

WEEK 1 REPORT

Since the beginning of 2018 a new law is in effect in Greece: supermarkets and retail stores have stopped giving out free plastic bags. This action was taken in order to reduce the amount of plastic bags used by each household and thus their production. However, in our school we are not only concerned about the frequent use of plastic bags, but also the use of disposable plastic water bottles. Our goal is to inform our students and children why the use of plastic is harmful to the environment and then educate them on alternative material that can be used instead of plastic. We also wish to make them aware of measures they can take in order to **reduce the amount of plastic they use daily** and or how to reuse both plastic and paper.

Our challenge connects directly to two SDG goals: Goal 12: **Responsible Consumption and Production** and Goal 13: **Climate Action**.

Our goal focuses on **100% recycling** of plastic and paper in our school. More specifically, we aim for a **50% reduction in purchase of plastic** individually, 30% reduction of plastic consumption in family use and 70% recycling of plastic and other material for each household.

b) Our IDEA is to make our students aware how their actions, preferences and daily purchases can affect the environment. Also, our goal is to inform them about the SDGs that concern the preservation of the environment and that they can individually contribute to the SDGs by taking simple, every day steps such as *recycling, reusing plastic and paper while reducing their plastic consumption*.

STEP 1: We have already organized screenings (and we will continue to do so) in our school of **documentaries** about the **impact of plastic consumption** to the environment. Our goal is to inform our students how plastic is produced, what happens to it after its consumption and how harmful it can be for every living creature on our planet.

STEP 2: Next, our students will **research** how much plastic they use daily. Students will conduct a school survey concerning the individual consumption of disposable water bottles and or other plastic material. Students will also take this quiz to find out their plastic footprint: <https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/content/plastics-calculator>. In this way they can realize their annual plastic consumption. Our students will then make **personal commitments** to reduce the plastic they consume daily.

STEP 3: After having calculated the individual plastic consumption, our students with our assistance will **brainstorm ways** of how they can reduce and or eliminate the use of plastic. They will also make an informative poster of ways **that plastic can be reused or eliminated**.

STEP 4: We will also encourage the purchase of **eco water bottles** (stainless refillable water bottles) in order to completely ban the use of disposable plastic water bottles in our school.

STEP 5: Students will make **recycling bins** for our classrooms using recyclable material. Also, we will encourage them (especially younger students) to make crafts by reusing paper or plastic.

STEP 6: Our students will **spread the word** and encourage their families and others to take similar steps towards the reduction of daily plastic consumption.

DIFFICULTIES: It may be difficult to allocate time with all our students to take all the steps described above. Thus it is possible that we will assign a different task/ step for each classroom.