

Victoria Sandoval

6th Grade Mrs. Daily

Ella Fitzgerald Academy, Yonkers NY

The beach is a wonderful place to enjoy the hot sun and cool water. The sand is hot, but the sea helps you cool down. Usually during the summertime, I love going to the beach on a hot day to cool down with my family. We love drinking ice-cold drinks from our cooler and talking to each other. But, with all the trash in the nearby beaches, it's hard not to get hurt while playing. That is why we need to start cleaning our beaches and stop dumping trash in the sea.

When at the beach, you may see the trash covering the surface. Marine debris, more known as beach trash, haunts us and the animals in the sea. Marine debris affects not just us, but the fish in the sea. Past studies show that "Plastic debris floating in the water can look a lot like food to animals. When an animal ingests plastic, it fills up their stomach and reduces the feeling of hunger, which prevents them from eating and dying from starvation." ([Earth.org](#)) Since many marine animals consume plastic, soon we will no longer see beautiful fish and marine animals we usually see.

We should stop marine debris because of micro plastics entering the food we eat. According to studies, "Furthermore, [plastic debris accumulating in the ocean absorbs persistent organic pollutants \(POPs\)](#) from the water which have been found to have critical adverse health effects. Several studies have confirmed how microplastics that are ingested by marine animals make their way up the food chain. However, it is no longer just seafood that poses a threat to humans since microplastics make their way into all kinds of food." At this point, many of our foods contain harmful microplastics. We should stop marine debris because of micro plastics entering the food we eat. According to studies, "But there is no doubt that microplastics contain highly toxic and harmful chemicals. Even in the manufacturing phase, plastic is processed with additives such as plasticizers, flame retardants, UV stabilizers, and pigments, which account for nearly 4% of the weight of microplastics." ([Earth.org](#)) Microplastics enter our food, causing it to become toxic and harmful. Currently, it is around 4% but at this rate, it will increase. When it increases, it will become hard to eat food and many more.

That is why we should stop the use of plastics. Instead, we should use reusable things like water bottles, bowls, spoons and more. This will stop the use of plastic, and we could reuse many things. Reusing can help "Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, prevents pollution caused by reducing the need to harvest new raw materials, and saves energy." ([EPA](#)) Those are few of the many things reusable products can help with.

José I. Alvarado, beaches are very beautiful and I am sure you will love or have loved the beach before. But, for others to experience the beach, we need to keep it clean and conserve its beauty. I want others to enjoy all the beauties of the beach. I hope you can write legislation for there to be reusable products used at beaches and even at home.

Sincerely,

Victoria Sandoval

# Works Cited

Ellis, Lucy. "10 Ocean Pollution Facts You Need to Know." *Earth.Org*, Earth.Org, 21 June 2022, <https://earth.org/plastic-pollution-in-the-ocean-facts/>.

"Reducing and Reusing Basics." *EPA*, Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics>.