

## PLASTIC OVERSHOOT DAY – 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

**\*To be placed in leading UK and European newspapers\***

EDITOR,

In April scientists from the University of Vienna published research revealing plastic particles can enter the brains of mice within just two hours of ingestion.<sup>i</sup> While a scientific study led by researchers at Boston College earlier this year linked plastic to a range of conditions including lung disease, cancer, and birth defects.<sup>ii</sup>

The production and mismanagement of plastic waste is a leading driver of this crisis. In 2023, 43 percent of plastic that is produced and used is mismanaged as waste, thus likely to end up in the Earth's air, water, or soil.<sup>iii</sup> This means some 68.6 million metric tonnes of additional plastic waste will end up in the natural environment this year.<sup>iv</sup>

The world's ability to deal with waste currently falls far short of the volume of plastic it produces. This year the Earth will exceed its annual plastic waste management capacity on 28<sup>th</sup> July – known internationally as Plastic Overshoot Day.

By 8 January 2023, it is estimated that 40% of the world's population was living in areas where plastic waste had already exceeded the capacity to manage it, indicating a pressing need for action to address the plastic waste crisis.

Just 12 countries are responsible for 52 percent of the world's mismanaged plastic.<sup>v</sup> Now more than ever before, it is clear mismanaged plastic waste is a significant threat to global ecosystems and by extension, the health of humans and all living things.

Governments around the world must urgently clamp down on plastic production and use, improve viable waste management systems and advocate for sustainable alternatives to plastic. We first call on corporations to measure their plastic footprint to promote responsible production practices.

We must reset the course of the plastic pollution crisis and put protecting human health at the heart of the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations.

*SIGNED:*

*EA Environmental Action*

*[insert signatures]*

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.mdpi.com/2079-4991/13/8/1404>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://annalsofglobalhealth.org/articles/10.5334/aogh.4056>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://plasticovershoot.earth/>

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> [https://plasticovershoot.earth/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EA\\_POD\\_report\\_2023-expanded.pdf](https://plasticovershoot.earth/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EA_POD_report_2023-expanded.pdf)