MARINE LITTER NEWSLETTER

How can plastic litter in the seas be avoided?

An Information from: BKV, FCIO, PlasticsEurope, VDMA

Newsletter June 2020

Dear Readers,

At the present time, corona is preventing all kinds of events from being staged and in many cases also preventing work from being carried out in scientific laboratories. Nevertheless, there is still some interesting news to report from science and research on the topic of marine litter. One example is a literature study that requires no laboratory work and reports on the state of science with regard to microplastic discharges into the environment. The Austrian Environment Agency recently presented this study in the form of a status report and came to the conclusion that microplastics are basically everywhere, but that it is still too early to issue recommendations for action, firstly because the measurements and estimates are too inaccurate, and secondly because the study designs and measuring procedures are too different to be comparable. The Agency voices the call once again for a standardisation of the measuring methods (see the report in our newsletter). A new fact paper from the WASHING FORUM on microplastic particles from textiles was also drawn up without laboratory work. Our newsletter gives a brief overview of the research situation and the facts known so far.

The method used for the model to document plastic discharges into the seas, which was developed on behalf of the BKV, is also being constantly refined and updated. The fourth version of the model is now available. In our report, you can read about the updates and changes, which are additionally e xplained in a brief interview with the head of the development team, Christoph Lindner.

Kind regards,

BKV GmbH
FCIO (Austrian Chemical Industry Association)
PlasticsEurope Deutschland e.V.
VDMA Plastics and Rubber Machinery Association

BKV projects

Fourth version of "From Land to Sea"

The model developed on behalf of the BKV entitled "From Land to Sea – Model for the documentation of land-sourced plastic litter" has been updated and further developed on the basis of fresh data and new facts. In the present fourth version, there is also an important innovation: The report additionally contains for the first time data on the "input quantities" into the discharge sources. Apart from that, volume estimates of tyre abrasion are also shown for the first time.

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From research and science

Textile facts

The "WASHING FORUM", a digital platform for sustainability in the fields of washing, rinsing and cleaning in private households in Germany, has published a new fact paper on the topic of microplastics. Part 1 of the fact paper "Microplastics in the washing and care of textiles and in the cleaning of surfaces in the home" deals with quantities of primary microplastic from laundry products, fabric conditioners and detergents, and Part 2 covers microplastic discharges from textiles.

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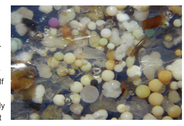
Microplastic detected everywhere in the environment



In a recently published status report, the Austrian Environment Agency (UBA) gives an overview of the latest national and international studies – in some cases also from the agency itself – that deal with the topic of microplastic. Many analyses show that there is microplastic not only in waterways, soil and air all over the world, but also in foodstuffs, cosmetics and cleaning products. However, in order to give recommendations on necessary action, there is a need for more reliable data, which would be collected by sampling and analysis methods that are standardised throughout Europe.

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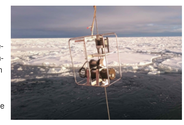
Arctic Fram Strait is a sink for microplastic



According to a new study from the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), microplastic particles both from the Arctic and from the North Atlantic end up in the deep sea of the Fram Strait, where they occur in high concentrations throughout the water column, and finally accumulate on the ocean floor. This emerges from a specialist article that was published in March in the journal, Environmental Science & Technology.

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Interview

The fourth version of the marine litter model

Seven years ago, the market research company Conversio Market & Strategy GmbH developed a new calculation model on behalf of the BKV to estimate the quantities of plastic litter ending up in the seas. It was entitled: "From Land to Sea – Model for the documentation of land-sourced plastic litter". The model has, since then, been frequently further developed and revised to include fresh data. The fourth version, which has now been released, also contains a number of new features. We asked Managing Director Christoph Lindner about the content and importance of this and also asked him to tell us how the model would progress in the future.

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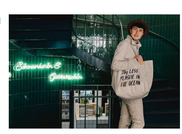
News

goodbag – every purchase is rewarded



Anyone who buys a reusable bag from the Austrian start-up company 'bgood', plants a tree at the same time. With every purchase with the bag from the discounter Denner, the company pays the NGO One Earth – One Ocean for the retrieval of the equivalent of one plastic bag from the sea. This is made possible by a chip sewn into the logo of the bag.

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An electric car from PET bottles

A team from EU Eindhoven has presented a resource-saving concept car that goes for lightweight construction and recycling materials. The students utilised a composite material of flax, recycled PET bottles and recycled aluminium. A considerable proportion of the plastic is said to be produced from materials fished out of the sea.

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