

I am glad to stand here in front of all of you here in the environmental friendly Wöhlerschule. My main topic is the enormous number of unnecessary plastic packaging that is thrown away everyday and pollutes our world.

Change.

Change is what we want. We want not to pollute the nature in a way we do today anymore but we all are constantly using plastic packaging every day.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. Those are clever words that often are attributed to Albert Einstein.

Let us not make this mistake. We must change something.

So today I apply for a little start.

Today I apply, wherever possible, for reducing and replacing plastic packaging in our canteen.

What's the problem of it?

Plastic is everywhere, we need it, we can't live without it. Plastic keeps our food fresh and protects us from getting sick, it's cheap, its durable, lightweight and let's think about the following question: Can you easier drop a glass or a plastic bottle? Which one would burst into a million of little parts?

I think the answer is clear, so now let's just be serious again.

Plastic waste is a big problem for the environment. According to estimates every year 8 million tons of plastic make their way into the world's oceans, where it poses a danger to marine life. Imagine there is a sea turtle or just a normal fish who's hungry and then accidentally eats the plastic, because it thinks its food, because of the similar smell. Imagine this whole scenario takes place over and over again and the fish gets full of small plastic pieces.

So now let's think further. The fish with the plastic inside of it gets caught and after a long journey it gets into our grocery stores and finally into our bodies, after we ate it. Now the microplastics are inside our bodies, too.

So plastic also poses a danger to us. In a way we hurt ourselves and I think and you should think that too. We should stop hurting or do harm to our environment, to our animals and to us.

Unlike other schools we are an environmental friendly school.

Now my question is: How is it possible, that despite our reputation we or better the canteen sells products with so much unnecessary plastic?

For example when you buy a slushy ice, which we all know can be really nice, delicious and fresh, you get a plastic straw. The first step in the right direction would be to say that you don't need a straw, the next and the best step would be not to even have the chance or opportunity to ask for a plastic straw. There should not even be plastic straws available.

If even our school does nothing to reduce the plastic waste, I don't want to know how it looks like in other schools.

For sure Germany is the most efficient recycler in Europe, but also the biggest producer of plastic garbage. Just recycling isn't enough at this point. We have to reduce our use of plastic. You all here! We all together should do something, we have to do something and we will do something.

Our school and canteen could be an example for other schools and people by reducing the plastic waste at our school and stop selling unnecessary plastic in our canteen.

The durability of plastic that I mentioned in the beginning is at this point definitely not a positive side of plastic, it's a bad one. Plastic never fully degrades. That means the plastic stays for generations. Do we want our children and our children's children to have bad diseases because of the plastic, which gets more and more in our and their bodies?!

I say NO!!

All in all I can say that plastic is harmful to our environment and many fish will become extinct. Our bodies also carry damage from the plastic. If you like plastic for dinner it's your choice, but I want to motivate you to act and I hope you all have understood how important it is to avoid the use of plastic. Even if you think one person can't change that much you are wrong. If one person stops using plastic, this person could maybe save four fish from dying and for it it's worthwhile. Thanks for your time and attention and remember: "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything".

Make our school environmental friendly again!