

REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE

#DYK

- Only 9% plastic submitted for recycling is actually recycled
- Plastic-lined cardboard for hot foods leeches microplastics
- 8 million pieces of plastic make their way into the ocean every day
- Bioplastics are promising, but can require treatment to degrade



Solving the problem



- Best: reduction and reuse of existing plastic
- Second best: recycling
- Second worst: energy recovery (this results in toxic substances within the gases and ash residue)
- Worst: disposal



Alternatives - Bamboo

- Bamboo is the world's fastest-growing plant.
- Bamboo groves absorb 5x more CO2 and produce 35% more oxygen than a forest of similar size, but can lead to clearance of native forest impacting habitats and wildlife.
- Look FSC-certified bamboo and research the company's sustainability practices and manufacturing processes.



Alternatives - Glass



- Is 100% recyclable repeatedly.
- The manufacture of new glass is a large source of carbon emissions, but recycling is much more efficient.
- Glass recycling in the US has dropped to <35%.
- It is heavy so has a low transportation footprint.



Alternatives - Aluminium

- Aluminium can be completely recycled repeatedly.
- It is light so has a low transportation footprint.
- Recycled aluminium is one of the best eco-options.
- BUT, new aluminium is not eco-friendly as the extraction of raw bauxite is harmful.



Find out more

Bioplastics, such as PHA, are promising alternatives, but some take longer to degrade and affect recycling

Recycle Now - top tips on what and how to recycle

Guide to recycling symbols and what they mean.

VET·CT