

Not effectively recycled

- Plastic waste not being recycled
- Only 2% is effectively recycled
- There is a wastage of raw material
- e.g. oil

Plastic waste taking up the space in landfill sites

- 40% of the plastic waste ended up in landfill sites
- Plastic takes a long time to decompose
- It may take up additional land space
- More natural habitat will be turned into landfill sites

Negative impact on the environment

- Plastic may enter the natural environment
- Pose threat to the wildlife
- Wild animals may take plastic waste as food
- It may affect food chain
- Be consumed by human beings

Features of the flow of plastic waste

Import

- China has imported almost half of the global import
- China accounted for 45.1% of plastic waste import
- Among the countries that imported plastic waste, China is the only middle income level country
- The percentage of import of China is higher than the rest of high income level countries

Export

- Among the countries that exported plastic waste to China, most of them are high income level countries; only one is a middle income level country
- Hong Kong imported plastic waste; but at the same time re-exported plastic waste to China.

(c) Argument for:

- After the ban, perhaps the environmental quality in those importing countries may improve. According to source C, the scrap plastic may contain toxic substances; and some of the scrap plastic may end up in landfill.
- Some of the exporting countries may be forced to recycle plastic waste. They are high income level countries, they may have better technology / legislation to recycle plastic waste.
- Less harmful to the environment / it creates fewer problems

Argument against:

- Recycling of plastic waste is complicated. The cost is high.
 - In the process, various chemicals need to be used.
 - The recycling process itself may be harmful to the environment.
 - Taking into account the cost of recycling, it may be cheaper to produce new plastic.
 - Recycling is not cost effective.
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- Recycling work be relocated to other countries / regions
 - Other middle income level countries / regions may not have the necessary technology
 - May bring about environmental problems in other countries