



THIS IS A
RUBBISH
CAMPAIGN



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This resource provides a range of fun and creative ways to involve your faith community in supporting TEAR's *Rubbish Campaign*. They are all designed to help people think about how they can take action on our world's rubbish problem.

Thank you for supporting the campaign and inviting others to get on board too!

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INTRODUCTION

Our world has a rubbish problem – and it's hitting people living in poverty the hardest.

As Christians, we are called to love our global neighbours and care for creation. TEAR Australia CEO Matthew Maury says: "God has blessed us with a beautiful world to look after and treasure. But right now, our world has a rubbish problem – and it's severely affecting the health and wellbeing of people living in poverty."

Today, 2 billion people in the world's poorest countries are living and working among piles of waste, because they don't have their rubbish collected. This creates a breeding ground for disease-carrying rats, flies and mosquitoes. Burning rubbish to get rid of it pollutes the air, causing respiratory problems. Waste also clogs waterways, which then causes floods when it rains. Each day the waste mountains are growing.

Big global companies such as Coca-Cola, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever are making things worse by selling billions of products in single-use plastic packaging in countries where waste isn't collected. So their packaging is used only ONCE before it's thrown away – and these companies know that communities will have no choice but to burn it or live among it.

But this rubbish situation can change, if we act together. We can call on companies to take responsibility for the plastic waste mountains their products are creating in poorer communities. And we can pledge to reduce our own plastic too.



**Up to a million
people die each
year due to pollution
caused by waste.
That's one person
every 30 seconds.**

→ WASTE WALK

A waste walk or litter-pick is a fun and helpful way to serve your local community and care for creation.

PLANNING

Choose a location. Ideas include a beach, riverbank or park.

Pick a date. Consider choosing an international celebration, such as Keep Australia Beautiful week (Aug), Landcare Week (Sept), World Habitat Day (Oct): www.environment.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/events.

Develop a core group. Recruit three or four motivated people to help you organise the event.

Get permission. Tell the local government about your litter clean-up. They might even agree to provide equipment such as litter sacks.

Plan a safe event. Visit the clean-up location and plan the event there.

- Identify the places where:
 - people will meet
 - the clean-up will start and end
 - the litter will be sorted

- Set the start and end times for the event.
- If you are cleaning up a beach, check the tides for that day.
- Think about possible problems. Consider what you can do either to prevent the problem, or to have a plan in case it happens. Think about any equipment required.
- Prepare guidelines on avoiding dangerous litter such as asbestos, dead animals, corrosive materials (eg car batteries) and needles (which can transmit HIV). Check local guidance on dealing with hazardous waste, if available.

Spread the word. Publicise the event with friends, family, colleagues and your community. Why not involve your local newspaper or radio station? Shoot us an email at advocacy@tear.org.au so we can cheer you on!



THE DAY OF

Bring any equipment you will need, eg gardening gloves for volunteers, litter bags and a first aid kit.

Welcome everybody, and explain the plans for the day.

Start the day with a prayer or a story. Here's a suggested prayer:

Creator God and loving Father,

Everything you made is good. Thank you for this beautiful home you've given us.

Forgive us for the times we have not looked after the earth as well as we could. We're sorry for the rubbish we've discarded without a second thought for the consequences.

Thank you for trusting us with looking after creation.

Please help and inspire us to do so, to serve others and for your glory.

Amen.



INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE BY DAVID JUNIOR

Several years ago I started to feel very frustrated about the litter on the beaches in my town of Maputo, Mozambique. My church youth group and I planned a clean-up event for the most popular beach. So far, we have completed four clean-ups.

It was easy to get other partners involved. We have been working with our local government, who fortunately embrace the cause of taking care of the environment. Environmentalists in our network gave us advice, and a TV channel shared our story.

Around 50 people attended one of our recent clean-ups. We can see positive changes in the participants' lives – in their daily routines and the way they behave towards the environment. Gradually, the wider community is starting to change, and we are seeing less littering on the beach. I think young people can inspire others to take action on the environment!

David Junior is the Youth Coordinator for the Green Anglicans in southern Africa.

DEBRIEF

What did you collect?

At the end of your walk, spend time sorting your rubbish to see which brands and items are most commonly discarded as litter in your area. Did anything surprise you?

How long till it's gone?

Test people's awareness of how long objects take to decompose. You'll need six pieces of paper/card, each with one of these different titles: 1 month, 2 years, 10 years, 10–20 years, 80–200 years, 450 years, Never. Lay out the cards, and ask people to put the waste items they have collected next to the sign that says how long they think it will take for that item to break down and disappear. You might want to have an item from each decomposition category to hand, and you will need to explain that the rate they decompose depends on local conditions.

Did you know... ?
If Henry VIII had drunk water from a plastic bottle and thrown it away, the plastic could still be here now!
(However, there were no plastic bottles or recycling plants available in the 16th century.)

Answers

These are conservative estimates of how long each item takes to break down in the open air. It could be much longer, particularly if they are in landfill. Many plastic items will break down into smaller microplastics, so although they are not recognisable as a bag or straw, they still haven't really disappeared.

- 1 month+ – paper bag, apple core
- 2 years+ – banana skin
- 10 years+ – rolled-up newspaper, cigarette butts
- 20 years+ plastic straws, plastic bag (this category includes things that could take much longer than 20 years, such as a fizzy drink can which can take up to 50 years)
- 80–200 years – disposable coffee cup, crisp packet (80 years), nappies (200+ years)
- 450 years – plastic bottle, plastic six-pack holder, sanitary pads, tampons
- Never – glass bottle, styrofoam cup, tinfoil

References

- <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/this-how-many-years-it-takes-these-everyday-items-decompose-1650426>
- <https://plasticgarbage.weebly.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-decompose.html>

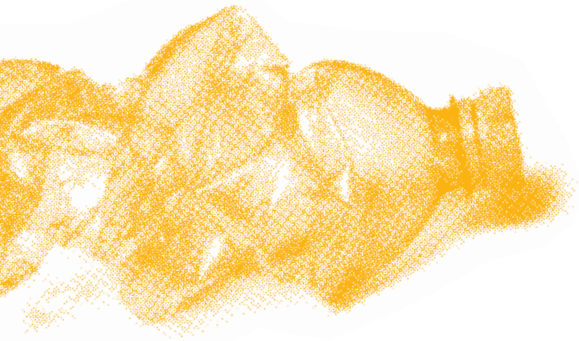


SPEAK UP

If you came into your kitchen to find the sink overflowing with water, what would you do first – turn off the tap or mop the floor? Obviously, you'd turn off the tap as well as cleaning up the mess! TEAR's *Rubbish Campaign* is calling on some of the biggest multinational companies (Coca-Cola, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever) to take responsibility for the plastic waste mountains their products are creating in poorer countries.

Waste sculptures

Use the waste you've collected to create a shape on the ground – or a sculpture if you're feeling creative. Add a sign that includes the name of your church or town explaining you are joining the Rubbish Campaign. Gather round it, take a photo and use it to call for change. (Please wear gloves and take care with the waste.)



We'd love to see your photos. If you use social media, you could then post something like this:

Today @CHURCHhandle/name is joining @TEARAustralia #RubbishCampaign in #TOWNname to #RenewOurWorld

Take photos of the waste you collected and use social media to tag the companies. Ask them to take responsibility for the waste that their products are creating. Here are some suggested posts and tweets:

Hey @companyhandle is this yours? Please take responsibility for the plastic waste your products are creating #RubbishCampaign #RenewOurWorld [insert photo of a branded piece of plastic rubbish]

Hey @companyhandle, don't be a rubbish company! Will you report by 2020 on how many units of single-use plastic products you sell? #RubbishCampaign #RenewOurWorld

Hey @companyhandle, don't be a rubbish company! Could you commit to halving the number of your single-use plastic products by 2025? #RubbishCampaign #RenewOurWorld

Hey @companyhandle, don't be a rubbish company! By 2022, ensure one single-use plastic item is collected for every one you sell #RubbishCampaign #RenewOurWorld

After your waste activities, please make sure you dispose of the waste safely, recycling as much as possible.



→ PLASTIC-FREE 'BRING & SHARE' LUNCH OR PICNIC

If your community likes to eat together, how about holding a plastic-free 'bring & share' lunch or picnic? Here's how to make sure your event is not rubbish!

Choose a date that works for your community and **challenge everyone to bring a food contribution or picnic that does NOT include any single-use plastics.** (That means no cling film, plastic bags, plastic cutlery, plastic straws or disposable cups, no potato chip packets or plastic lolly/chocolate wrappers.) Try to make this a fun and joyful thing! Explain that you're taking part in a challenge to notice how much plastic there is in our lives and to realise that we can do things differently as part of our worship.

Tips

- Bring your food in a reusable cloth bag or basket.
- Wrap sandwiches in beeswax wraps or just put them in sandwich boxes.
- Tubs/boxes/jars can hold everything from salad items to cake.
- Bring drinks in reusable bottles and flasks. If you are going somewhere that sells tea or coffee, bring a cup with you.
- Fruit often comes in its own wrapper (eg bananas or oranges), but if you are bringing more delicate fruit (such as strawberries), pop them in a tub or jar with a lid. Try to buy it loose without plastic too!

- Bring some cutlery if you need it: it's a bit heavier than plastic and you'll need to take it home to wash, but when you consider the resources used to make single-use plastic cutlery you then throw away, the extra effort doesn't seem so bad.

As people sit around tables or on their picnic blankets, encourage them to discuss:

- How difficult a challenge was this for us?
- How could we reduce our plastic use in future?

Share

We love food pics as much as the next person so share your plastic free yumminess at @TEARAustralia #RubbishCampaign

'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.' Romans 12:1 (The Message)



→ CHURCH PLEDGE

As part of the *Rubbish Campaign* we're asking individuals to reduce their own plastic use – and we'd love to see churches taking a Plastic Pledge too.

Can your church commit to NOT using single-use plastics as far as possible (in particular disposable cups, plates and cutlery)? If so, print off our certificate to celebrate your commitment! You can do this whether this is the first time your church has decided to cut back on plastic or whether you have never used disposables and are committing to keep it that way. **Please let us know if you take the pledge so we can celebrate with you: advocacy@tear.org.au**



When Karen Hill moved to a new suburb to start a new church, she wanted to avoid single-use cups. Karen says: 'I much prefer a cuppa from a ceramic mug and convinced my church leader that it would save us money in the long run, as well as being a great way of showing our love for God's earth and his creation.' That was nine years ago, before many people were aware of the plastic problem, but the thought of throwing away disposable cups every week didn't sit right with Karen even then. Every Sunday, as they serve refreshments, they are also worshipping God and showing love for his world.





WE'RE MAKING A PLASTIC PLEDGE

TO SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OUR GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS AND CARE FOR CREATION!

(Name of church)

Is committed to reducing our single-use plastics, including not using disposable cups, plates and cutlery.

Signed: _____

(Leader)

Thank you for taking the time to organise a rubbish activity with TEAR! We hope it is a fun and joyful time for you and your community.





USEFUL LINKS

We are passionate about supporting you and your community in together working to stop this “rubbish situation”. Below are a list of handy links and resources. Please contact us if you have any further questions.

RUBBISH CAMPAIGN

tear.org.au/rubbish

FAQ – COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RUBBISH CAMPAIGN

tear.org.au/rubbish/faq

NO TIME TO WASTE – TACKLING THE PLASTIC POLLUTION CRISIS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE,

a report launched by our colleagues in the UK, which focuses on the problem of the huge recent increase in the distribution of single-use plastics across the globe to countries lacking the capacity to collect and manage waste.

tear.org.au/resources/no-time-to-waste

JOEL MCKERROW'S POEM, WASTE

– Watch our new video featuring TEAR Artist Ambassador and performance poet Joel McKerrow and share in your networks.

tear.org.au/rubbish/poem

SIGNING THE PETITION

Join us in calling on Coca-Cola, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever to take responsibility for their plastic waste in poorer countries.

tear.org.au/rubbish/petition

Printed Cards – if your group would prefer to sign a ‘physical’ version of the Rubbish Campaign petition, then please contact the TEAR office on 1800 244 986. The team can take your order and mail you the amount required.

Please ensure the cards are correctly filled and once completed please return the cards, together with the details of your church and event to:

TEAR Australia
PO Box 164
Blackburn Vic 3130

TEAR ACTION

Stay up to date with the latest campaign news and actions from TEAR Australia

tear.org.au/action/join-us

CONTACT DETAILS

TEAR Australia
info@tear.org.au
1800 244 986

