



Take action on plastic

Background reading for teachers

This reading gives you the background for each slide, with sources you can check.

Philippine laws

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003) requires waste segregation at source and a materials recovery facility in every barangay. The Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 (RA 11898) amended it. Large enterprises that generate plastic packaging waste must run registered programmes to recover or offset their plastic packaging footprint. The targets start at 20% by the end of 2023 and rise to 80% by the end of 2028 and every year after.¹ Covered packaging includes sachets, laminates, rigid packaging, plastic bags and polystyrene.¹

The global plastics treaty

In 2022, UN member states agreed to negotiate a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution. The session in Geneva in August 2025 ended without agreement. In February 2026 the negotiating committee met to elect a new chair, and talks continued through informal dialogues.^{2, 3} Check the latest news before teaching, as this may have moved on.

Recycling and the waste hierarchy

With only about 9% of plastic waste recycled worldwide, reducing use is far more effective than relying on recycling.⁴

Running a clean-up

MCP's guide to organising a clean-up covers planning, safety and what to do with the waste.⁵ Recording what you find turns a clean-up into a science activity, and the data can support a campaign.

Sources

1. Republic Act 11898, Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022. Summary: jur.ph/law/summary/extended-producer-responsibility-act-of-2022
2. Research Institute for Sustainability (2026). Global plastics treaty negotiations: success is still possible. rifs-potsdam.de
3. Environmental Investigation Agency (2026). Back to basics: alternative pathways for the plastics treaty. eia-international.org
4. OECD (2022). Global Plastics Outlook.
5. Marine Conservation Philippines. Organise a clean-up. marineconservationphilippines.org/organize-clean-up/

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