly applaud this effort, it will not be a successful endeavor in the foreseeable future unless the team behind it changes their focus. The ocean is simply too vast, the conditions too extreme, the floating plastic too small, and the biological impact too unknown. Potential for the project lies only in the redirection of the vision to shorelines and smaller scales.

For more information regarding this misguided "solution", read this article from The Guardian.
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/26/ocean-cleanup-project-environment-pollution-boyan-slat>

Compostable or biodegradable plastic is not a real solution! Not yet! Though a truly biodegradable plastic (in all environments, especially aquatic) would be a tremendous solution, what we have today is not that. Instead companies are green-washing their products by using a "bio-plastic". These plant-based plastics do not biodegrade in any environment and compost only in industrial composting facilities. Considering [only 9% of plastic is recycled](#), we can expect even less "bio-plastic" making it to the right facility for composting. These plastics also mess up the recycling process.

To learn more about bio-plastic, read this interview with one of our co-founders, Celine Jennison
<https://ecolunchboxes.com/blogs/news/when-compostable-is-sometimes-worse-than-plastic>

SOLUTIONS FOR NOW

- Education!
- Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot (Compost)
- Avoiding single-use plastic at all cost by preparing in advance (bring your reusables)
- Beach clean-ups - Cleaning the beach is cleaning the ocean!
- Bans and incentives
- Meal worms that can eat and digest Styrofoam and other plastics
- Circular economy design
- Systems thinking

SOME OF PLASTIC TIDES' WORK

INTEGRATING ADVENTURE WITH ACTIVISM

Microplastics found in Hawaii's most remote streams — National Geographic

<https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2016/04/21/plastics-found-in-one-of-hawaiis-most-remote-streams/>

Lessons from Ocean Trash — Mind Body Green

<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/articles/lessons-from-ocean-trash>

SUP the Mag Articles

<https://www.supthemag.com/tag/plastic-tides/>



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