

## 回收系统崩溃了吗？ Is the recycling system broken?

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Georgina.

我是乔治娜。

Sorry, I was late today, Georgina.

对不起，我今天迟到了，乔治娜。

I've forgotten to take the recycling bins out before the rubbish collection this morning.

我今天早上去忘记在垃圾收集前把回收罐拿出来了。

I seem to have more and more plastic packaging each week!

我每个星期的塑料包装看起来越来越多了！

Actually, that's the topic of our programme.

事实上，这就是我们今天节目的话题。

With more and more household waste being either incinerated—that's burned—or being buried underground, we'll be asking—is the recycling system broken?

随着越来越多的家庭垃圾不是被焚烧——即燃烧——就是被填埋到地下，我们不禁要问——回收系统崩溃了吗？

China used to accept 55% of the world's plastic and paper scrap—another word for unwanted waste—or in other words, rubbish.

中国过去接收全世界55%的塑料和纸张废弃物——也就是不被需要的废物——或者换句话说，垃圾。

That included waste sent over from Britain.

这包括来自英国的垃圾。

But in 2018 it stopped taking any more.

但是在2018年，中国停止接收了。

Other countries like Indonesia and Vietnam took over China's waste processing role.

其它像印尼和越南这样的国家接管了中国处理废物的角色。

But they too are now sending much of the scrap back, arguing it is contaminated and it is harming their own environments.

但是它们现在也把很多废弃物送回来了，说这些废弃物污染破坏了它们自己国家的环境。

This has created major problems for countries in the West who traditionally relied on others to process their recycling waste.

这给一直以来依赖他人进行垃圾回收的西方国家带来了大问题。

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And the problem isn't going away.

而且这个问题并没有消失。

In fact, we are creating more household waste than ever.

事实上，我们正创造着有史以来最多的家庭垃圾。

So here's my quiz question.

所以这就是我的问题。

On average, how many kilograms of household waste were generated per person in the UK last year?

英国去年人均产生的家庭垃圾是多少千克？

Was it a) 280 kg, b) 480 kg, or c) 680 kg?

是 A. 280千克，B.480千克，还是 C. 680千克？

That sounds like a lot of waste!

这听起来像是很多垃圾！

I'll say a) 280 kg.

我要选 A. 280千克。

OK. We'll find out later if you were right.

好的。我们稍后揭晓你是否回答正确。

Although nowadays people are recycling more, the use of plastic isn't decreasing at the same rate.

尽管如今人们回收得更多了，但是塑料的使用并没有按照同样的速率下降。

The BBC World Service's programme The Inquiry spoke to Roland Geyer, a professor at the University of California about the current situation.

BBC 世界服务节目《询问》就当前的情况对话了加州大学的一位教授罗兰德·盖尔。

There's been a real rise in consciousness which is fantastic and I'm really glad that now it seems the public at large is really interested in this issue and appalled and wants to do something about it, wants to change it.

人们的意识确实提高了，这是好事，而且我很高兴似乎大部分公众也确实对这个问题很感兴趣，并且惊骇于这个问题，也想要做些什么，改变些什么。

But at the same time I don't see yet any real action that would make things better because while all of this is happening, the virgin plastic industry is actually increasing its production capacity.

但是与此同时，我没有看到任何能让事情好转的实质行动，因为尽管有这么多努力，原生塑料产业事实上正在增加其产量。

Workers who process recycling are often exposed to dangerous waste materials which can harm them.

进行回收的工人们常常被暴露在会伤害他们的危险的废弃材料之中。

Professor Geyer says there has been a raise in consciousness about this problem-meaning that people are being told about an unfair situation with the aim of asking them to help change it.

盖尔教授说人们对这个问题的意识提高了——指的是人们被告知一个不公平的情形，这样的目的是为了要求他们帮助做出改变。

Now, professor Geyer is an American and he uses 'raise' as a noun.

盖尔教授是个美国人，他把“raise”当名词用。

The main problem comes from virgin plastic - original, unused plastic containers.

主要的问题来源于原生塑料——原始的，未经使用的塑料容器。

These are made directly from fossil fuels like crude oil or natural gas, major sources of carbon dioxide and climate change.

它们是直接由像原油或天然气这样的化石燃料制成，是二氧化碳和气候变化的主要来源。

But consciousness raising of this issue is having an impact.

但是对这个问题的意识提高正产生影响。

The public at large-meaning most people in the world, rather than just some of them-are concerned about the increase in plastic waste and want to do something to help.

大部分公众——指的是世界上大部分人，而不是一小部分人——很担心塑料垃圾的增长，并且想做一些事情来帮忙。

However, it's not always easy to know what the best way to help is.

然而，要知道最好的帮助方式并不总是那么容易。

Another expert, Professor Monic Sun, believes that focusing only on recycling may not be the best idea.

另一位专家，莫尼克·桑教授认为只关注回收可能不是最好的办法。

She conducted psychological experiments to find out more about people's attitudes to recycling...

她进行了心理学实验来进一步了解人们对于回收的态度.....

...and surprisingly found that if people know recycling is an option, they tend to use more resources. They reduce any guilty feelings by telling themselves that the material will be recycled anyway.

.....并且惊讶地发现如果人们知道可以选择回收的话，那么他们往往会使用更多资源。他们跟自己说这些材料总会被回收的，从而减少他们的负罪感。

We have the slogan of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' and the priority should be exactly that-reduce and reuse is better than recycling.

我们有“减少、重复使用和回收”的口号，并且先后顺序就应该是这样——减少和重复使用比回收要好。

And the cost of recycling is often not emphasised enough.

而且回收的成本往往被强调得不够。

People perceive recycling to be great but there's actually significant labour and material costs associated with recycling.

人们认为回收很棒，但是事实上回收需要大量的劳力和材料成本。

Professor Sun mentions 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' as a useful slogan-a short, easily remembered phrase, often used to promote an idea, in this case that we should all do what we can to protect the environment.

桑教授提到了“减少、重复使用和回收”这个有用的口号——短小易记的短语，常常被用来推广某种想法，在这里指的是我们应该尽我们所能保护环境。

But while protecting the planet is a common goal, recycling in itself may not be so important.

但是尽管保护地球是大家共同的目标，回收本身可能没有那么重要。

It's better to reduce and reuse than recycle, so these two objectives should be emphasised-highlighted as being especially important.

减少和重复使用比回收要更好，所以这两个目标应该被强调——被标注为非常重要。

Do you remember my quiz question?

你还记得我的问题吗？

I asked you how many kilograms of waste the average British person generated last year.

我之前问你英国人去年人均产生了多少公斤垃圾。

I reckoned it was a) 280 kg.

我记得我说的是 A. 280 千克。

That would be bad enough, but the real answer is b) 480 kg.

280 千克已经够糟的了，但是真正的答案是 B. 480 千克。

Multiply that by the UK population of 66 million and you start to see the size of the problem!

把这个数字乘以英国 6600 万人口，你就能够了解到这个问题的严重性了！

Today we've been talking about the problems associated with recycling scrap-another word for rubbish.

今天我们一直在谈论跟回收废弃物——即垃圾——有关的问题。

Western countries used to send their rubbish to China for recycling but this caused issues for the local environment.

西方国家曾经把它们的垃圾运往中国进行回收，但是这引发了当地的环境问题。

Some groups raised consciousness about the problem -made people aware of the situation to encourage them to help change it.

一些团体提高了人们对于这个问题的意识——让人们意识到这个情况，从而鼓励他们帮助改变这一情况。

The public at large-most people in the world-are now aware of the need to 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle', the slogan-or short, memorable phrase-used by environmentalists to spread their message.

大部分公众——世界上大部分人——现在意识到了“减少，重复使用和回收”的必要性，这个口号——或者说短小易记的短语——被环境学家用来传播他们的观点。

A related problem is the increase of virgin plastic-original, unused plastic made from fossil fuels.

一个相关的问题就是原生塑料——用化石燃料制成的原始的未经使用的塑料——的增长。

Recycling is unable to keep pace with virgin plastic production, so instead reducing and reusing plastic should be emphasised-highlighted as being especially important.

回收的速度赶不上原生塑料的产量，所以相反地，减少和重复使用塑料应该被强调——被标注为非常重要。

And that's all from us.

以上就是今天的全部内容。

Bye for now.

再见。

Bye.

再见。