

**GET INFORMED!  
GET INVOLVED!  
DO IT YOURSELF!**



**ALLES IM  
FLUSS**



Sources: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2016). The new plastics economy. Rethinking the future of plastics; Heinrich Böll Stiftung & BUND (2019). Plastik Atlas: Daten und Fakten über eine Welt voller Kunststoff; quarks (2019). So viel Einwegplastik ist im Meer; wdr (2021). Das kann kein Meer mehr schlucken: Unsere Ozeane versinken im Plastikmüll.

## GET INFORMED!

MORE THAN  
**150 MILLION**  
TONS OF PLASTIC

# OCEAN TODAY



**3/4**

of rubbish in the world's oceans consists of plastic  
Every year, between 4.8 and 12.7 million tons of plastic waste finds its way into the oceans.

# OCEAN 2050



**MORE PLASTIC THAN FISH!**

This could be the situation in 2050

PLASTIC WASTE IN THE SEA

# TOP 10

## WASTE IN WATERWAYS



01. cigarette butts
02. bottle caps/lids
03. food packaging
04. cotton buds
05. bottles
06. discarded hygiene products (wet wipes, tampons...)
07. plastic bags
08. plastic cutlery
09. plastic cups
10. drinking straws, stirrers

KEEP THE WATERS CLEAN

Title-Illustration: Hanna Petersen

## LAKES, RIVERBANKS, PARKS: LITTER EVERYWHERE

Berlin's open stretches of water, river banks and parks have a litter problem. Overflowing rubbish bins, piled-up pizza boxes, broken glass, coffee-to-go cups, bottle caps and cigarette butts are strewn on roadsides and in parks, eventually finding their way into rivers and lakes. In Berlin alone, 20,000 disposable cups are discarded every hour.

Carried along by rivers, lakes and the wind, packaging waste finally reaches the world's oceans where it poses a threat to marine life and ultimately to us humans. Worldwide, 80% of the rubbish eventually ends up in the sea via the land route.

Marine animals get entangled in the plastic waste or mistake it for something edible. The plastic then returns to our plates as seafood. Every person consumes an average of 5 grams of plastic per week. That is the equivalent of a credit card.

Berlin has more open stretches of water than almost any other city in Germany – 6% of its surface area is water. This corresponds to the combined area of Mitte and Kreuzberg districts. Cigarette butts further pollute the water. Around 7,000 different chemicals go into a cigarette, and the filter takes about 10-15 years to decompose. One butt pollutes up to 60 litres of groundwater.

**Let's not pollute our waters any further!**

Sources: arte (2019), Generation Müll: Die Europäische Union hat ein Müllproblem, das immer größer wird; Deutsche Umwelthilfe (2018), Ressourcen & Recycling: Problem Plastiküte; Fraunhofer-Institut für Umwelt-, Sicherheits- und Energietechnik UMSICHT (2019), Kunststoffe in der Umwelt: Mikro- und Makroplastik-Ursachen, Mengen, Umweltschicksale, Wirkungen, Lösungsansätze, Empfehlungen; Heinrich Böll Stiftung & BUND (2019), Plastikattas: Daten und Fakten über eine Welt voller Kunststoff; NABU (2016), Müllkippe Meer: Plastik und seine tödlichen Folgen.

## THE HISTORY OF PLASTIC PRODUCTION FROM **1950** TO **2019**



**SINCE 1950**  
Plastic production:  
**9 BILLION  
TONS**



**TODAY**  
Global production:  
**400 MILLION  
TONS PER YEAR**



**6% RECYCLED**  
**8% INCINERATED**  
**30% IN USE**  
**55% IN THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

PLASTIC BAG CONSUMPTION  
IN GERMANY (PER ANNUM)

## 2 BILLION



**AVERAGE LENGTH  
OF TIME**  
a plastic bag is in use  
**25 MINS**  
BEFORE A PLASTIC BAG  
DECOMPOSES:  
**20 - 100 YEARS**

GLOBAL PLASTIC PRODUCTION

## PACKAGING WASTE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION



**88,5  
MILLION  
TONS**  
in the EU (of which  
26 million tons are plastic)



**GERMANY**  
**18,7  
MILLION  
TONS**  
Number 1 in Europe



**EVERY PERSON  
IN GERMANY**  
generates an annual:  
**226,5  
KILOS**  
(EU average 173.4 kilos)



**107 KILOS**  
private Households (47%)  
**119,5  
KILOS**  
industry/commerce (53%)

PACKAGING WASTE 2017

# OUR PACKAGED WORLD

Plastic has enjoyed increasing popularity since the 1950s – it is a versatile material and production costs are low.

Plastic packaging is made from petroleum. It does not decompose, but breaks down into smaller and smaller fragments. A plastic bottle takes an estimated 450 years and a Styrofoam package 50 years to ‘completely’ disintegrate.

The recycling of plastic is also problematic because many plastic products are composites. Furthermore, plastic cannot be recycled indefinitely, because it progressively loses quality with every iteration. Recycling also requires copious amounts of water and energy.

The littering of our world starts with our personal preferences as consumers. Every day we ‘vote with our feet’ in the supermarket by buying packaged food. Buy, open, discard – packaging has a short life before it goes in the bin.

But it’s not only in the supermarket that our purchases come wrapped or packaged: there is also the morning coffee to-go in a disposable cup and the take-away lunch at midday. Many other items we buy are packaged in plastic or are themselves made from plastic, for example 100% polyester clothing.

**Everyone can play their part in everyday life: Do I prefer to consume products that are packaged or unpackaged?**

# REDUCING WASTE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

## HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- Food also often ends up in the general rubbish because too much is bought and then not used. That's why you should always check what you have in stock before you go shopping and use leftovers.
- Write a shopping list. Only buy what you really need.
- Avoid packaging, choose loose products.
- Take your own reusable bags, also for fruit and vegetables.
- Buy products made from recycled materials (displaying the Blue Angel eco label).
- Repair, exchange and buy second-hand instead of new.
- Many things are easy to do yourself.
- Just start; every small step towards waste reduction counts.

## DO IT YOURSELF!



On our website, you will find tips  
on waste reduction in everyday life.  
[www.allesimfluss.berlin/do-it-yourself/](http://www.allesimfluss.berlin/do-it-yourself/)

**Do it yourself!**

# LITTER-FREE OUTDOORS IN THE PARK, ON RIVERBANKS AND ON PATHS



Respect nature and your fellow human beings!



Take your rubbish home with you, and dispose of it in the correct bin.



Single-use glass bottles go in the bottle bank; place deposit bottles next to the rubbish bin.



Reusable instead of single-use. Reusable boxes and cutlery are ideal. A fabric bag is suitable for carrying everything.



Broken glass, bottle caps and cigarette butts are dangerous. Put them in the general rubbish or into your own ashtray.



Small items also count as rubbish: confetti, cigarette butts, surgical masks, corks, aluminium foil, broken glass have no place in natural surroundings!

**Have you ever been on a zero-waste picnic?**

# ACTIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

## Your commitment to quality of life in your neighbourhood:

Planting campaign, tree sponsorship, bird protection, keeping tree surroundings free of litter, wildflower meadows, litter picks etc.

Volunteering in the neighbourhood is important for the quality of life in our city.



Take part in our year-round  
campaigns and events:  
[www.allesimfluss.com/events](http://www.allesimfluss.com/events)

Organising a clean-up or litter pick yourself is easy.  
You can find a checklist on our events page.

**COMMUNITY ACTION IS FUN  
AND MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD.  
GET INVOLVED!**



# ALLES IM FLUSS IS A NETWORK

Together with concerned citizens, voluntary groups and institutions of the city, we take responsibility for the protection and cleanliness of Berlin's waters and riverbanks. By means of campaigning and informative events, we educate local people and get them involved. This enhances their appreciation of public space.



ALLES IM FLUSS is an initiative of wirBERLIN and is supported by the Stiftung Naturschutz Berlin from the Trenntstadt Berlin development fund.

wirBERLIN gGmbH is committed to sustainable urban development and promotes public involvement and environmental education. wirBERLIN wants to make citizens aware of issues that will affect their future and empower them to take responsibility for a sustainable, environmentally friendly and resource-conserving lifestyle. [www.wir-berlin.org](http://www.wir-berlin.org)

**As a non-profit organisation, we welcome donations to support our projects!**

**Deutsche Bank, IBAN DE23 1007 0848 0031 2496 00**

# LITTERING STARTS WITH YOU IN YOUR HOME. WE HAVE TO ACT HERE AND NOW. GET ONBOARD AND HELP!



**ALLES IM  
FLUSS**

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