

The plastic age – a documentary film (1/2)

- Which are the problems at stake?

After seeing this documentary, we can say that the current problem is that ~~the~~ plastic is shown as being time saving for consumers. We produce 288 million tons of plastic a year, so much so that in a few million years, a layer of plastic will overlay the Earth. Consequently, plastic will become the new fossil due to the fact that we find it everywhere. By the way, what escapes the waste management system is heading out to the sea.

When we talk about waste, we are talking about 700 million tons of paper, metal or glass which are thrown in our oceans. The things that we use for 10 seconds will be long after our great-grandchildren live. Moreover, if waste is rejected into the oceans, as a result marine animals are the first affected. For example, if a small fish eats 10 small pieces of plastic, a bigger fish eats a hundred of those smaller fish. Thereby, fish and human are contaminated. Any one of us could look at the chemicals in our body and find that we have heavy industrial chemicals stored in our blood. Those long-term effects are not known yet but we can suppose that plastic isn't beneficial to our health. On the contrary, we can surmise it is detrimental to our health. Anyways, we can deduce that plastic has negative effects on the environment, humans and plants.

People talk about environmental issues as if they were going to happen in the future but we only have 10 years to change.

The plastic age – a documentary film (2/2)

- What are the solutions evoked in the video?

After understanding the current problem, we can ask ourselves about the solutions which can be set up to avoid the big impact of plastic on our oceans.

Humans adapt and one of the ways people are adapting is (that) they're turning this mess into other new products. We are doing science, doing research, communicating, being creative and we have to work as a team to find a solution because a single person will not be able to find a solution: It's the idea of "G-STAR" a clothing brand which / that proposed an alternative to this problem. As we don't need to produce new plastic because we already produced enough, they decided to turn ocean plastic debris into an acid to turn it into a new material for this fashion industry. This process is called Bionic. In this process, we take a plastic bottle; we shred it into flakes, melt them, and extrude them into fibers spin and them into a yarn. The basic idea is to synchronize the economy and the environment. G-Star are replacing 30% of the fabric with bionic. However, it's not a solution for the problem but it shows the direction to protect the environment. Nature is unpredictable, we don't have much control over it but humans have the control to reduce their impact on the environment to keep our oceans as they were.