



Theresa May reveals ALL single use plastic could be subjected to new charges in future as she unveils plans to crackdown on throwaway culture

- Theresa May today unveiled a 25-year plan to eliminate all 'avoidable' plastic
- She unveiled a consultation on extended charges to all disposable plastic items
- The prime minister called on supermarkets to create 'plastic free aisles'
- She will extend the 5p carrier bag charge to all retailers, including corner shops

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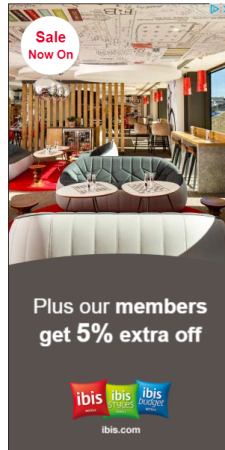
Theresa May today said all single use plastic could be subjected to charges in future as she launched a war on Britain's throwaway culture.

The Prime Minister unveiled a 25-year strategy to eliminate all 'avoidable' plastic, including bottles, cups and most packaging.

In a major speech on the environment, she warned that future generations will be shocked by our throwaway culture warning that 'the UK's single-use plastic waste each year would fill the Royal Albert Hall 1,000 times'.

The plan includes a new consultation that starts next month on extending charges or

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The plan includes a new consultation that starts next month on extending charges or taxes to all disposable plastic. The existing 5p carrier bag charge will definitely be extended to all shops, Mrs May said.

To lead the way, Mrs May said all government offices would ban single-use plastic and called on large firms to do the same.

The PM also used her speech to vow Brexit will not mean a 'lowering of environmental standards' but instead 'strengthen and enhance our environmental protections'.

Mrs May said she and husband Philip were proud to have bird and bat boxes installed in their garden at home as she urged the whole country to do its 'little bit'.



Theresa May announced a consultation on extending plastic charges to all disposable items today. She made the pledge at London Wetland Centre and before her speech visited a bird hide with local school children (pictured)



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HABITS WE CAN CHANGE

Theresa May will today announce plans to eliminate avoidable plastic waste. Offending items include cutlery, straws, labels, cups, bottles and most types of plastic packaging.

STRAWS

Too small and fiddly to recycle, plastic straws often end up in landfill before finding their way into our rivers and seas. Plastic cutlery is also difficult to recycle for the same reason. **Avoid straws or use paper biodegradable versions instead.**



PLASTIC BOTTLES

Though plastic bottles can be recycled, many are not. Of the 30 billion used by UK households each year, just 57 per cent are recycled. Half of these go to landfill. This means that around 700,000 plastic bottles a day end up as litter. **Water fountains and glass bottles are good alternatives.**



POLYSTYRENE CUPS

Polystyrene is one of the most polluting plastics, but also one of the most common. Its lightness makes it difficult to collect while its bulk makes it hard to transport, discouraging recycling.

Reusable plastic cups or mugs are a better option.



BLACK MEAT TRAYS

Used to make meat look appealing, but these plastic trays cannot be recycled because of the dye used to colour them. They are all sent to landfill or incinerated.

Clear plastic trays are relatively easy to recycle, making them a good alternative.



PACKAGING

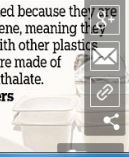
Too light to be collected for recycling in most places in Britain, food wrap and other thin plastic packaging are problematic. Only one plant in the UK can process food wrap, so it mostly goes to landfill. **It is better to buy unpackaged**



WHITE YOGHURT POTS

Not currently recycled because they are made from polystyrene, meaning they cannot be treated with other plastics like bottles, which are made of polyethylene terephthalate.

Many manufacturers now use PET yoghurt pots which can



The Daily Mail^

Right wing - Makes Theresa May seem like she is supporting the people with pictures of her smiling with kids on a nature trip. The news story emphasises about Theresa May caring about the environment showing her to be a good and kind person for the environment.

Green politics

Theresa May defends green plan as critics say it is too slow and vague

Environmental groups welcome ambition but say 25-year promises must be backed by force of law, money and new watchdog

Peter Walker and Sandra Laville

Thu 11 Jan '18 12:56 GMT



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The prime minister says the government is already taking action, highlighting the plastic bag ban and legislation to outlaw microbeads. Photograph: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

Theresa May has said her government is serious about improving the environment after pressure groups gave a lukewarm response to a new 25-year

IS ROW...



The prime minister says the government is already taking action, highlighting the plastic bag ban and legislation to outlaw microbeads. Photograph: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

Theresa May has said her government is serious about improving the environment after pressure groups gave a lukewarm response to a new [25-year green plan](#), praising its ambition but warning that it lacked sufficient plans for immediate action.

May's proposals were also criticised by Jeremy Corbyn, who said her pledge to stop all avoidable plastic waste by 2042 was "far too long" to take action.

Unveiling the plan at a nature centre in south-west London, May argued that preserving the environment was natural for Conservatives, and reiterated a promise that the current generation in the UK would be the first to leave the natural world in a better state.

The PM spent a significant part of the speech, at the London Wetlands Centre in Barnes, highlighting the issue of plastics pollution, saying people in the future would be "shocked at how today we allow so much plastic to be produced needlessly".

However, the only immediate new policy was to extend the successful 5p charge for plastic bags to smaller shops in England, as already happens in Scotland and Wales.

Other measures will be consulted on, for example a possible charge on single-use plastic containers such as takeaway boxes, an idea to urge supermarkets to introduce aisles without any plastic packaging, and research funding for "plastics innovation".

Answering questions from the media after the speech, May denied that the blueprint was bigger on vague promises than on immediate action, calling it "an inspiring plan".

She said: "It is a long-term plan, it's about the next 25 years, but it's a plan which I think speaks to everybody who has an interest in our environment and everybody who wants to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy a beautiful environment."

The government was already taking
the here and now" she

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The Guardian^

Left wing - Is not as keen to talk about Theresa May being a good and caring person towards the environment.