



Pope Francis Action Team

Minutes: 7th March 2024

The Pope Francis Action Team led the assembly this morning launching the Greenpeace Plastic Count.

Letters have been distributed to parents and the Pope Francis Action Team has allocated classes to collate the data. Families have been asked to return their tally charts by Monday 20th March.

Next week, pupils will upload the data to produce each class's plastic footprint and produce their carbon footprint.

How much plastic do households in the UK throw away each year?

Nearly **100 billion pieces** of plastic packaging are thrown away every year by households in the UK. That's a lot of plastic we're using and then discarding.

Just **12%** of that plastic packaging is recycled in the UK.

That means that **88%** is being burnt, buried or dumped in other countries.

How could the Global Plastics Treaty help reduce plastic pollution in the UK?

You might have seen that **single-use items** like plastic cutlery, plates and trays are being banned in England. It's a step in the right direction, but nowhere near enough.

We need a clear strategy **to reduce plastic production**, and the global plastic treaty could help bring that about.

Why is only 12% of our plastic waste recycled in the UK?

Did you know that there are **different types of plastic**? Some plastics are easier to recycle than others. There are **hard plastics** and **soft plastics**. Hard plastics are generally more recyclable than soft plastics. In fact, hardly any soft plastic gets recycled. To make things even more complicated, not all hard plastics can be recycled.

Why is it important to investigate plastic waste?

The plastic crisis is getting worse. We need our government – and governments around the world - to tackle the issue.

Talks have begun that could finally put us on a path towards a plastic-free future. A **Global Plastics Treaty** will mean governments will finally be able to take action against polluters.

Investigating how much plastic we waste in the UK provides evidence to show governments why they need to take action now.

Mark Ashley
Secretary