

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

July 2022

Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact – margaret.keen@talk21.com

Burger King becomes first fast food restaurant in UK to trial re-usable and returnable packaging.

The pilot launch has been created in partnership with global re-use platform, Loop, and will see the famous fast-food chain try out the first ever re-usable burger container or ‘clamshell’.

The new range, which also features a re-usable cup, means Burger King UK will offer more sustainable packaging options than other fast-food competitors and quick-service-restaurants in participating sites in the UK, it says.

The new trial will run across five restaurants in Ipswich and Newmarket and customer response used to inform future plans for a long-term re-usable and returnable packaging scheme.

Boots to stop selling all wet wipes containing plastic by the end of the year.

Boots is one of the biggest sellers of wet wipes in the country, with more than 140 different brands stocked across skincare, baby, tissue and health care categories.

After selling more than 800 million wet wipes last year, it now plans to replace plastic-based wipes with plant-based biodegradable alternatives.

It comes after Boots reformulated its own-brand wipe ranges without plastic.

The Marine Conservation Society claim that a large proportion of the 11 billion of wet wipes used in the UK every year still contain some form of plastic – with evidence suggesting they cause more than nine in 10 sewage blockages.

Don't forget if you use wipes you should bin them not flush them.

Palm Oil Myths – Busted

Alastair Patrick, Co-op's Sustainable Sourcing Manager

Myth 1: Palm Oil is just BAD, right?

Palm oil has a lot going for it. It has some great properties; it is colourless, odourless and spreadable, for example, meaning it's perfect for use in a wide variety of foods and cosmetics.

Palm is also a high-yielding crop, so acre-for-acre, farmers can produce more palm oil than many other types of oil, meaning its cultivation is quite an efficient use of land.

Its poor reputation has been earned because the creation of many palm oil plantations led to the destruction of rainforest – particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia, resulting in biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions and habitat destruction. You may well have read about the catastrophic impact that habitat loss has had on the orangutan population of Borneo.

Whilst there's no getting away from the fact that mass, irresponsible production of palm oil has had, and continues to have, devastating impacts, but palm oil can be produced more sustainably, without

deforestation and with greater protection for workers. Since 2004, the Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) has brought players in the palm oil supply chain together to develop and implement credible global social and environmental standards for sustainable palm oil. RSPO-certified palm oil now accounts for around a fifth of all palm oil produced globally.

Myth 2: We should just boycott palm oil

We don't believe that people or retailers, like Co-op, should boycott palm oil. We believe that we should work for better, more sustainable palm oil. It's a view supported by WWF.

The palm oil industry employs 4.5 million people in Indonesia and Malaysia, including millions of smallholders, and plays a huge role in poverty reduction in these countries.

There's a concern that boycotting palm oil would lead to larger scale producers shifting their production to other oil-producing crops, which make less efficient use of the land. With lower yields and lower returns, chances are that producers would start looking for additional land to farm intensively, potentially leading to more deforestation or conversion.

Instead of a blanket boycott, our approach is to only use sustainable palm oil in all Co-op products and help members and customers understand more about the issues around palm oil. We also work with other organisations to influence change across the industry, beyond our own supply, campaigning to make sustainable palm oil the norm.

Myth 3: I can't really do anything to be part of the solution, can I?

When faced with a global issue like this it's often difficult to see what you can do as an individual.

But there ARE things you can do. Check the ingredients of the products you buy to ensure that they use sustainable palm oil. There's a handy checklist on the Chester Zoo website, which shows household brands that have committed to using sustainable palm oil. And, of course, you can

short-cut all the research and label reading if you're a Co-op shopper by buying Co-op own-brand products – 100% of the palm oil we use in our products is covered by one of the RSPO certification schemes.

You can also check how businesses are ranked in the WWF palm oil buyers scorecard at

www.palmoilscorecard.panda.org

You can find out more about Co-op's approach to palm oil at www.coop.co.uk/sustainability/responsible-sourcing/palmoil and all about the amazing work being done by Chester Zoo at www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil

Arm yourself with information and share what you learn with family and friends

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DBC Freecycle

Folding Picnic Table – a bit rickety but still useable. Contact Chris and Anne Turk



Don't forget to make use of DBC Freecycle. Let me know if you have anything to post on here.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – Saturday 3rd September – A day conference – On the Road. More details to follow.