**POLLUTION**

**By that one weirdo**

www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution

1. Pollution is one of the biggest global killers, affecting over 100 million people. That’s comparable to global diseases like malaria and HIV.[[1]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn1)

2. Cleanups can save animals’ lives and discourage people from littering in the future. Take initiative and host a cleanup -- wearing anything but clothes! -- at a park near you. Sign up for [ABC Cleanup](https://www.dosomething.org/us/campaigns/abc-cleanup?source=facts/11-facts-about-pollution).[[2]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn2)

3. In 1975, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that ocean-based sources, such as cargo ships and cruise liners had dumped 14 billion pounds of garbage into the ocean.[[3]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn3)

4. Over 1 million seabirds and 100,000 sea mammals are killed by pollution every year.[[4]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn4)

5. People who live in places with high levels of air pollutants have a 20% higher risk of death from lung cancer than people who live in less-polluted areas.[[5]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn5)

6. The Mississippi River carries an estimated 1.5 million metric tons of nitrogen pollution into the Gulf of Mexico each year, creating a “dead zone” in the Gulf each summer about the size of New Jersey.[[6]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn6)

7. Approximately 40% of the lakes in America are too polluted for fishing, aquatic life, or swimming.[[7]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn7)

8. Americans make up an estimated 5% of the world’s population. However, the US uses 25% of the world’s resources - burning up nearly 25% of the coal, 26% of the oil, and 27% of the world’s natural gas.[[8]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn8)

9. Each year 1.2 trillion gallons of untreated sewage, stormwater, and industrial waste are dumped into US water.[[9]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn9)

10. While children make up 10% of the world’s population, over 40% of the global burden of disease falls on them. More than 3 million children under age five die annually from environmental factors.[[10]](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-pollution#fn10)

11. Recycling and composting prevented 85 million tons of material away from being disposed of in 2010, up from 18 million tons in 1980.

http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/marine-animals-are-dying-because-of-our-plastic-trash/

It’s simple to apply this to your everyday life by recycling in your own home. Most public places now offer waste versus recycling options, too. If you happen to be out, and you don’t see an area for recyclables, simply ask. Worst case scenario is you’re forced to take a plastic bottle or bag home with you and recycle it on your own.We understand that going completely plastic free is challenging for most families, but we all know plastic consumption isn’t always well, necessary. Saying no to straws, buying in bulk and bringing your own reusable bags grocery shopping are [just a few of the many ways](http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/responsible-living/stories/16-simple-ways-reduce-plastic-waste) you can cut down on the amount of plastic you’re consuming.

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