

Plastic

Sustainability Strategy Ideas

- Create a greenhouse using plastic water bottles.
- Conduct an awareness raising campaign about the length of time it takes plastic to biodegrade.
- Run a challenge for a week to collect, and minimise, all the single-use plastic used, either individually or as a group. Link this to a reward system and celebrate winners using publicity campaigns.
- Make plastic recycling bins larger than rubbish disposal bins to encourage their use.
- Hold litter pick events and share photos of the amount of plastic collected to spread awareness.
- Choose to source and use reusable or recyclable materials for group events.
- Contact your STEAM Mentor to discuss additional plastic reduction strategies.



Introduction Activity

We recommend consulting the Plastic resources from the [Butterfly Effect](#) primary program for ideas on how to explore this topic.

Additionally, you could introduce the theme using this short activity:

<p>Activity</p>	<p>As of 1st April 2022, the U.K. Government introduced a plastic tax of £200 per tonne of plastic for the manufacturers or importers of plastic with less than 30% recycled content.</p> <p>This follows a charge, introduced in 2015 and increased in 2021 to a minimum of 10p, that requires all retailers in the U.K. to charge customers to access a plastic bag. Since originally being introduced in 2015, there has been a reduction in the use of single-use plastic bags of over 7.4 billion.</p> <p>A mixed approach has been taken in the #united States with several states banning single use plastic bags, whilst others have decided that such bans are illegal, effectively placing a ban on the ban.</p> <p>What are the pros and cons of each of these approaches?</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Paper and pens, devices with internet access</p>
<p>Discussion Points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the issue of single-use plastic a global, governmental or individual issue? ▪ What single-use plastic items are essential? ▪ Is banning single use plastic the way to eliminate its' use? ▪ Do these varied approaches work or do we need a consistent, worldwide approach and, if so, what should that be? ▪ Can you think of any other ways to reduce the use of plastic.



Careers Information

Below is a list of job roles associated with plastic. Use internet search results, and [Jacobs.com](https://www.jacobs.com), to research each job title and find out what they do!

Additionally, here is a pre-recorded video from a professional at Jacobs that can provide more insight into a plastic-related job:

- [Waste and Materials](#)

Job Titles

- Machinist
- Materials and Waste Consultant
- Sustainability Consultant
- Circular Economy Consultant
- Plastic Fabricator
- Plastic Welder
- Plastic Machine Operator
- Product Design
- Polymer Extrusion Scientist
- Quality Engineer
- Machine Operator
- Chemical Engineer

