Zero Waste Newsletter November 2024

Ban on Single-Use Vapes



A ban on the sale and supply of single-use vapes in England has been laid before parliament and will come into effect on 1 June 2025. See here for details.

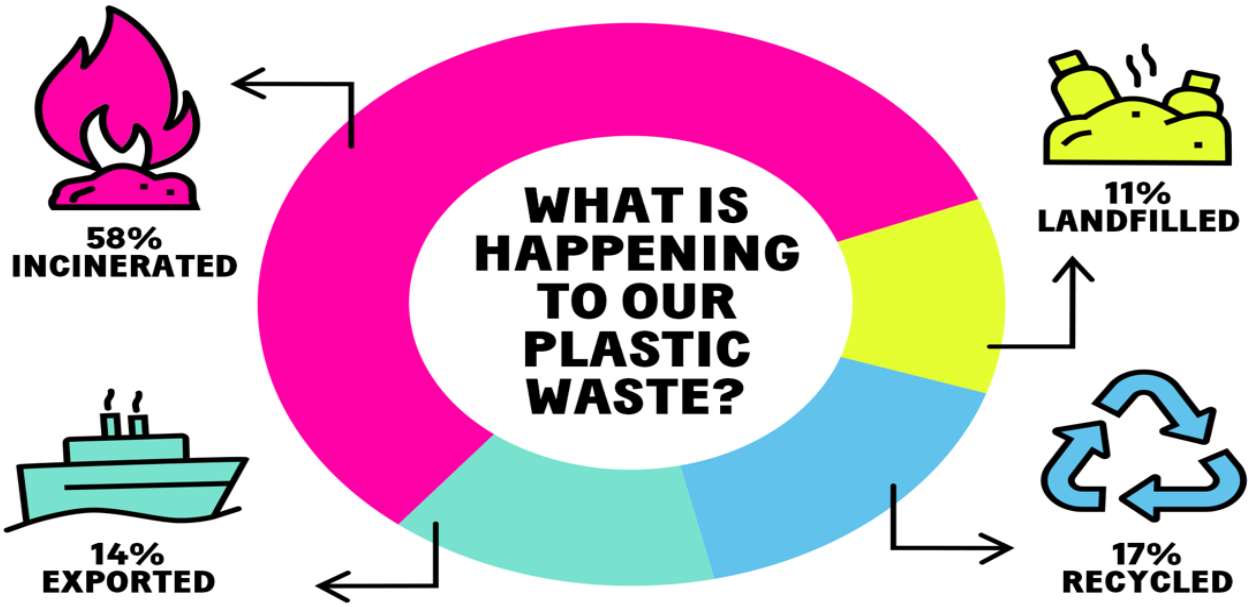
The Greenpeace Big Plastic Count

Greenpeace 's **Big Plastic Count** 2024 results show that in the UK households throw away an alarming **1.7 billion pieces of plastic each week.**



Our waste management systems can't cope with the amount of plastic being generated. Most of that plastic will end up being burned, dumped in a landfill or shipped overseas.

So, what happens to our plastic waste?



More and more plastic is getting incinerated. The government is choosing to incinerate over half (58%) of the pieces of our household plastic waste – right here in the UK.



OVER HALF* OF THE PIECES OF PLASTIC WE THROW AWAY IS BEING INCINERATED

THIS HAS GONE UP FROM 46% IN 2022, TO 58% TODAY

*This figure is based on the total number of plastic pieces that were counted, not the weight.

Incineration is not the answer. Incinerating plastic can release more carbon dioxide per tonne than burning coal, worsening climate change. This doesn't match the government's own commitment to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. What's worse, 18 new incinerators are being built in the UK – from Glasgow to the Isle of Wight. This problem is not going away.

The government was due to decide on the 18th of October whether they would make a moratorium on new waste incinerators permanent or lift the ban. **Unfortunately, the decision has been delayed once again.**

Recycling isn't the answer. Recycling systems can't cope with the sheer amount of plastic waste that's being produced.



And vast quantities of it can't be recycled at all. What's more, the recycling process releases microplastics into our air and water – worsening the very issue it's designed to solve.



It's leaking into our oceans, polluting our air, devastating our climate and human health.

We can't recycle our way out of this crisis. Plastic can only be recycled once or twice before it ends up in the same place as unrecycled plastic. We urgently need to cut plastic production instead

The Global Plastics Treaty

This month we have a huge opportunity as 175 states will come together in Busan, South Korea, for the last round of negotiations for a global treaty to end plastic pollution. This treaty is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a global solution to the worsening plastic crisis and make a difference.

Whilst the aim of the Treaty is to end plastic pollution by 2040 and protect our health and environment, there is a lot of push back by the oil and gas companies. These supply the chemicals critical to plastic manufacturing and some countries beholden to the industry are resisting the treaty's most important elements.

We need our UK government, big brands and supermarkets to act now and to back a strong Global Plastics Treaty to deliver the solutions we urgently need

Watch the video **here** to find out why more recycling isn't the answer – and discover the solutions that would truly make a difference.

What can we do locally?

In Bradford on Avon, we can avoid plastic waste by reusing bags and containers wherever we can and refill them with veg and fruit, groceries, meat, body care products etc. Most grocery shops, market stalls and cafes in and around the town encourage customers to bring their own cups, containers or reusable bags to be refilled. Look out for this sticker:



Remember things can also be repaired at the monthly Repair Cafe
The next one is on Saturday November the 16th 10 am – 1pm