

# Single Use Plastics: A Million Bottles a Minute

## Overview for Teachers

Workshop by Learning for a Sustainable Future with support from HP

### Plastic Pollution: Why Care

Plastic is found everywhere in our world today, from our cars to our toothbrushes. It is both a very common and a very useful material. But it also has significant environmental impacts. Some of these impacts are positive—for example, plastic packaging can extend the shelf life of food and eliminate food waste, and it can help reduce emissions from the shipping of goods because of its light weight. However, the negative impacts are considerable and have wide-reaching effects on the environment and human and animal life.

Plastic is problematic at each step of its existence, from production to disposal. Plastic is made of oil, so its production uses up this non-renewable resource. Because it doesn't decompose and often isn't disposed of properly, lots of that plastic ends up in our lands and waterways, where it can harm ecosystems, animals and people. There is much too much plastic in the world, and rates of production are increasing—the amount of plastic being produced has increased 200-fold since 1950 (Our World in Data).

So what can kids and teachers do to help make a difference? This workshop is designed to provide an overview of the plastics problem for children and introduce several engaging and hands-on activities to learn about its impact, widespread existence, and ways that they can make a difference. This attached worksheet has all the activities outlined in one place. Included are eight different resources to help you engage in learning about plastics with your students.

This workshop has been developed by Learning for a Sustainable Future, with support from HP.



Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) is a Canadian charity whose mission is to promote, through education, the knowledge, skills, values, perspectives, and practices essential to a sustainable future. LSF has been working with governments, universities, business, educators and youth across Canada to support Sustainable Development Education since 1991. LSF's innovative programs and strategic partnerships are reshaping education policy and transforming learning methods, helping students learn to address the increasingly difficult economic, social, and environmental challenges of the 21st century. For more hands-on activities you can do with your children sign up for [Learning Inside Out](#) visit or visit our website at [www.LSF-LST.ca](http://www.LSF-LST.ca)



HP Inc. is a multinational information technology (IT) company that sells personal computers, printers and related supplies. According to Corporate Knights, HP is one of the world's top 100 most sustainable companies. HP is reinventing the way its products are designed, made, used, and regenerated. HP is combating ocean-bound plastic pollution and improving lives through sourcing more than 1 million pounds of ocean-bound plastic bottles (approx 35 million bottles) which are recycled and used to make HP ink cartridges and hardware. That's 1 million plastic water bottles per day going into the production of HP products. You can read more about their commitment in [Tackling Plastic Waste for a More Sustainable World](#) by Fortune, check out HP's commitments and progress on the Circular Economy [here](#) and learn more about how to recycle HP products [here](#).

# Single Use Plastics

## A Million Bottles a Minute

A collection of resources and activities designed to help teachers educate students on the importance of the global plastics issue and engaging in action to combat it!

Activities by Learning for a Sustainable Future with support from HP, one of the world leaders in sustainability according to Corporate Knights 2020 Global 100 Ranking

### 1 Start here: Open your eyes to The Reality of Plastic Pollution

Learn some facts about plastics pollution, and the devastating effect it can have on the animals, the environment and human health. here



Listen to Jeff Bridges introduce the issue.

### 3 Activity: Hidden Plastics

There are things that we may be using every day that contain plastic and we don't even know it!

Test your knowledge of hidden plastics by playing this sorting activity.



### 5 What is a Circular Economy? And why is it so important?

How can we transform our: **buy-use-throw away culture (linear economy)** into a **sustainable, circular economy**?



Take a look at this overview to understand the difference and learn what it takes to close the loop!

### 7 Activity: Commit to Make Personal Changes

After you've learned more about plastics pollution, do you feel inspired to make a difference? Take a look here for some ideas how!

Using this handout, make two commitments to change:

- Today I will...
- As a class we can...



### 2 Activity: My Day in Plastics!

Use this activity to determine how many plastics you use and see on a daily basis! Get more detailed activity instructions here!



Access and download the worksheet you will need here.

### 4 What is a single use vs. reusable plastic?

Not all plastic is the same! There are many different varieties of plastic that are used for different purposes – two big categories are single use vs. reusable.

Learn the difference and find examples here!



### 6 Get inspired: Youth Taking Action

Take a look at just a few of the amazing actions youth are taking in Canada to combat single use-plastics and tackling the different facets of sustainability here!



To explore even more inspiring examples of youth action visit OurCanadaProject.ca

### 8 Extend your learning:

#### Track your Personal Plastics Footprint!

Use this app to see how your plastics use stacks up. See how significantly it can change after you've committed to a few simple changes! And don't forget to share with friends and family to extend the impact!



Help your fellow change-makers (classmates) by holding each other accountable!

