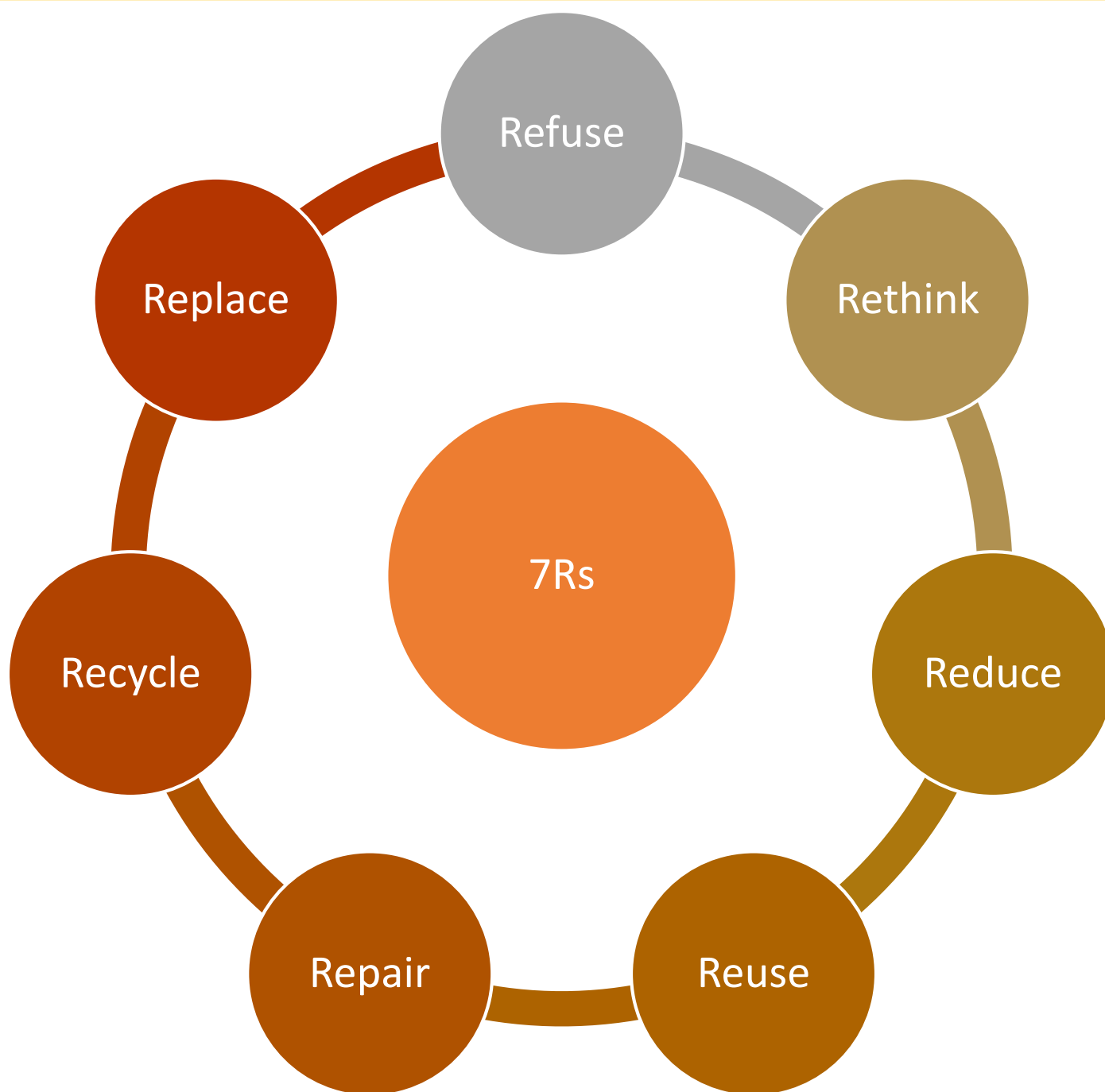


WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY

15th March, 2021

THEME: TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION



**Consumer Education and Research Centre
MoEF&CC's Environmental Information System,
Resource Partner on**

'Environment Literacy- Eco-labeling & Eco-friendly Products'



Plastic is a highly useful material in our everyday lives, but our consumption and production of plastics, especially single-use plastic, have become unsustainable. These have adverse impacts on environment and human health.

The demand for the single use plastics such as bags, straws, coffee cups, beverage bottles, most food packaging etc. has increased over the years which has in turn increased the plastic waste accumulation in environment and oceans.

Over the past 50 years, global production & consumption of plastics have increased more than 20 times over, & plastic production has reached 320 million tonnes a year.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- By 2050, it is estimated that there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.
- 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution annually.
- An estimated 8 million tons of plastic enters our oceans every year .
- Single-use plastics account for 50% of the plastic produced every year.
- Half of all plastics ever manufactured have been made in the last 15 years.
- 40% of plastic produced is packaging and discarded after one use.

TAIWAN

As of 2018, food and beverage stores such as fast food chains must stop providing plastic straws for in-store use. From 2020, free plastic straws will be banned from all food and beverage outlets. From 2025, the public will have to pay for takeaway plastic straws, and a blanket ban is to be imposed in 2030.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego has joined a growing number of cities to ban containers made of polystyrene, better known as Styrofoam-the Dow Chemical trademark name for extruded polystyrene. The ban includes food and drink containers, egg cartons, ice chest coolers, aquatic toys for swimming pools, and mooring buoys and navigation markers. The ocean-side city is the largest in California to ban polystyrene.

CANADA, VANCOUVER

Vancouver became the first major Canadian city to ban plastic straws, in a move towards banning all solid waste by 2040. According to a statement, the motion passed by city council also bans the distribution of foam cups and takeout containers, and will come into effect on June 1, 2019.

EUROPEAN UNION

In January 2018, the European Commission adopted the first-ever European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The plan seeks to eliminate plastic pollution & change the way plastics are produced and consumed in the EU with a focus on plastic bags, other single-use plastics, and fishing materials. The plan also seeks to improve the economic benefit of recycling, to create jobs through engaging businesses and producers, and to invest in innovation.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina's fourth-largest city has decided to prohibit most single-use plastic bags, foam food containers and more, setting up a potential showdown with state lawmakers. The town's ban would take effect in a year, and its reach extends beyond grocery store bags and take-out clamshells. The sale of polystyrene or plastic foam coolers and packing peanuts would also be prohibited. Plastic straws would be a no-no.

INDIA

In India, 5 states have implemented a thorough single-use plastic ban. Since the national target for banning single-use plastic is 2022, Maharashtra has already started making amends in its state policy towards banning plastic. The other states areas Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Tamil Nadu.

**Source:**

www.earthday.org/global-efforts-to-curb-single-use-plastics/
www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/ocean-plastic-pollution-solutions

Ways to Use Less Plastic Every Day

Better to use glass or stainless steel water bottles. These can easily be re-used and reduce exposure of drinking water to chemicals.

Use reusable bags made of canvas, cotton, hemp, leather, fiber, non-woven fabric bags and woven plastic bags. Carry your own bags.

Use stainless steel or glass food storage containers. Or use unbreakable options like silicone. Silicone is highly durable, not biodegradable, but it can be recycled easily.

Avoid food packed in plastics. Choose cardboards. Easier to recycle and biodegrade more naturally.

Avoid single use plastics. Say no to plastic straws, single plastic bags, disposable plastic lighters, disposable razor, single use plastic pens, disposable diapers, disposable serve ware and many one time use articles.

Avoid anything with “Polyethylene” listed as an ingredient. Avoid non-stick cookware. Utensils coated with Teflon and other resins pose health threats over a period of continuous usage. Teflon is the registered trade name of the plastic material polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). PTFE is one of a class of plastics known as fluoropolymers.

Better to buy wooden toys or board or card games for children. Plastic causes many health issues in children. Check labels on personal care products. They may contain tiny plastic beads.

Some simple changes with eco friendly products can have big impacts on your environmental footprint.