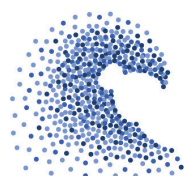




The Young  
Leaders Plastic  
Challenge



clean  
seas  
turn the tide  
on plastic

# TIDE TURNERS PLASTIC CHALLENGE

United Arab Emirates - Abu Dhabi  
TOOLKIT

#GIVEUP  
to give back

and increase your



HAND PRINT  
Action Towards  
Sustainability



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CEE

Centre for Environment Education

Take the Challenge, Turn the Tide

## B. Leader level

### Learning Outcome 3 & 4

This level might be a bit harder, but the impact will be bigger, too! For these challenges, you'll team up with others and start making some noise at school and in your community.

**Get a score of 50 or higher and you'll be ready for the Champion Level challenges next! Don't forget to capture the activities in form of photographs and videos !**

### B1. Organize a talk on the issue

Identify a fantastic speaker / activist on the plastic pollution issue and ask them to give a talk on the topic to inspire your batchmates/college/school. Alternately, prepare a presentation yourself using the information provided in the toolkit and organize a talk for a group of 20 or more students. Introduce Young Leaders Plastic Challenge at the end of the talk and describe your journey thus far.

- Collect a video testimonial of atleast two people who attended the talk (ask them about their experience and if the talk organized by you influenced them to take the action).

- Share two photograph of the talk.

- Talk attended by 20 or more people = 5 points
- Talk attended by 50 or more people = 10 points
- Testimonials = 10 points

### B.2 Explore and share

Work with a group of youth ( your batchmates/ friends) for this one. Everyone researches one item that most people don't realize contains plastic. Have everyone bring their example to college/ school and get permission to set up an " exhibition" with your collected items in a prominent space, along with information about why it matter. Make students/ youth from your school/ college visit the exhibition and learn about different products that contain plastics.

### Activity 1: Survey of plastics



#### Objectives:

- Identify what plastics you are using
- Identify other single use or disposable plastics you encounter

**Completion time:** 7 days

#### Instructions:

1. Go on a plastic journey – Make a note of all the single-use plastic items you use throughout the day that are simply thrown away. You can use these notes to create a tally chart to record the number and types of items.
2. Take a quick look in your trash bin and see what is in there, or write down items before you throw them away – a tally chart next to the bin may be useful for this.
3. As the week progresses, keep track of the single-use plastic items you use (either on paper or on your phone). You could also tally up the numbers of each item you use. Do not miss including the single use plastic items that you may be using indirectly, for example your grocery may include plastic packaging which is discarded after transferring it to a storage container.
4. Fancy something a little more challenging? Go one step further and look at the various types of plastic and their uses. For example, a bottle lid and the bottle itself can be made of different types of polyethylene terephthalate, also known as PET. You can also investigate how a piece of plastic gets from your school into the ocean.



Create a message and post it on social media to share your learnings with more people. Do not forget to hashtag #tideturner and #SSI

Record a video testimonial of a visitor and share it with us along with photographs of the exhibition organized and exhibits displayed during the exhibition.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

Cigarette filters contains tiny plastic fibres? In fact in a recent Global survey, cigarettes were the most common type of plastic waste found in the environment. Other sneaky plastic can be found in chewing gum, clothing, glitter and tea bags.

- Organize an exhibition = 5 points
- Exhibition highlight atleast 5 or more exhibits = 10 points
- Video testimonial = 10 points

### B.3 Tag the litter

Spend one week picking up plastic you find littering your neighborhood or community. Encourage your friends and family to join you. Remember to download the litterati app on your smart phone before you start the activity. Join the tide turner club or start your own challenge and tag every piece of trash that you collect and feed the data on the litterati app. Ensure to responsibly dispose off the litter that you pick up during the activity.

- Photograph of picking up plastic: 5 points
- Getting a group to join you in community clean-up drive: 10 points

### ■ Sending collected litter for recycling : 10 points

\*Please exercise safety and wear protective gloves - not plastic though- when doing this project.

\* Younger participant may need adult supervision for this activity to avoid picking up hazardous objects.

### B.4 Take the plastic resolution

Identify and make a group of 3-5 friends, discuss how each one of you can take action to reduce your plastic habits. Come up with 3 things that you can do collectively to make a difference. Monitor each others habit through whatsapp or similar app by sharing updates every evening for atleast 20 days. Calculate the amount of plastic waste that you avoided entering the environment through your action.

For example : Not using your college canteen for a week which serves food in disposable plastic cutlery or avoid buying packaged drinking water for 20 days and carry your own water bottle.

- Engage 5 or more people = 5 points
- Cut down using 3 or more products = 10 points
- Replace the product with a sustainable alternative = 10 points

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) developed Abu Dhabi Emirate Single Use Plastic Policy, to be implemented this year to reduce consumption of single-use plastics in the emirate. The policy will ban single-use plastic bags, encourage using reusable bags, and introduce a levy on plastics with sustainable alternatives by 2022. It will ensure transformation towards reusable items rather than shifting from plastic to non-plastic single-use items. The policy aims to declare Abu Dhabi Government free of single-use plastics bags and non-plastics by End of 2021, and the emirate free of single-use plastic bags by 2022, helping to reduce the UAE's consumption.

<https://www.ead.gov.ae/storage/SINGLE%20USE%20PLASTIC%20POLICY%20FINAL%20ENGLISH%20313.pdf>

## Background Information

### How can the world solve plastic pollution?

#### Learning Outcome 2

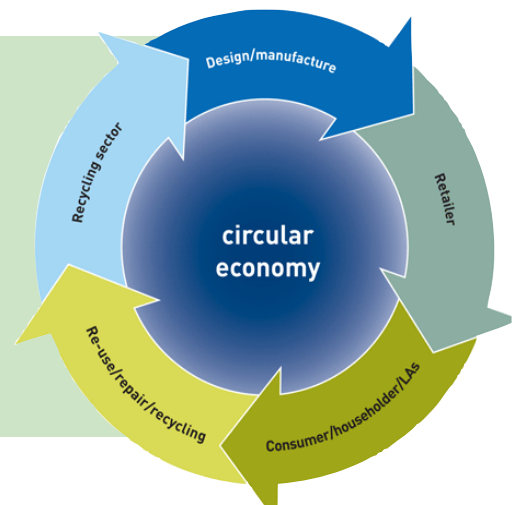
Governments need to create strong policies that encourage a more circular way to design and produce, consume plastics. They also need to make sure all plastic products are properly labelled so everyone knows what can be recycled and how.

One of the most important aspects of sustainability is achieving a circular economy. A circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear way that economies work, in which we make stuff, use it, and dispose of it. In a circular economy, we hang on to and use resources for as long as possible, get the most value out of them, and then find ways to recover and regenerate products and materials.

They need to encourage and invest in research and innovation for new solutions, and to raise awareness amongst everyone about reducing or cutting out single-use plastics. The businesses, corporates, RWAs and institutions need to enforce these policies at the local level and make sure that plastic is consumed and disposed off responsibly. Tie up with local recyclers, mandating waste segregation and recyclers, mandating waste segregation and

and periodic collection of plastic waste by the recyclers. Segregation at source is integral to a good waste management system. It improves collection and processing efficiency.

- So far, more than 60 countries have introduced national laws on plastic bags and Styrofoam products.



- When you count regulations at local levels as well, there are more than 140 laws around the world aimed at banning and discouraging the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam.
- Mostly, it's too soon to say if the laws are actually working. But in 30 percent of cases, dramatic drops in plastic pollution and plastic bags usage have already been reported.

The new UAE policy focuses on working with industry and waste stakeholder in Abu Dhabi to transition towards a closed loop circular system for plastic production, recycling and reuse based on the Extended Producer Responsibility principle.

Source : <https://www.ead.gov.ae/storage/SINGLE%20USE%20PLASTIC%20POLICY%20FINAL%20ENGLISH%20313.pdf>

#### Share! Show off! You're a tide turner!

Completed any of the challenges yet? Make sure you shout about it and let the world know! What was fun about the challenge? What was not so great? Did you learn something that surprised you? Did you inspire anyone else? We want your photos, videos and stories!

Tag us at @UNEnvironment @WWFINDIA @SSI\_UAE and @CEE and use the hashtag #CleanSeas. Or email us at: [unenvironment-yea@un.org](mailto:unenvironment-yea@un.org)

100%  
RECYCLED



Toolkit content and design adopted from India CEE and WWF  
From the TCC India toolkit developed by WWF India and CEE India

