



WAYS OUT OF THE PLASTIC CRISIS DEMANDS FROM GERMAN CIVIL SOCIETY



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The listed organizations advocate as civil society alliance for ways out of the plastic crisis and the implementation of their joint political demands.

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THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT MUST ACT!

STOP FLOODING THE WORLD WITH PLASTIC!

Plastic engulfing our environment – this is one of the most visible and most serious ecological problems in today's world. Plastic is a deadly hazard for many creatures that consume it in their food. The deluge of plastic also threatens human health: microplastic has even been detected in the human bloodstream. And the production and consumption of plastic also fuel climate change.

For the first time in Germany, major civil society actors have come together in an alliance to resolve the plastic crisis and have formulated 15 demands for the German government to act on.

Sadly, Germany is the European leader in the use of plastics. That puts a special responsibility on us to find a solution to this worldwide problem. It is now time to act, and to act decisively.

1 Reduce the consumption of plastic

2 Hold manufacturers and distributors liable for damage

3 Raise awareness and require information availability and transparency

4 Promote a global agreement to combat the flood of plastic

Ban the use of hazardous substances as additives to raw materials

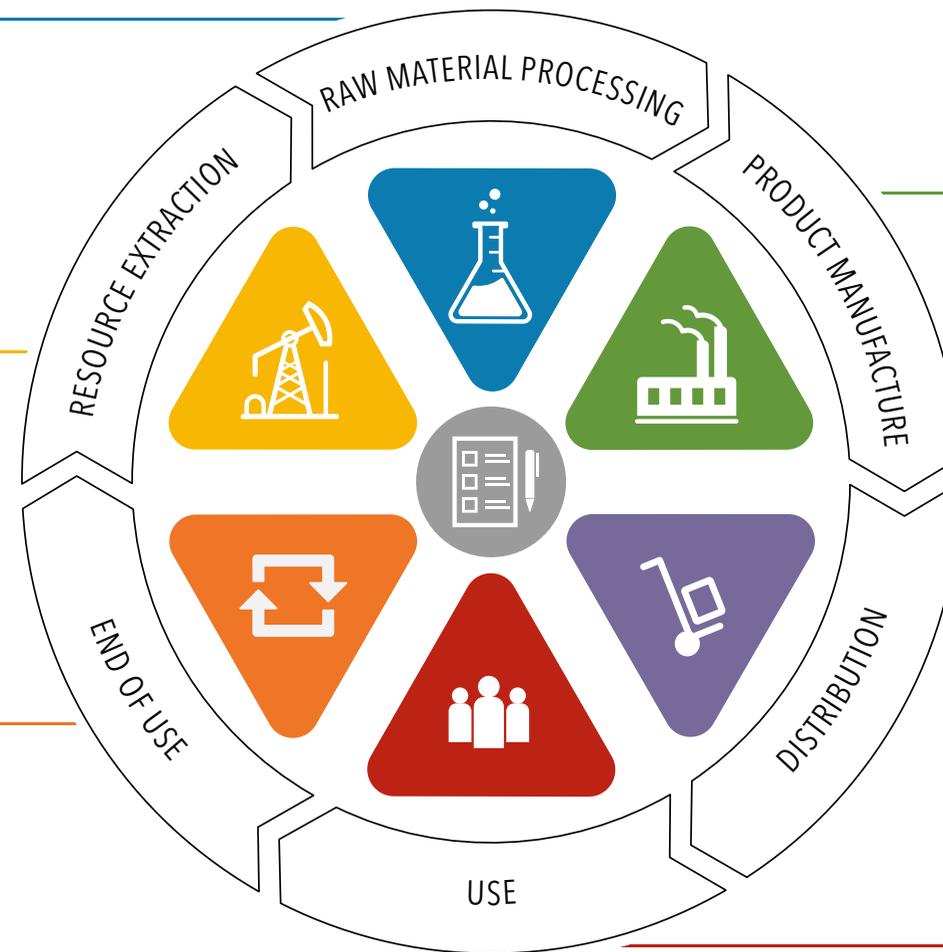
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Reduce the use of raw materials

14

Prevent waste

13



5 Stop single-use plastics

6 Promote sustainable product design

7 Manufacture products without hazardous substances

8 Ban primary microplastic

9 Restrict the use of plastics in logistics chains

10 Prevent the release of microplastics through wear and tear

11 Promote reusables

12 Stop the disposal and loss of plastic at sea

WAYS OUT OF THE PLASTIC CRISIS: THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT MUST ACT!

1

REDUCE THE CONSUMPTION OF PLASTIC

The production and consumption of all types of synthetic plastics must be reduced, along with the pollution associated with them. There must be no exceptions for bio-based or biodegradable plastics.

2

HOLD MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS LIABLE FOR DAMAGE

Those who produce plastic products or packaging, or put them on the market, are responsible for any health, environmental and climate damage caused by their products, in accordance with the “polluter pays” principle.

3

RAISE AWARENESS AND REQUIRE INFORMATION AVAILABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The risks due to plastics and their ingredients for humans, the environment and the climate must be communicated to consumers in a transparent and clear way and throughout the entire life cycle of the item. This requires comprehensive education and information on the alternatives.

4

PROMOTE A GLOBAL AGREEMENT TO COMBAT THE FLOOD OF PLASTIC

The German government should immediately work towards a binding international agreement to resolve the plastic problem. This should cover

all aspects of the life cycle and must further the protection of the climate, the oceans and biodiversity.

5

STOP SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The production and sale of single-use products must be immediately and drastically reduced. A binding action plan with measures and time-bound targets must be urgently adopted.

6

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT DESIGN

Legal requirements must ensure that all types of products are durable, and can be reused, repaired and recycled.

7

MANUFACTURE PRODUCTS WITHOUT HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The use of substances that are hazardous to health, the environment or the climate in the processing of raw materials to make packaging and products must be banned immediately.

8

BAN PRIMARY MICROPLASTIC

The usage of microplastic must be prohibited in products if it can get into the environment through its function or use. This applies also to dissolved, liquid, gel and waxy synthetic polymers.

9

RESTRICT THE USE OF PLASTICS IN LOGISTICS CHAINS

The logistics and distribution sector must stop using disposable packaging, and must drastically reduce its use of packing materials. Plastics must not be allowed to get into the environment during loading and transport. This applies particularly to pellets.

10

PREVENT THE RELEASE OF MICROPLASTICS THROUGH WEAR AND TEAR

Microplastics must not enter the environment as a result of the use or weathering of plastic. Comprehensive measures are needed to prevent this.

11

PROMOTE REUSABLES

Reuse systems must be systematically promoted and prioritized throughout the supply chain and in all consumer sectors. The government at federal, state and municipal levels must set an example by being required to eliminate disposables and to switch exclusively to reusables.

12

STOP THE DISPOSAL AND LOSS OF PLASTIC AT SEA

The disposal of waste at sea must be prevented and the relevant bans strictly enforced. Deposit schemes and technical measures for identifying and tracing must be introduced or expanded to reduce the loss of fishing gear. Synthetic “dolly ropes” – used in bottom trawling – must be banned immediately.

13

PREVENT WASTE

The German government must set ambitious, binding quantitative waste-reduction targets. It must enforce the high-quality recycling of plastics and set mandatory rules on minimum recycled content. Exports of plastic waste to countries with lower waste-management and recycling standards than Germany must be banned.

14

REDUCE THE USE OF RAW MATERIALS

The use of primary raw materials to produce plastics must be systematically reduced. This applies both to fossil raw materials (petroleum, natural gas, coal) and to renewables.

15

BAN THE USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AS ADDITIVES TO RAW MATERIALS

Substances that can be harmful to humans, the environment and the climate should not be used as additives in the production of the feedstocks used to make plastic.

