

How can we rethink plastic to solve the problem of ocean plastics?



World's toughest plastic bag ban

Producing, selling, importing and using plastic bags is now illegal in Kenya, with up to four years jail time or a £31,000 fine.

Improve recycling

UK could adopt strict Norway plastic bottle recycling system. Britain recycles just over 50 % of its plastic bottles, compared to 97% in Norway

Ban plastic straws

McDonalds is to ban plastic straws in all of its UK and Ireland restaurants.

Pitch in with a beach clean up

The National Trust (UK) looks after 780 miles of coastline, providing havens for wildlife and beautiful beaches for everyone to enjoy. If you people want to lend a hand to keep these places special, you can join in with one of the regular beach cleans.

Reuse bottles

With Ecover, you can refill your washing up liquids, laundry liquids and all-purpose cleaners at refill stations across the UK. Their bottles can be used more than 50 times, that's a lot of plastic savings.

Switch out single-use plastics

Marks & Spencer is replacing 75 million pieces of plastic cutlery with alternatives made from FSC certified wood. M&S cafés now serve 99% of their 52 million hot drinks in reusable china.

The Ocean Cleanup

The Ocean Cleanup develops advanced technologies to rid the world's oceans of plastic. A full-scale deployment of the systems is estimated to clean up 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch every 5 years.

Questions

1. Study the approaches to the plastic problem above. Match each of the following words or phrases to at least one of the approaches (the 6Rs): Redesign, Refuse, Reduce, Repair, Reuse, Recycle.
2. Which ones attempt to remove plastic from the ocean and which aim to stop plastic from entering the ocean? Are any difficult to classify? Why?