

RECYCLING IS NOT ENOUGH

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Meadhbh Bolger



"The China ban is a wake up call."

"Almost half of the plastic Europeans put in their recycling bins is exported, and there is a complete lack of transparency as to where it ends up. European governments and businesses must be held accountable for the massive amounts of plastic waste we generate - this needs to be reduced and managed closer to home."

Contributor, Researcher

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Martin Bourque



"Corporate recycling is in for a reality check as China raises its standards."

"Everyone is desperately looking for the cheapest possible new destinations for low quality mixed materials, and there is currently a lot of incentive for companies to dump, burn, or bury recyclables that customers think are getting recycled."

Contributor

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Froilan Grate



“Our communities cannot afford to continue shouldering the costs of pollution...”

“For many years, industry has not held itself accountable for the environmental and health impacts of the waste that their products create. Our communities cannot afford to continue shouldering the costs of pollution associated with the increasing amount of waste they do not have the capacity or sole responsibility to manage.”

Contributor

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Von Hernandez



“No wonder our oceans and ecosystems are suffocating...”

"The mad scramble for alternative destinations or disposal options spawned by China's decision should compel companies and exporting countries to look for ways to cut back on the ever increasing amount of plastics in the marketplace. No wonder our oceans and ecosystems are suffocating in this dreadful and unprecedented wave of plastic pollution. Less plastic and better recycling rates -- this is the only viable way out of this crisis."

Contributor

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S.M. Mohamed Idris



“From the production process, during usage and to disposal, plastics are a menace...”

“With the recent ban imposed by China, we are concerned that these plastic waste would be diverted to South East Asian countries, including Malaysia. Already there are reported cases of breaking regulations on the importation of plastic wastes, and plastics recycling factories polluting the environment. From the production process, during usage and to disposal, plastics are a menace and we need global and local actions to address the problem.”

Contributor

President of the Consumers' Association of Penang, (Penang, Malaysia).

Yuyun Ismawati



“...[plastic] degrades into toxic microplastics, threatening marine life and our food chain.”

"Most of uncollected waste found in Indonesia's coastal areas is made up of single use plastic packaging, plastic bottles and plastic bags, where it degrades into toxic microplastics, threatening marine life and our food chain."

Contributor

Goldman Environmental Prize Winner, BaliFokus Senior Advisor (London, UK)

Ariadna Rodrigo



“The solution is...to prevent plastic waste at source...”

"The EU's Plastics Strategy launched last Tuesday has put on the table the urgent need to develop a strong European market for recycled plastics. The solution is not to find new countries to export and downcycle our waste to, but rather to prevent plastic waste at source and to increase recycling capacities in Europe."

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Dharmesh Shah



“Material that cannot be processed will be sent to open dumps.”

“The ban by China will certainly open up business opportunities in India, which also hosts a big recycling market. However, most recycling takes place in the informal sector where facilities are extremely toxic and harm the workers and environment. Material that cannot be processed will be sent to open dumps.”

Contributor

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Xie Xinyuan

“We hope China will set a good example for the world.”

“China has imported huge amounts of plastic scrap for more than 20 years due to the thirst for economic growth. However, this administration has been attaching unprecedented importance to environmental protection and eco-civilization. We hope China will set a good example for the world.”

Contributor
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