

NEWS

Plastics

Resource Conservation + Circular Economy

(Single-use) Plastics Remain a Challenge Despite and Especially because of the Pandemic!

AFTER THE CRISIS IS BEFORE THE CRISIS

TimeLoc

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[1]

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the issue of plastic waste was a hot topic and public pressure on policy makers to reduce levels of plastic in the environment was high. But now, sales of disposable products such as plastic gloves and masks are on the up. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the benefits of (disposable) plastics in the healthcare industry are obvious. However, it's crucial that these products are disposed of correctly and do not end up on sidewalks and doorways, as can now often be observed.

Shopping plastic-free has also become more difficult due to the Corona lockdowns. For example, due to health concerns, retailers are no longer accepting reusable coffee cups. And, with the closure of cafés and restaurants, consumers are more dependent on to-go packaging and on supermarkets, where disposable plastic packaging is widespread. Simultaneously, pressure groups such as the European Plastics Converters (EuPC) are campaigning for the lifting or at least the postponement of the restrictions on disposable plastics in the EU. However, the European Commission has made it clear that the deadlines for the EU-wide ban on disposable plastics under the so-called Disposable Plastics Directive remain valid and

must be met.

In their article [Shaping EU Plastic Policies - The Role of Public Health vs. Environmental Arguments](#) [2], Linda Mederake and Doris Knoblauch examine the role of health arguments in the adoption of this directive.

Even before Corona, plastic-free shopping was already fraught with difficulties for consumers. A [discussion paper](#) [3], which was developed within the framework of the project "PlastikNet", explains why the scope of action for citizens is limited. In this project, Ecologic Institute is supporting the [BMBF research focus "Plastics in the Environment"](#) [4].

Main Link

Project website Plastics in the Environment

Ecologic Related Articles

- A Treaty on Plastic Waste
- Tackling Plastic Pollution - Introduction to Global Plastic Pollution and the Discussions at the International Level
- Ecologic Institute has joined the PREVENT Waste Alliance
- Runder Tisch Meeresmüll
- No More Plastics in the Ocean
- Science Sips on Citizen Science and Plastic in the Science Year 2016*17 - Seas and Oceans
- For the Oceans, Free and Clean
- Policy Options for Litter-free Seas
- What Can a Policy Maker do About Marine Litter?
- Governance Schemes and Measures for the Prevention of Marine Litter - Case Study Germany
- Model Cases for the Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, Baltic and North Sea
- Marine Litter in the Baltic Sea: Challenges and Opportunities - Introduction
- New Tools and Policy Options to Improve the Management of Marine Litter (CLEANSEA)
- CleanSea Fosters Marine Litter Stakeholder Dialogue Across Europe
- Let's Get Governing Marine Litter Across Europe
- Economic Instruments and Marine Litter Control

Keywords:

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Project:

Wissenschaftliche Begleitforschung des Forschungsscherpunktes "Plastik in der Umwelt - Quellen, Senken, Lösungsansätze" (PlastikNet)

Contact

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Links

[1] https://www.ecologic.eu/sites/files/news/2020/disposal-5021447_1920.jpg

[2] <https://www.ecologic.eu/node/16927>

[3] https://bmbf-plastik.de/de/publikation/diskussionspapier_qst4

[4] <https://www.ecologic.eu/node/15090>