

Plastic Free Lady Bay Mass Unwrap Saturday 13th May 11am to 1pm at Lady Bay CO-OP

A Mass Unwrap is an awesome action that highlights the level of plastic packaging in supermarkets and puts people-pressure on them to change. Individuals, families, friends and communities can all take part. You simply shop and pay as normal and then unwrap food to put it straight into your bags, boxes or re-useable containers. Plastic Free Lady Bay volunteers will collect the plastic and put it in empty trollies, to show how much waste is generated in a short space of time. The supermarket then takes it away to recycle or dispose of it. Mass Unwrap is friendly, non-confrontational and tons of fun. So come along on 13th May between 11am and 1 pm.



In 2021, 2.5 million metric tons of [plastic packaging waste](#) were generated in the UK. That's almost 40kg per person. Plastic waste gets everywhere, polluting our rivers and seas with truly terrible effects on wildlife. A new disease, 'plasticosis' was described this year in birds, and as plastic waste increases year on year, we do not yet know the cumulative effect on human health through the food chain. Plastic also creates disposal problems, mostly 'solved' by incineration (which contributes to global warming) or by exporting overseas, officially for recycling, but in practice often sold to unscrupulous businesses who burn it in the open, damaging the health of local people in less developed countries.

Supermarkets are responsible for much of the excess plastic packaging in the UK. We could cut waste from food packaging in half within a few years with the right initiatives from shops, manufacturers and Government https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Greenpeace_Unpacked_Report.pdf. Mass Unwraps highlight the scale of avoidable plastic, and put pressure on industry from the community level. Supermarkets can make an impact on plastic waste in a way that individuals can't (<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Checking-Out-on-Plastics-III-FINAL.pdf>). Whilst the supermarkets have all made voluntary pledges to cut their plastic use and some have signed up to the 'UK Plastic Pact', the scale of change needs to be bigger and the pace quicker.

Please join us on May 13th.

