



ONE PLANET **ACADEMY**

ALL ABOUT PLASTICS

MODULE 2 | **Plastic Crisis and Solutions** | Handout

Points to remember

● **Where does all the plastic go?**

- Much of the plastics used and discarded by humans make their way into landfills.
- Plastic wastes also enter natural environments, through a combination of mainly littering and poor waste management.
- Over time, plastic in the environment breaks down into tiny bits known as microplastics. These microplastics, along with the chemical additives, end up polluting water, soil, and air.

● **What are the effects of plastic pollution on oceans and seas?**

The plastic we dispose of on land can end up in the oceans and seas, miles away. Plastic pollution has profound impacts on marine ecosystems—collecting in garbage patches, harming marine life, and causing economic impacts.

● **How are humans exposed to microplastics?**

We can be exposed to microplastics through contaminated food and water, airborne particles, and even skincare products that contain nanoplastics!



● **How does plastic pollution affect economies and communities?**

- Plastic waste contaminates the environment, causing pollution. This affects agriculture, fishing, shipping, tourism, and many other economic activities.
- Plastics also contribute to climate change as the processes of fossil fuel extraction, plastic manufacturing, transportation, recycling, and disposal all release greenhouse gases.

● **How can we combat plastic pollution?**

- Reduce our reliance on non-essential and disposable plastics
- Ensure the proper disposal of plastics
- Build a circular economy by
 - eliminating single-use, non-essential, disposable plastics
 - reusing and recycling plastics
 - innovating sustainable, recyclable and non-toxic plastics and alternatives
- Collaboration between governments, businesses, and communities

What can individuals do to tackle plastic pollution?

- Ditch single-use plastics
- Stop littering
- Segregate waste
- Organise clean-up drives
- Choose planet-friendly products
- Raise awareness