



Plastic Bottles

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My Experience at the landfill

- While I was at the landfill I learned about where our trash was going and how it was being processed
- At the Cocoa landfill, roughly 20 to 30 percent of the waste going into the landfill could be recycled
- I learned that they have designated piles for recyclable materials for things such as tires turned to playground mulch, refrigerators recycled to new products, wood pallets turned to mulch and trees turned into compost
- The leachate is rainwater that changes compound and then is extracted and filtered to be used as irrigation water

The Human Impact

Plastic bottles contain Bisphenol A, BPA, the chemical used to make the plastic hard and clear. BPA is an endocrine disruptor which has been proven to be hazardous to human health

It has been strongly linked to a host of health problems including certain types of cancer, neurological difficulties, early puberty in girls, reduced fertility in women, premature labour, and defects in newborn babies – to name a few examples

Bottled drinks also contain phthalates, which are commonly used in the U.S. to make plastics such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) more flexible

Phthalates are also endocrine-disrupting chemicals that have been linked to a wide range of developmental and reproductive effects, including reduced sperm count, testicular abnormality and tumors, and gender development issues

The Environmental Impact

Of the mass numbers of plastic bottles consumed throughout the world, most of them are not recycled because only certain types of plastic bottles can be recycled by certain municipalities.

They either end up lying stagnant in landfills, leaching dangerous chemicals into the ground, or they infiltrate our streets as litter.

In the U.S., bottled water and tap water are regulated by different federal agencies.

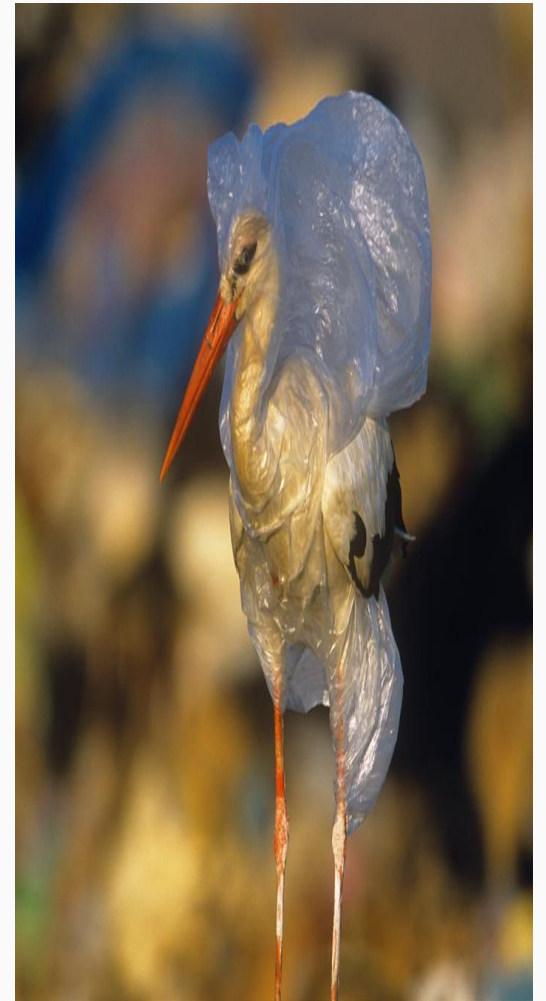
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates tap water. Therefore, the enforcement and monitoring of water quality for bottled water vs tap water does not add up.

The Animal Impact

Ingestion of plastic pollution can be downright deadly for marine animals

Sadly, ingestion of plastic isn't the only threat that this type of pollution poses to animals. Plastics can also entangle animals marine animals, making movement, feeding and growth difficult or even impossible

Plastic-based ropes, fishing nets, and even soda can holders can get wrapped around heads, flippers, or tails of marine animals



What percent of plastic bottles end up in landfills?



Eighty percent of the water bottles we buy end up in landfills, the absolute worst place for them to be. That means roughly for every 10 bottles we drink, only two end up in the recycle bin.

Our national recycle rate for PET's is only **23 percent**, which means we throw 38 billion water bottles into landfills a year.

Final Point:

Plastic bottles are not the only recyclable material that is taking up useful space, there are other things such as plastic bags, aluminum cans and glass that can easily be recycled into new products. If people put in the extra effort to put the right materials in the proper bin, our environment would be less polluted and we would have less animals being harmed.



“We are living on the planet as if we have
another one to go to”

- Terry Swearingen



**Save our planet and
Reduce, Reuse, and
Recycle.**