

# HOW MUCH DO YOU CARE ABOUT...

**PLASTIC** is one type of garbage that is really dangerous for the environment. It is also very difficult to recycle, so try to reduce the use of plastic!

When you shop, bring a cloth bag and don't accept plastic bags.

## Did you know that...

When you throw away plastic and things that are made of plastic (like plastic bags, candy wrappers, packing material, etc.) it will take 200-400 years for the plastics to decompose.

Burning plastic releases dangerous toxic waste into the atmosphere and therefore into the air that we breathe. Breathing this pollution can have serious negative effects on our health, including weakening our immune systems and lung cancer.

If you throw away organic waste that is still contained inside plastic bags of plastic containers, the organic waste will not be able to decompose. So make sure you take your organic wastes out of plastic containers before composting.



## REMEMBER

**Don't burn garbage** because the poisons that are in some garbage will be released into the atmosphere and into the air we breathe, which will make us all sick.



**Don't bury non-organic garbage** because chemicals from garbage can seep into the soil and waterways below the soil. This can cause health problems to living things in the area.



**Don't dump garbage** because chemicals from garbage can seep into the soil and waterways below the soil. This can cause health problems to living things in the area.



## TAKE ACTION NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE!

1. Organize a clean up in your local community or school.
2. Learn more about recycling and how you can get involved.
3. Take your school on a field trip to the garbage dump and talk about what you see.
4. Tell your friends and family about the dangers of plastic for our health and our environment, encourage them to use cloth bags too.



This fact sheet was developed by IDEP Foundation

More information: [www.idepfoundation.org](http://www.idepfoundation.org)