



# Making a Difference: My Journey towards Sustainable Living

## My Journey



### ➤ Part 1

In high school, I developed a strong interest in environmental conservation. One day, I came across an inspiring story about a Dutch student who had started a plastic recycling studio. His passionate plea for people to join the cause of saving the planet deeply resonated with me. I was shocked to learn that only 10% of plastic is actually recycled, which motivated me to investigate the reasons behind this low recycling rate.

I visited several plastic recycling factories with my friends to find answers. We discovered that companies often disregard recycled plastic products due to their lower purity and the negative impact on manufacturing equipment.



### Reflection

Environmental conservation is not a daunting task but a culmination of individual contributions. Reflecting on my journey in environmental protection, I have come to understand that safeguarding the environment is not an instant accomplishment but a continuous process that requires active engagement and dedication from every individual.

Initially, I recognized my past ignorance and indifference toward environmental issues. Before undertaking this project, I needed to grasp the extent of low plastic recycling rates and the challenges associated with recycled plastics. This experience taught me the importance of understanding the current state and underlying causes of environmental problems as a prerequisite for effective action and advancing ecological conservation.

## Introduction

In today's society, environmental issues and sustainable development have become crucial concerns worldwide. Preserving the natural environment is essential for achieving harmony between humans and nature, ensuring sustainable development. These tasks have become urgent and affect the future of all humankind, regardless of nationality or background.

I will share my experiences in environmental preservation to inspire others to increase their environmental awareness and take proactive steps. As responsible global citizens, we should contribute to environmental protection and raise awareness about the environment that sustains our survival.

Armed with this newfound knowledge, we resolved to establish a unique DIY plastic recycling studio. I christened this endeavor as "Green Creation," drawing inspiration from industrial practices of recycling old plastic yet streamlining the workflow to be more straightforward and flexible. Initially, I utilized a machine resembling a coffee grinder to pulverize the old plastic products into small fragments. Subsequently, I employed a furnace to melt the pulverized plastic fragments into a viscous fluid. Ultimately, the molten fluid could be fashioned into various novel products through methods such as injection or extrusion.



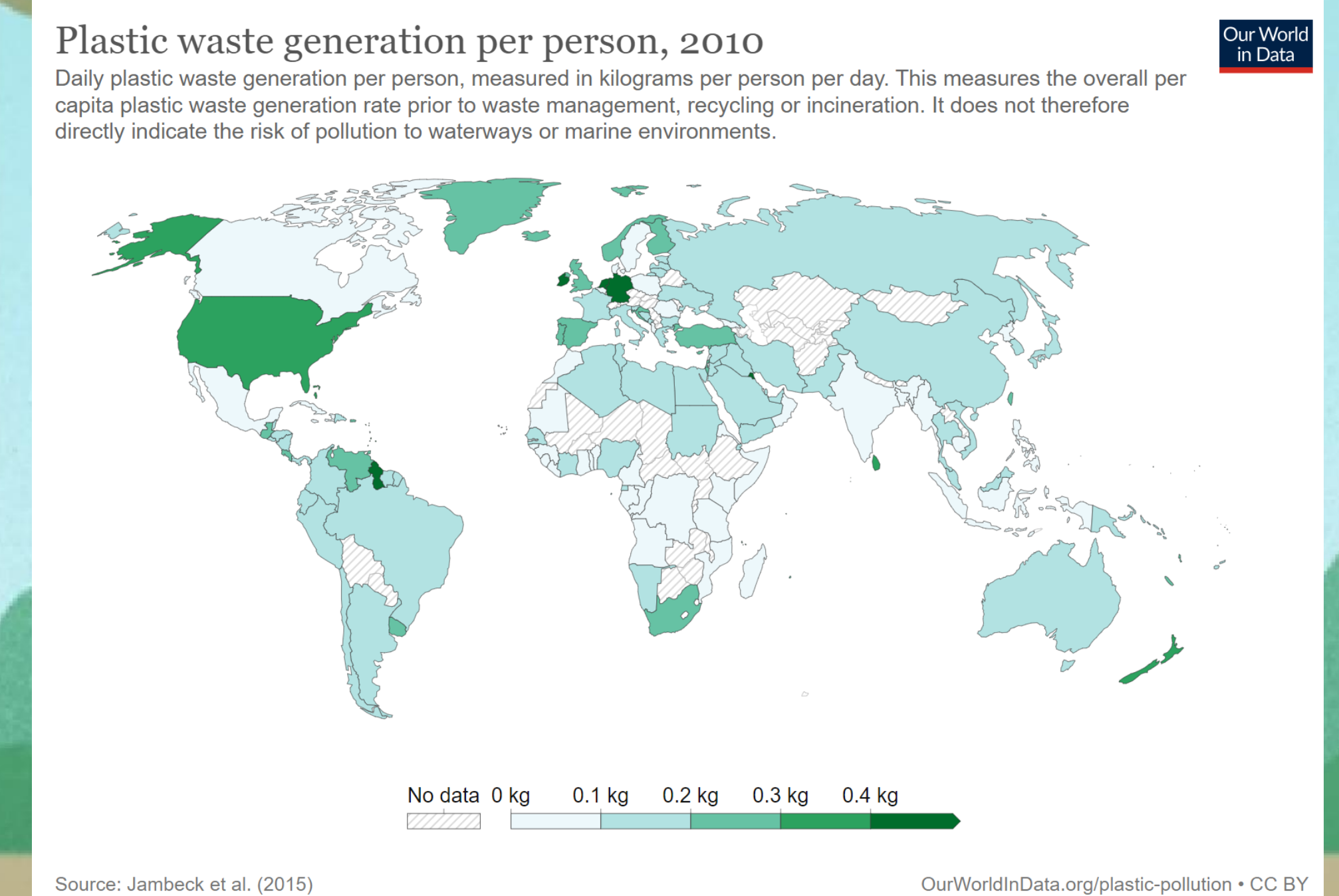
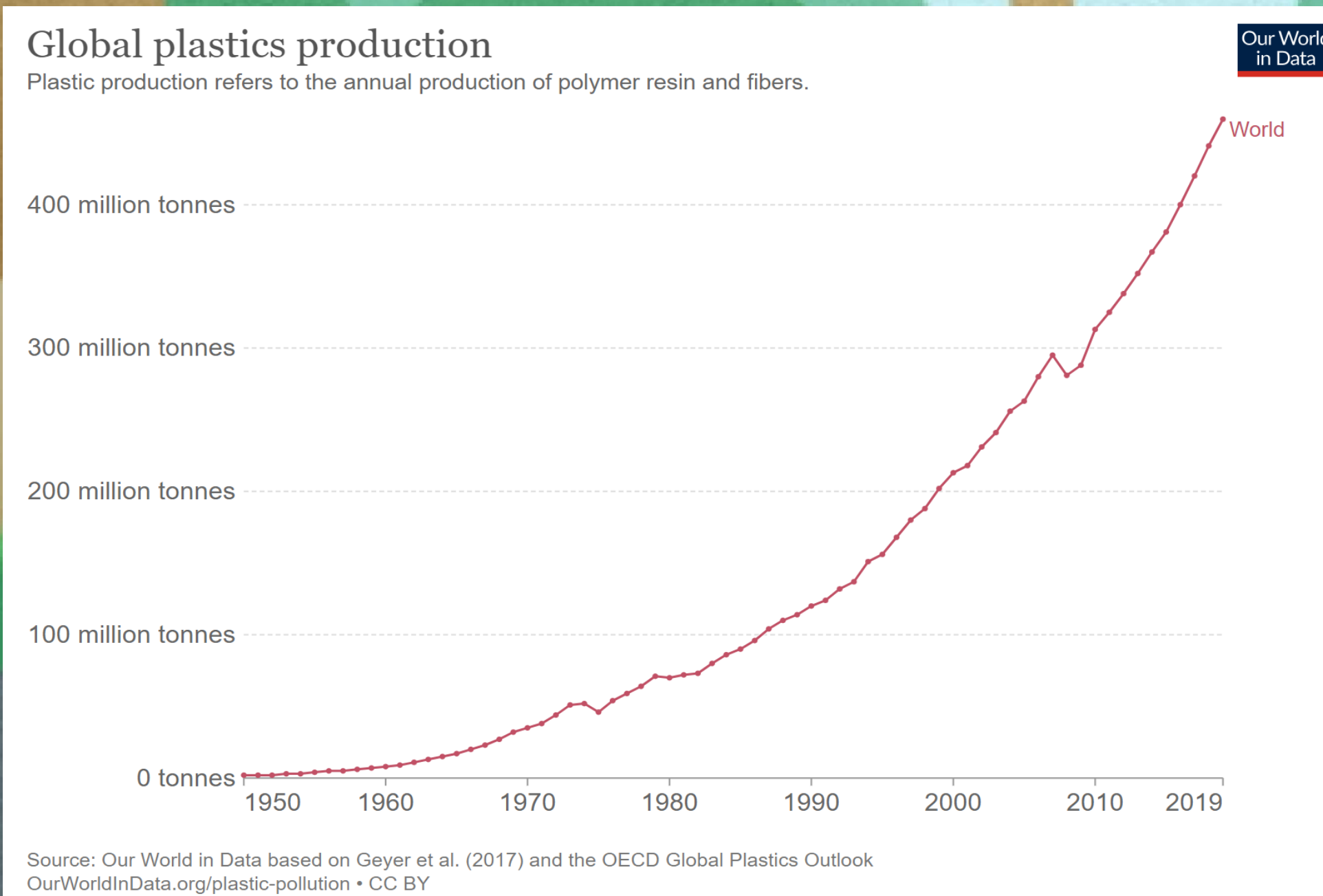
### ➤ Part 2

Although DIY studio was in its early stages, we aimed to share all resources on the Internet, including blueprints, templates, and instructions. Instead of relying solely on production from large factories, I aimed to involve people in hands-on DIY projects. To promote the studio, I organized events in schools and community organizations. Additionally, I organized a competition focused on innovative plastic recycling, inspiring people to repurpose discarded plastic into practical objects.



## Reference

Ritchie, H., & Roser, M. (2018). Plastic Pollution. Our World in Data. <https://ourworldindata.org/plastic-pollution>



I also reflected on my initial limitations and dependencies. Initially, I approached the DIY plastic recycling workshop with a self-centered mindset, hoping to complete the project independently. However, over time, I realized that environmental protection requires collective participation and efforts from society. I learned the value of being open and cooperative, sharing resources and experiences to foster the sustainable development of environmental conservation.

As an ordinary high school student, I once doubted my ability to significantly contribute to environmental issues. However, through this experience, I discovered that everyone has the power to influence and inspire others. Regardless of our identities and positions, we can be advocates for environmental protection and leaders through our actions and example. We are responsible for adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives, influencing those around us, and collectively building a more sustainable environment.

These activities generated enthusiastic responses from students and educators, fostering increased environmental protection awareness. Over time, the studio gained momentum and attracted significant interest and support from school and community residents. They were intrigued by DIY plastic recycling and wanted to contribute to the environment in their own lives. We embarked on creative endeavors, producing a wide range of upcycled plastic products like plant pots, pen holders, and toys.

Through this process, I realized that environmental preservation is not limited to significant initiatives; each individual has the power to make a difference and contribute with their unique strengths. Through my efforts and example, I aim to inspire even more individuals to join the cause of environmental conservation.