

# Plastic waste

From 1950 to 2018, 8.3 billion tons of plastic were produced.

## How countries deal with plastic

Estonia - Some stores give discount if you use your own container.  
25% of plastic is recycled.

Slovenia - Plastic represents 10% of waste, 34% of it is recycled.

Germany banned the sale of single-use plastic straws, cutlery, cotton buds and food containers from July 2021. There are no plastic bags in stores.

## Problems



- Plastic dissolves slowly.
- It's harmful to animals and humans alike, damages environment.
- Ocean plastic patches - 1.6 million square km.
- Plastic bottles take about 450 years to dissolve

## EU solutions to increase recycling rates



- Almost a third of plastic is recycled
- 55% of plastic should be recycled by 2030
- policies on minimal recycled content in certain products



## USA

- 8.7% of plastic recycled, most landfilled
- Limited environment laws in states (California, Vermont...)

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu>  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com>  
<https://www.stat.si>  
<https://www.stat.ee/>

