

Dear all,

Here is my monthly letter as a delegate for the Environment and Sustainable development at Onk-Pat! The theme for the month is PLASTIC.

The July 2021 issue of *Science* was dedicated to plastic. [Contents | Science 373, 6550](#)



Plastic is a fantastic material, cheap, flexible, stable and possible to use for almost any purpose, which also lead to enormous amounts of waste: “there is more plastic than the total biomass of all people and more than the total mass of all animals” – says Aron Stubbins. Read a review by him and co-authors [Plastics in the Earth system \(science.org\)](#).

Plastic became a new geological material, it exists now at any place on Earth and has chemical properties as none of other material in the history of a planet. The production of plastic is competing now with the natural global life cycle of carbon. The danger from this pollution is discussed in [The global threat from plastic pollution \(science.org\)](#). H.P. Arp and colleagues suggest to drastically reduce the use of disposable plastic in addition to better sorting and recycling. Moreover, the production and import/export of plastic needs to be regulated politically.

Experimental research is a plastic-consuming branch. Send for re-cycling all plastic that has not been in contact with biological material! We are also individuals, and in our private life we can Reduce, Reuse and Recycle PLASTIC.

INTERESTING LINKS

Hear Professor Stubbins discuss with the students the interactions between humans and the environment, the global cycle of plastics, the processes that breakdown plastics in the environment, and the ecological and human health implications of plastics and their by-products. [College of Science Connects: The Plastics Problem – Northeastern University College of Science](#)

My source for this letter: [Jorden översvämmas med plast men vi känner inte till riskerna - DN.SE](#) by M. Gunther. The article in Swedish is available upon request

Our motto: We can make a difference!



I'll be back!

Katja

[Recycle and save the planet.mp4 - KI PLAY](#)