



THEME: SAY NO TO SINGLE USE PLASTICS

How Does Plastics Cause Air Pollution?

FOUR WAYS:

- The Extraction of Plastic's Raw Material: Oil
- The Impact of the Recycling Industry on Air Quality
- Incineration of Plastic Materials
- Plastics Ability to "Off-Gas"



It takes 1,000 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming micro-plastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

Dioxins settle on crops and in our waterways where they eventually enter our food and hence our bodies. These dioxins are potentially lethal persistent organic pollutants that can cause cancer and disrupt thyroid and respiratory systems.

Phthalates are chemicals that are added to plastic, which give structural qualities like flexibility and heat resistance. Unfortunately, they are also endocrine disruptors that have been linked to many health problems such as the development of lower testosterone levels, reduced female fertility, and many more. Phthalates are not chemically bound to the plastic, which means they can easily off-gas into the air and the products that we consume.



BURNING PLASTICS

- ❑ Generates amounts of dioxins, furans, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (better known as BCPs) into the atmosphere, and poses a threat to vegetation, and human and animal health.
- ❑ These toxic pollutants that can persist in the environment and may contaminates the food chain.
- Modern waste incinerators reduces these toxic emissions but there are no protections when waste is burned at home or in the open.
- Plastic recycling can become a problem when it does not follow strict environmental and workforce standards.
- Many informal and formal recycling facilities in South and Southeast Asia fail to have safe working conditions and pollution control measures.

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