

The Importance of Cleaner Beaches

Many people are aware of the dangers of single-use plastic, and its effects on marine wildlife, but few truly understand the direness of our current situation with the problem. Despite warnings plastic production continues to reach new heights, when only 10% is being recycled (Marta Fava, 2022).



(BBC News, 2020)

RANK	PLASTIC CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE OF ALL IDENTIFIABLE PLASTIC LITTER ITEMS FOUND IN THE FRESHWATER ENVIRONMENT*	TOP ACTION CONSUMERS CAN TAKE
1	Plastic bottles	14%	Use a reusable water bottle (of any type)
2	Food wrappers	12%	Correct disposal of food wrappers
3	Cigarette butts	9%	Correct disposal of cigarette butts
4	Food takeaway containers	6%	Use a reusable takeaway container of any type, preferably one you already own
5	Cotton bud sticks	5%	Use cotton buds with paper sticks
6	Cups	4%	Use a reusable plastic cup (for all takeaway drinks eg coffee, juices, smoothies)
7	Sanitary items	3%	Do not flush wet wipes, tampons or sanitary pads
8	Smoking-related packaging	2%	Correct disposal of smoking-related packaging
9	Plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery	1%	Use reusable cutlery when getting takeaway food or for stirring drinks
10	Plastic bags	1%	Use a reusable bag (of any type)

(City to Sea, no date)

Here is a table showing the results from a report by Earth Watch (City to Sea, no date) that showcases the single-use plastic items that are most commonly found on UK Beaches. It also shares alternatives for people looking to do what they can to help fight the issue, such as using a reusable water bottle.

However, we need to do more than that. We need to help fix the damage that has already been done, and that careless individuals will continue to do. We should help the many organisations like Ocean Conservancy, who picked up 20,772,394 pounds of debris in 2019 (Ocean Blue Project, no date).



(Good News Network, 2017)

That's why we, students of the Business and Management course at the Carmarthen campus of UWTSD will be doing a beach clean of our own. We will be going to Llansteffan beach on the 5th of December 2022, so that we can make more of a contribution in fighting the issue of single-use plastics.

5 DECEMBER

References

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