

## **A Plea To Break Free From Plastic Pollution**

In the history of life on Earth, humans are the youngest life forms. Rekindled by the Earth's grace, we live and flourish. In a short period of time, we changed the face of the Earth that sustains humankind. Plastics were developed to make our lives easier. However, it also causes our demise and harms the environment around us. The increasing production and consumption of inexpensive, single-use plastics, poor waste management, and inappropriate disposal of plastic waste from manufacturing processes and industrial activities aggravate the problem that greatly contributes to pollution. As a human being, this issue is not a distant problem for experts and authorities alone, but a call for every individual living on Earth to act and make a difference. For us to solve the unending plastic pollution requires strong dedication, a clear vision, innovation, and last but not least—a deep sense of love and care for our planet Earth; our home.

The initial step to solve the underlying problem in plastic pollution is to understand its core. We all know that plastic is widely used because of its cheapness, durability and accessibility, yet those qualities may be harmful when mishandled. Unlike biodegradable materials, plastics persist over centuries—to the soil, water, and even in the bodies of living organisms. To deal with it, we must rethink how we are going to use it from the moment it is produced and disposed of. It clearly means not just recycling but thinking deeply of the repercussions that will affect humanity and the environment.

A powerful way to overcome the battle of plastic pollution is to implement a circular economy where we are not bound to a traditional way that is modeled to take, make and dispose, but we must design systems that reuse, repair and repurpose them. Now that we are here in the modern world, where Capitalism is widely acknowledged and many nations revolve around it, we must institute a new way of handling manufactured products of all the businesses, corporations and multinational companies. Through the process of adopting an emerging approach, methods or techniques, some business owners or founders have been practicing innovative ideas using biodegradable materials that could be an alternative for plastics and also refillable containers or items that could minimize the use of toxic polymers. Governments can enforce strict regulations on non-reusable plastics and reward sustainable productions.

Nonetheless policies and innovations alone would not succeed if people are not willing to change. As people are susceptible to influence and are likely to conform in what the majority does, they often neglect it in order to comply with the culture. Having said that, we must model a setting where people have a better outlook on caring for the environment, protecting nature as a personal and moral duty for the benefit of all. For me this could be understood as taking small actions that catalyze a shift towards greater good, like joining cleaning programs in town or by just cleaning your own front yard and being a role model in living an eco-friendly lifestyle. When we become the one who starts these small undertakings, our actions ripple and it leads to a massive change that alters their perception, through this pedagogy we can turn this ignorance into power. As we become aware of these things, it will empower us to make a meaningful and long lasting solution. Knowledge is power, only if we act on what our innate goodness directs us to do.

As a citizen, student, and an individual, we are tasked to help our beloved planet to heal to the most extent that we could. By disciplining ourselves and taking initial actions that could assist the betterment of our surroundings. Our dedication in solving plastic pollution should be persistent. The results may not be visible for the meantime but change gradually happens through perseverance. Earth Day should not be a once-a-year reminder—but should be a step forward to our commitment for our planet. Fundamentally, solving pollution in plastic is not only about protecting our nature—it is also about protecting ourselves, and future generations. Our generation has the power to turn the tide, we should not wait for another generation to fix it; we can initiate the shift, and it begins with the choices we make each day.



  
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