

Plastic Pollution Factsheet

Here are some key facts about plastic pollution, including the global, national, and local impacts it can have.

Be sure to also look up your own facts and figures!

- 🌍 Disposable plastics can take up to 450 years to break down
- 🌍 40% of plastics are used for packaging
- 🌍 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean each year
- 🌍 The amount of plastic in the ocean will outweigh all the fish in the ocean by 2050
- 🌍 Plastic pollution can harm marine life as they can become trapped or can eat plastic
- 🌍 90% of sea birds have eaten plastic
- 🌍 In the UK we produce 2 million tonnes of plastic waste per year. We recycle 45% of this waste
- 🌍 Recyclable waste in Suffolk is sent to the Materials Recycling Facility to be sorted and sent for recycling
- 🌍 Non-recyclable waste in Suffolk is sent to the Energy From Waste facility to produce electricity by burning this waste
- 🌍 The following plastics can be put in your recycling bin in Suffolk:
 - Plastic bottles
 - Plastic tubes, pots and trays
- 🌍 The cost of recycling is cheaper than the cost of incinerating waste. In Suffolk, it costs £19 per household to recycle waste and £56 per household to burn the waste
- 🌍 34% of the litter found on Suffolk beaches comes from public sources
- 🌍 77% of the litter collected on Suffolk beaches are made of plastic or polystyrene
- 🌍 The top 5 items of litter found on Suffolk beaches between 2005-2018 were all made of plastic. Items featured in this top 5 include small plastic and polystyrene pieces, food packaging, plastic lids and plastic cups

Sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS7IzU2VJIQ>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data>

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Get-Involved/Volunteering/Beachwatch/2018-Suffolk-Beachwatch-Results-May-2019.pdf>

<https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/>

<https://www.sas.org.uk/our-work/plastic-pollution/plastic-pollution-facts-figures/>