

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2024

ENVIRONMENT

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Rotary
in East Anglia





Why?

Because its very important

The theme for Earth Day 2024 was 'Planet vs. Plastics'
- a commitment to call for the end of plastics "for the sake of human and planetary health."



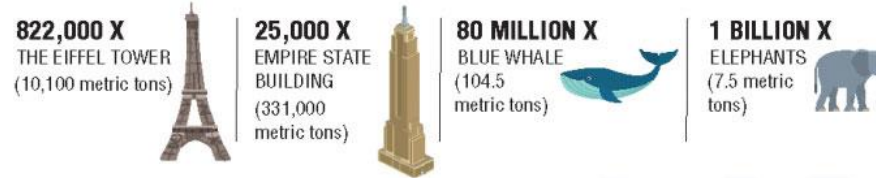
- About 80% of all plastic ever produced, mostly single use plastic, remains in landfills or the natural environment



A clearer picture of plastics

Humans have created about 8.3 billion metric tons of plastics to date, outgrowing all man-made materials other than steel and cement.

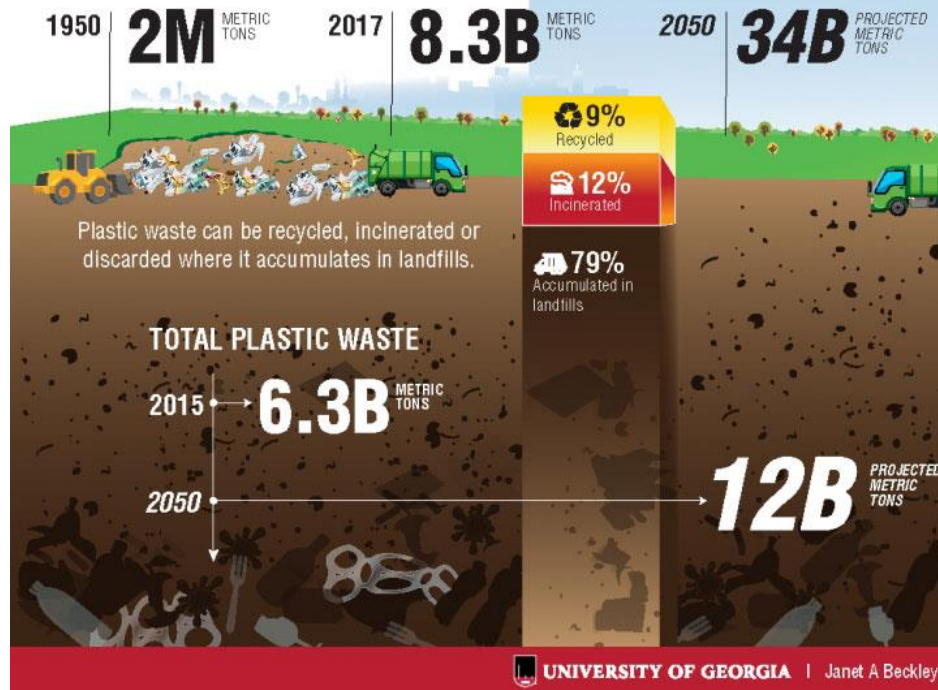
How heavy is 8.3 billion metric tons?



The rapid rise of plastics

A world without plastics seems unimaginable today, yet their large-scale production and use only dates back to around 1950.

GLOBAL PLASTIC PRODUCTION ESTIMATES





United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

“... The material — plastic — was an important invention. And we will continue to need this material. But we need to be deliberate about where and how we use it. we have come to understand that we must rethink how we produce and use plastics. Some single-use plastics have already been banned in many places. And two years ago, nations passed the historic UN Environment Assembly resolution that agreed to start negotiations for a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. “

Inger Anderson, Under-Secretary General United Nations & General Secretary United Nations Environment Programme

Ottawa 22 April 2024



United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

UN Environment Programme - 10 steps to 'turn off the plastic tap'

These include:

- ❖ Eliminate unnecessary single use, short lived and problematic plastics
- ❖ Strengthen recycling of plastics
- ❖ Address existing and future plastic pollution



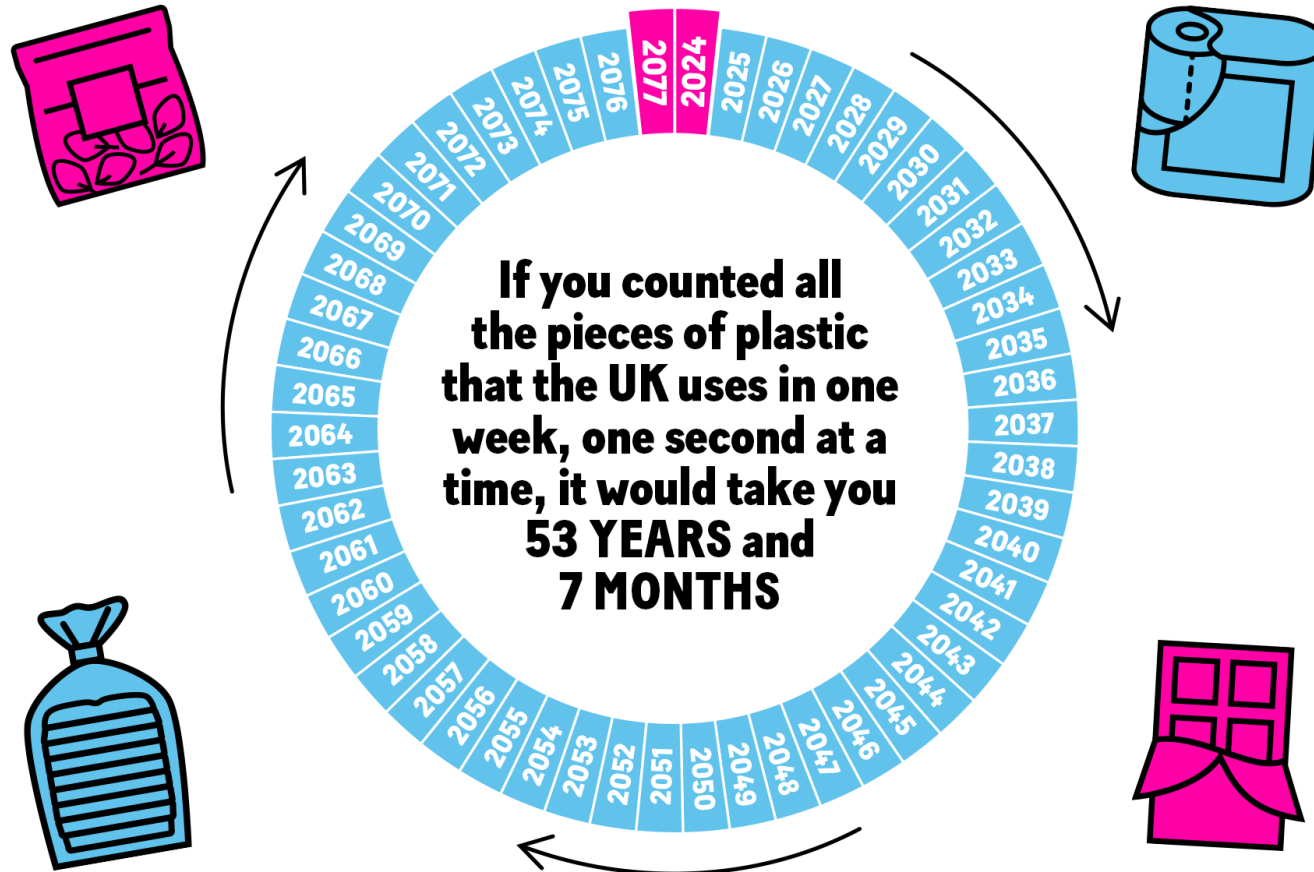
UK Big Plastic Count – March 2024

**UK HOUSEHOLDS
ARE THROWING
AWAY AN
ESTIMATED*
1.7 BILLION
PIECES OF PLASTIC
A WEEK – THAT'S
90 BILLION
PIECES PER YEAR**

*Assuming the data from our households are typical across the UK



UK Big Plastic Count – March 2024



Amsterdam

- Amsterdam City Council has adopted a green governance standard and was an Earthshot Prize finalist
- The Amsterdam Rotary Clubs started an initiative to remove plastic from the city and the following video reports upon their activities in June 2018





What's happening in RGB&I?

- Many Rotary Clubs are actively involved in cleaning rivers, seashores and other waterways both within our own District and more widely across our Islands
- Some of those Rotary Clubs have become Environmental cause-based Clubs including the Marlow & Henley Clubs in our Central & Eastern England Cluster Thames Valley District that are actively working with Environment Agency and Thames 21 to regularly clean sections of the River Thames in their area of waste plastic and other rubbish; initially using 'End Plastic Soup' but more recently 'Plastic Blitz'



What's happening in RGB&I?

- The success of Plastic Blitz in Marlow and Henley has secured many new members for those cause based Clubs
- Across Thames Valley District their Rotary Unplugged digitally based membership drive is proving successful
- Because of these successes all four Districts in Central & Eastern England Cluster have developed and are applying for additional membership funding through the RGB&I North Star programme
- A video follows about Thames Valley Plastic Blitz and how this can work for our Clubs. For full information about Plastic Blitz including how we can adopt this for our Clubs go to <https://rotaryplasticblitz.uk>







Central & Eastern England Cluster Unified Statement

Rotary pledges to improve the environmental quality of our lives by educating, encouraging, and providing resources for people to practice environmentally conscious habits. Working together with our communities we are creating a more environmentally friendly world.

