

# Supermarket Launches First Plastic-Free Aisle

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Category : Science/Environment

## Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

- 1. **break new ground** / **breɪk noʊ, nyu graʊnd** / (idiom) – to do something that has never been done before  
*Example:* This research seeks to **break new ground** by discovering ways to solve waste problems.
- 2. **compostable** / **kəmˈpɒstəbəl** / (adj) – referring to something that can be used to enhance garden soil  
*Example:* Our product’s packaging is made of **compostable** materials like wood pulp.
- 3. **originate** / **əˈrɪdʒ ə, nert** / (v) – to create or conceptualize something  
*Example:* The administrative department **originated** a new policy on attendance.
- 4. **take steps** / **teɪk steɪps** / (idiom) – to do actions to achieve a goal  
*Example:* The local government **took steps** to reduce plastic waste in the city.
- 5. **incinerate** / **ɪnˈsɪn ə, reɪt** / (v) – to burn something  
*Example:* It is illegal to **incinerate** hazardous wastes.

## Article

Read the text below.

A supermarket in the Netherlands has recently created and launched the world’s first plastic-free aisle. <sup>プラスチックを使わない</sup>

Supermarket chain Ekoplaza has <sup>新境地を開拓する</sup> **broken new ground** <sup>プラスチック汚染</sup> in the fight against plastic pollution by putting up a plastic-free aisle in one of its stores in Amsterdam, the Netherlands’ capital. The packaging of around 700 products in the said aisle is made of <sup>堆肥にする事が出来る素材</sup> **compostable** materials, glasses, cardboard, and the like. Ekoplaza plans to have a plastic-free aisle in its 74 branches within this year.

Ekoplaza’s initiative is part of A Plastic-Free Aisle campaign, which was <sup>率先力</sup> **originated** by the environmental group named A Plastic Planet. With this campaign, A Plastic Planet hopes to lessen plastic usage and its impact on the environment. The group also hopes that other supermarkets will follow suit. <sup>他のマーケットも洗礼に続く事を望む</sup>

Another supermarket chain is also <sup>対策を講じる</sup> **taking steps** to reduce the amount of plastic waste it generates. Iceland, a British supermarket, plans to eliminate the use of plastic packaging in its own products by the end of 2023. Instead of plastic, the company will use paper-based packaging for products like ready-to-eat meals and fruits. <sup>直ぐに食べる事が出来る</sup>

Initiatives to reduce plastic production are important because the amount of plastic waste worldwide is continuously increasing. To make matters worse, plastic takes over 400 years to naturally decompose. <sup>無駄なプラスチック</sup> <sup>更に悪い事に</sup> <sup>自然に分解されるには400年以上</sup>

According to a study published in the journal *Science Advances* in 2017, the world has accumulated a total of 6,300 metric tons of plastic waste as of 2015. Of this amount, only 9% was recycled, 12% was **incinerated**, and 79% was left unprocessed in landfills and other places. <sup>出版された研究の成果</sup> <sup>蓄積している</sup> <sup>再生可能</sup> <sup>焼却される</sup> <sup>未処理(未加工)</sup> <sup>埋立地</sup>

## Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

### Discussion A

- Do you think having plastic-free aisles is enough to encourage people to use less plastic? Why or why not?

- What are other ways to reduce plastic waste?

## Discussion B

- If you were to create an environmental campaign, what would it be? Give details.

- How will this campaign help protect the environment?

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