

# Sustainable Waste Management



## Consumerism

Buying products such as food and other materials contributes to 60% of the total greenhouse gas emissions produced.

## Land Pollution

Landfills build up with garbage and toxins which eventually spread during extreme weather events. They also spread into soils and waterways affecting wildlife as well.

## Ocean Litter

There is around 8 million tonnes of plastic that ends up in the ocean each year. Injuring and harming 600 different species of marine life.

## Redlined Areas

Economically disproportionate communities experience more health problems due to increased pollution caused by landfills being placed in these areas more frequently.

## Single Use Products

Plastic water bottles, bags, and other products are sold regularly and are wasteful. They are normally not recycled and end up in the environment where they can last for decades. Of the 50 billion water bottles produced, 80% end up in the landfill.

## Statement

Waste pollution has been an issue that is contributing to economic, social, and environmental problems. With the ever growing population, waste will only continue to increase causing the problems posted above to re-occur more frequently. With this in mind there are efforts and solutions that could contribute to decreasing these environmental stressors.

## Solutions

- Introduce a better sorting system for waste and increase recycling.
- Make a circular economy that would make more people recycle and reuse.
- Increase green infrastructure to mitigate runoff and give some disproportionate neighborhoods green areas.
- Increase efforts to clean up the environment.
- Make more renewable energy sources to decrease industrial waste.



## Conclusion

To start the U.S. needs to create a better system for sorting trash recycling, and compost. Other countries such as Germany have come up with methods that decrease their waste production by over 60%. If we can decrease the overall amount of waste ending up in the environment and streets we can easily increase biodiversity, human and environmental health, and economic wealth. Overall we have a long way to go. The best way to start to tackle this challenge though is through local involvement. It more one person to build a village and if we can put a collective effort together we can start replenish and restore the environment we live in.



## USA FACTS

### OUR NATION, IN NUMBERS

#### Municipal solid waste produced in tons

By item

