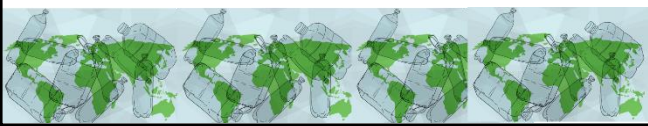


Whatever you're interested in is not going to happen if
you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit
this one out. Do something.
#BeatPlasticPollution



“Beat Plastic Pollution” is the theme for World Environment Day 2018. Chosen by this year’s host, India, the theme of World Environment Day 2018 urges all of us to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of Plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife – and our own health.

Plastic has many valuable uses, the material is cheap, lightweight and easy to make. These qualities have led to a boom in the production of Plastic over the past century. We are already unable to cope with the amount of Plastic waste we generate. Millions of tons of Plastic leak into our oceans every year, harming biodiversity, economies and potentially, our own health. The world urgently needs to rethink the way we manufacture, use and manage Plastic.

It is neither possible nor desirable to remove all Plastic from society. Neither can there be a one- size- fits- all solution to the crisis. Governments, businesses and individuals - all have to play a major role in weaning society from its dependence on a material that continues to cause havoc in the environment.

This World Environment Day, let us do our bit to create awareness and help combat Plastic pollution.

Time to Break Up

with disposable Plastic





Every year the world uses **500 billion** plastic bags.



Last decade, we produced more plastic than in the whole of **last century**.



50% of plastic we use is **single-use** or disposable.



We buy 1 million plastic bottles **every minute**.



Plastic makes up **10% of all the waste** we generate.



Every year, we use **17 million barrels of oil** to produce plastic bottles for our water.



The plastic we throw away can **circle the Earth four times** in a single year.



Every year, up to **13 million tons of plastic** leak into our oceans.



Today, we produce about **300 million tons of plastic waste** every year. That's almost equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.



Disposable plastic items represent **50% of marine litter**.



Plastic can **survive** in the environment for up to **500 years**.



To decompose- plastic cutlery takes more than **100 years**. Plastic Bags **10-20 years**. Diapers-**450 years**. Some plastics -Never.



Recycling plastic takes **88% less energy** than making new plastic.

Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) carries **1,469,481 tons** of plastic waste that ends up in the oceans. Ganges, Meghna, Brahmaputra rivers, carry **72,845 tons** of plastic waste that ends up in the oceans. If current trends continue, our oceans could contain **more plastic than fish** by 2050.



Cigarette butts - whose filters contain tiny plastic fibers - are the most common type of plastic waste found in the environment. Drink bottles, bottle caps, food wrappers, grocery bags, plastic lids, straws and stirrers are the next most common items.

- Most plastics instead of biodegrading, slowly break down into smaller fragments known as micro plastics. And micro plastics are even more difficult to remove from the ocean.
- Studies suggest that plastic bags and containers made of expanded polystyrene foam (commonly referred to as "Styrofoam") can take thousands of years to decompose, contaminating soil and water and can even enter our food chain.
- Plastic bags, by clogging sewers provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes and pests, and also increase the transmission of vector borne diseases like malaria.
- There is evidence that the toxic chemicals added during the manufacture of plastic transfer to animal tissue, eventually entering the human food chain. Some of the compounds found in plastic have been found to alter hormones or have other potential human health effects.

Here are some ways to Beat Plastic Pollution

- Choose to reuse when it comes to shopping bags and bottled water. Cloth bags and metal or glass reusable bottles are available locally.
- Refuse Plastic cutlery, straws, and other "disposable" Plastics wherever possible.
- Reduce everyday Plastics such as sandwich bags and juice cartons by replacing them with a reusable lunch bag/box that includes a thermos.
- Avoid Plastic bags and Styrofoam as both typically have very low recycling rates.
- Request your grocer, food suppliers to use non-plastic packaging.
- Pick up any Plastic you see when you're out walking, and bin it.
- Bring your own shopping bags to the supermarket.
- Store leftovers in glass jars/containers.
- Seek out alternatives to the Plastic items to reduce your Plastic foot print.
- Bring your own coffee mug to work.
- Check how recyclable products are before you buy them.
- Educate friends and family about the Plastic crisis. Spread the word.



We use these products every day, without even thinking about where they might end up.
Taking care of the earth means everyone wins....so...be a part of the solution... not part of the **pollution.**



Taratolla



Kamarhatty



Kharagpur



Sahibabad

Delhi



Chennai



Mumbai



Singrauli



Besides tree planting, team Singrauli cleared garbage/plastic from the roads near the office.



The tiniest bit of change in habit, attitude and lifestyle will go a long way...to combat Plastic pollution.



Photographer Benjamin Von Wong .The artwork depicts mermaid in a sea of 10,000 plastic bottles