

# DBC Eco Church Newsletter

---

May 2024

## Welcome to our Newsletter.

For more information about the Dronfield Baptist Eco Church Group contact - [margaret.keen@talk21.com](mailto:margaret.keen@talk21.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

## BIG PLASTIC COUNT

It's been just over a month since people like you from households, schools, businesses and community groups all over the UK came together to take part in the biggest investigation into household plastic.

**We had 225,000 participants join us for The Big Plastic Count 2024, which is fantastic!**

Since then, our team has been very busy analysing the data that you collected to work out the true scale of the plastic waste crisis in the UK.

**We can finally reveal the investigation results...and they are staggering!**

## **THE UK IS STILL PRODUCING FAR TOO MUCH PLASTIC**

As part of the **UK Plastics Pact** supermarkets promised to make all their plastic packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. These results prove they are nowhere near that goal.

The UK tops the charts for plastic waste per person globally. This is second only to the US.

You might be shocked to learn that very little of our plastic waste actually gets recycled, while over half of it is being incinerated here in the UK - polluting the air we breathe with toxic gases.

## NEXT STEPS: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

We're all doing our bit, now it's time for the government, big brands and supermarkets to step up and finally do theirs.

Thanks to brilliant people like you, governments have now started UN negotiations for a **Global Plastics Treaty**. We need to keep the pressure up to make sure the treaty is as strong as it can be.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

You can help right now by writing to your MP directly to urge them to back a strong Global Plastics Treaty. Here is a sample letter you can use.

Dear Mr Rowley

I am writing to ask you to take action on the plastics crisis by pledging your support for a bold Global Plastics Treaty.

I am really concerned about the amount of plastic waste that is produced and the impact this is having on the environment, climate change, and our health. This month, the results of The Big Plastic Count were released - a huge UK-wide citizen science project to count the amount of plastic we use. It showed that the UK throws away 1.7 billion pieces of plastic packaging every week. 58% of it is burnt in incinerators, releasing greenhouse gases and contributing to air pollution. The rest is sent to other countries or dumped in landfill, with only 17% recycled.

These are shocking findings. Given that global plastic production doubled from 2000 to 2019, and that it's set to triple again by 2050, it's clear that we can't recycle our way out of this crisis.

The only way to stop this problem is if we significantly cut the amount of plastic being produced in the first place.

Fortunately this year, we have the chance to secure a global agreement to end plastic pollution. Countries are coming together to discuss the UN Global Plastics Treaty, and there is only one more round of negotiations left – in November 2024.

Currently, the treaty negotiations are in danger of being derailed by oil producing countries and fossil fuel and chemical companies worried about their profits. We need countries like the UK to stand up and show the strongest possible leadership to get the outcome we need. While the government has spoken positively about 'restraining and reducing' plastic production, more explicit support is needed for a binding global target, rather than leaving it to each country to decide voluntarily how much it will do.

As my representative, I urge you to call on the UK government to lead on this - including through adding your name to an MP pledge of support, if you have not already done so. I have copied the details below. If you have already signed the pledge, it would still be great if you could email The Big Plastic Count to confirm your name.

Your constituents and the general public overwhelmingly agree that to stop plastic pollution, we need to cut plastic production. We're counting on you to represent us.

Pledge your support:

Please email [help@thebigplasticcount.com](mailto:help@thebigplasticcount.com) with the words "I support a strong global target to cut plastic production". The list of supportive MPs will be presented to the government, ahead of future rounds of Treaty negotiations.

Many MPs from different parties have already signed the pledge. Please join them! Thank you so much for your support.

**If possible, make your letter as personal as possible.** Send to Mr L Rowley, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or by email [lee.rowley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lee.rowley.mp@parliament.uk)

## From Transform Trade

You may have already seen the devastating floods hitting East Africa over the last week.

We just received a message from Filbert Kavia, Transform Trade's Regional Director in East Africa, and we had to pass it on straight away. He said this...

*The communities we work with in both Kenya and Tanzania are badly affected – it's extreme. For many, crops have been wiped out entirely.*

*It's painful for families who have worked so hard to see their efforts destroyed. Without investment, they will be at risk of falling into debt trying to rebuild their businesses in time for the next growing season.*

*We will do what ever we can to help.*

Torrential rainfall across East Africa has caused serious flooding in Kenya and Tanzania, leading to over 191 deaths, and over 200,000 people displaced from their homes. And it's set to continue.

This is just one example of global warming and how it is affecting communities.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Dronfield Baptist Church Freecycle

Just send me an email – [margaret.keen@talk21.com](mailto:margaret.keen@talk21.com) with details of what you would like me to include with a photo and any relevant sizes etc. and I will include it in the next Newsletter.