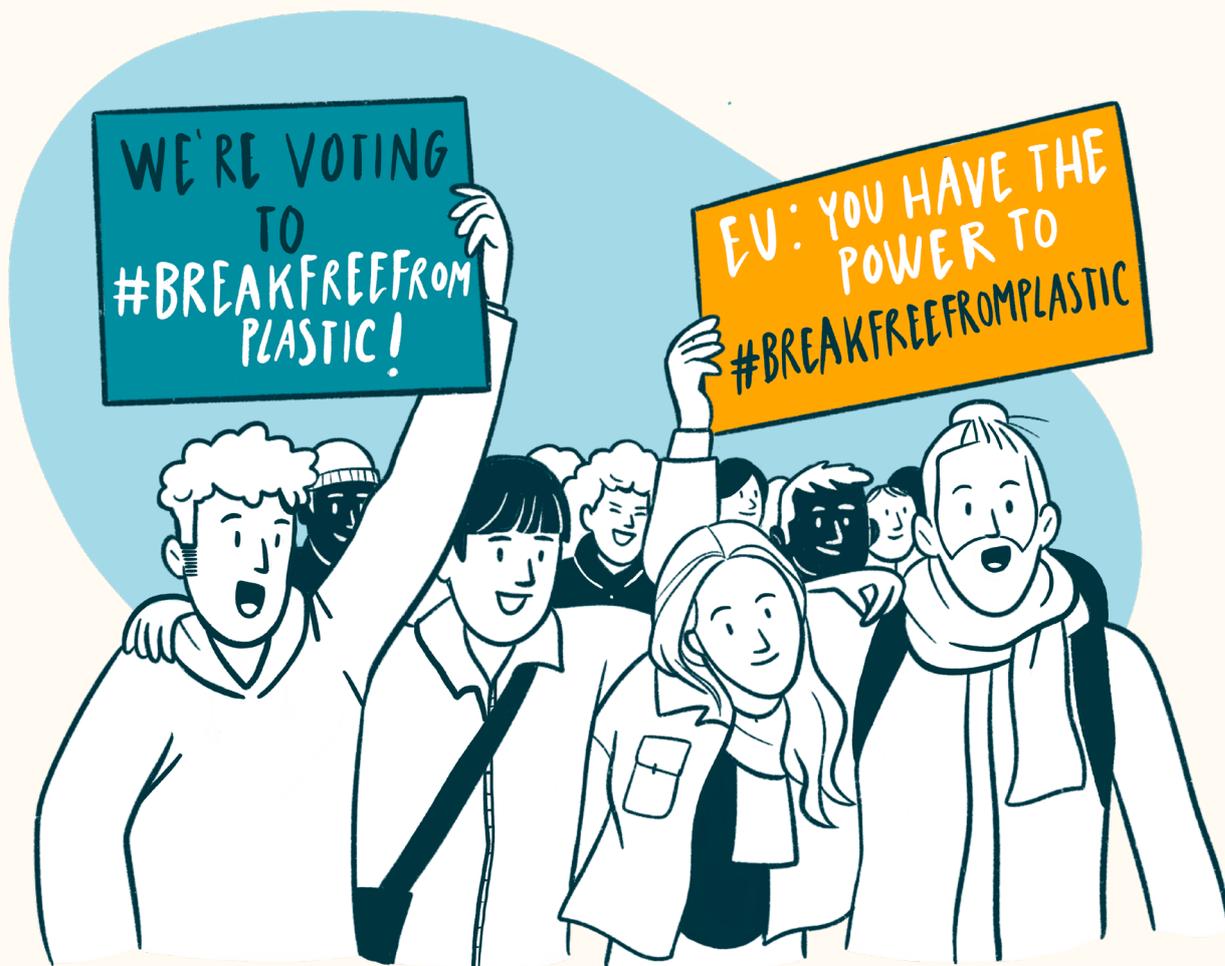


Plastics and EU

Unwrapped



Did you notice that there are far fewer single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and cups in use in Europe than just a couple of years ago?

That's because the European Parliament, along with the other EU institutions, brought about a law that significantly reduces the amount of single-use plastic items.

The Single-use plastic directive was a first great milestone. But the problem with plastic is far from over.

Europe is one of the largest producers and consumers of plastics worldwide.

Almost 26 million tonnes of plastic waste (that's as much as the combined weight of 2574 Eiffel towers!) is generated each year in the EU. This is far more than Europe is currently able to manage, even less so than it recycles.

As you probably know, plastic pollutes the soil, water and air and it endangers animals. But it is also a very real threat to our health, its production requires oil and gas, it drives climate change and it is an expensive problem for communities to deal with.



If you want the EU to tackle the plastics crisis, then we need a European Commission and European Parliament that is committed to delivering real solutions to protect people and the planet.

The EU elections will largely determine what guides EU politics and laws for the next five years. Even though plastic is driving some of the dominating issues of this election, there is a great danger that it will be pushed off the agenda - that's rubbish! We need decision-makers who will strive to reduce plastic production, support reuse, eliminate toxic chemicals, and deliver real solutions to the plastic pollution crisis to protect us and future generations.





Resources to go further

[The European Elections: All you need to know](#) - European Parliament (2024)

[Why the European Elections Matter for the Ocean?](#) - Revolve Media (2023)

[Placing citizens at the heart of the green and just transition to achieve a REAL DEAL for people and planet](#) - European Environmental Bureau (2022)

Support the campaign with #PlasticsAndEU



Find out more on our website
breakfreefromplastic.org/plastics-and-EU

