

# Your Environmental Action Group presents a Trash and Recycling Plastics – A Quiz

1) The “chasing arrows” symbol is widely misunderstood. In 2021 California banned its use on things that aren’t recyclable.

**TRUE**



In September 2021, the California state assembly passed a bill banning the “chasing arrows” symbol.

But it is OK if companies can prove the material IS recycled in most California communities, AND is used to make new products.

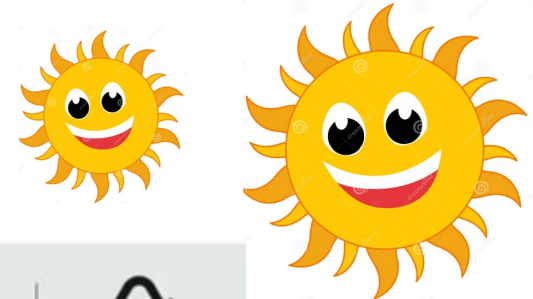
















2) The “chasing arrows” symbol with “2” inside identifies High Density PolyEthylene (HDPE) which can be put in Ann Arbor recycling bins.



Ann Arbor Curbside Recycling accepts #1 (PET), #2 (HDPE), and #5 (PP) plastic bottles, containers, and tubs in the curbside recycling bins.

Screw on lids - OK secured on bottles.  
Flat snap on lids - Sorry. No. Trash.



 PETE	 HDPE	 PVC	 LDPE	 PP	 PS	 OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate	high-density polyethylene	polyvinyl chloride	low-density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass
						

Pretty Please – make sure containers are empty and dry

3) If you don't have a recycle bin, put out your recyclables in large black plastic bags labelled "recycle".

**NOOOO!!! IT's FALSE. Don't do it!**



Recyclables in opaque bags are likely to go straight to landfill.

Trash collectors don't have time to deal with them.

Even if there is a recycle program, staff cannot see what is in an opaque plastic bag, Nor do they have the staff time to open and sort such bags.



4) People wanting a better world work hard at recycling everything possible. If you aren't sure something is recyclable, put it in the recycle bin anyway. The recycling facility can sort it out.



**You wish! No way! FALSE**



“Wish-cycling” = throwing things into a recycle bin – e.g. chip bags, bubble wrap and, yes, dirty diapers – hoping they can be recycled.

Mixing trash with recyclable materials makes recycling inefficient.



5) The “bad” side of plastics has become so well known that single use plastics are rapidly declining.



**In your  
dreams!!!  
No way!!  
FALSE.**

## SINGLE-USE ITEMS



PLASTIC BAGS



STIR STICKS



SIX-PACK RINGS



PLASTIC UTENSILS

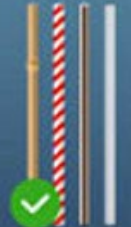


SOME FOOD WARE



PLASTIC STRAWS

## REUSABLE ALTERNATIVES

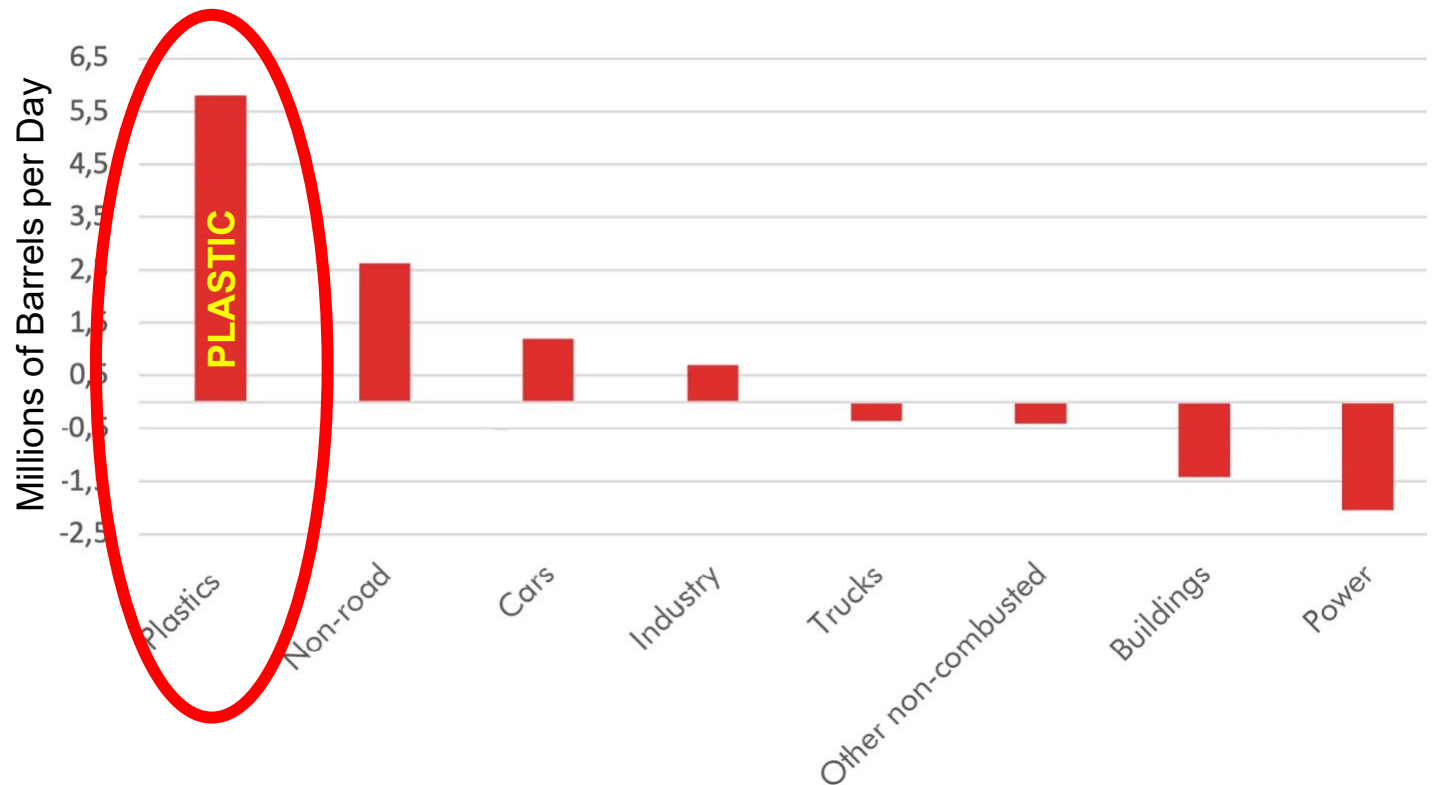


6) Oil and gas companies are looking to plastics to support their industries as fossil fuel use declines.

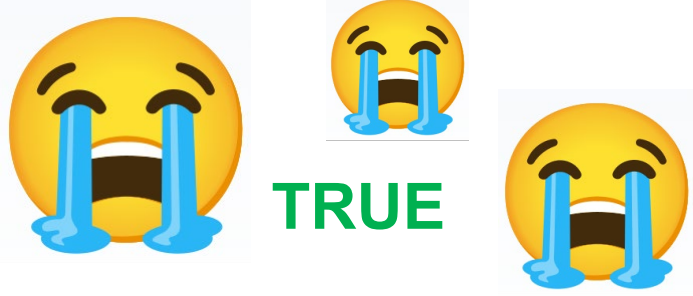


FIGURE 2. OIL DEMAND GROWTH 2020-2040 - BP FORECASTS

TRUE  
and BP is  
banking on it.  
Gonna be a  
problem  
unless we  
really learn  
to recycle...



7) Plastics were intended to be a sustainable replacement for some scarce natural resources such as tortoise shells, ivory, and animal horns, that were once used to make spectacles, combs etc.



Light, flexible, widely available - transformed life via cheap stuff - radios, clothing, phones, medical devices etc. Plastics helped create the consumer economy.



How Our Plastic and Carbon Footprints Are Intertwined

8) Producing plastics has very little effect on global greenhouse gas emissions.

**Alas – FALSE – plastic has BIG impact...**



About 1.8 billion tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are released per year from production and disposal of plastics.

This is 3.3% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

That is larger than the world's airplanes combined.

