USA and Climate Change

Donald Trump current president of the USA has called climate change “mythical”, “non-existent” and “an expensive hoax”. Trump has chosen Lee Zeldin as the EPA minister of the USA. Lee Zeldin, as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), supports an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that includes fossil

fuels. He emphasizes balancing environmental protection with economic growth and has been involved in efforts to roll back certain environmental regulations to boost domestic energy production, including fossil fuels. The United States is the second-largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world following China. If the USA reduces its efforts in combating climate change and supporting environmental initiatives, the consequences could be severe and beyond description. The people who are currently in power in the USA will not assist the movement for climate action leaving our planet in an irreversible state.

Chew Valley School Climate Action Team

NEWSLETTER

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The Environmental Toll of Non-Recyclable Packaging

Companies often use non-recyclable packaging primarily due to cost and convenience. Non-recyclable materials, such as certain plastics, are typically cheaper to produce and offer durability that can be beneficial for protecting products during shipping and handling. However, this practice has significant environmental impacts. Non-recyclable packaging contributes to pollution, as it often ends up in landfills where it can take hundreds of years to decompose. During this time, it can release harmful chemicals into the soil and water, posing risks to wildlife and human health. Additionally, non-recyclable packaging can contribute to ocean pollution, harming marine life that may ingest or become entangled in the debris. The production of these materials also involves high energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating environmental degradation. Consumer consumption plays a crucial role in the environmental problem of plastic packaging. The high demand for convenience and single-use products has led to more plastic packaging, much of which ends up in landfills or the ocean. Additionally, producing plastic packaging uses a lot of energy and creates greenhouse gases, aggravating climate change. Consumers' choices directly impact the amount of plastic waste, highlighting the need for greater awareness and a shift towards more sustainable options.

Pollution and Climate Change

Heroic Hauteville!

February was a fantastic month for Hauteville who steamed ahead with 37 environmental positives! Bilbie has come in 4th place with 0 positives, Rodney in 3rd place with 1 and an admirable effort from Moreton with 5 leaving them in 2nd place.

Remember!

As a team we have noticed an increase of littering around the school and we ask our fellow students to try to remember to place their rubbish in a bin as often as possible!

Microplastics, tiny plastic particles less than 5mm in size, have become a pervasive environmental issue, affecting both wildlife and ecosystems. Recent studies have uncovered alarming levels of microplastics in the lungs of birds, raising significant concerns about the impact of airborne plastic pollution on both wildlife and human health. Researchers from the University of Texas at Arlington discovered high concentrations of microplastics in the lungs of 56 wild birds from 51 different species. These microscopic plastic particles, including materials like chlorinated polyethylene and butadiene rubber, are commonly used in products such as pipes, wires, and tires. The presence of these particles in bird lungs suggests that birds are inhaling microplastics from the air, which can lead to serious health issues. This discovery also implies that humans, who share the same environments, might be at risk of inhaling these harmful particles as well. The study highlights the urgent need to address plastic pollution and its far-reaching impacts on both ecosystems and human health.

Birds, particularly seabirds, are highly susceptible to microplastic ingestion due to their feeding habits. When birds ingest microplastics, these particles can cause physical blockages in their digestive systems, leading to malnutrition and starvation. Additionally, microplastics often carry toxic chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which can leach into the birds' bodies, causing reproductive and immune system dysfunctions. The presence of microplastics in birds' lungs, although less studied, could potentially impair respiratory functions and exacerbate health issues.

Beyond the direct impact on birds, microplastics contribute to climate change through their production and degradation processes. The manufacturing of plastics is energy-intensive and releases significant amounts of greenhouse gases. As plastics degrade, they emit methane and ethylene, potent greenhouse gases that further contribute to global warming. Additionally, microplastics in the ocean can interfere with the ocean's ability to sequester carbon dioxide, further exacerbating global warming. Moreover, microplastics disrupt ecosystems by affecting organisms that play crucial roles in carbon sequestration, such as plankton and other marine life. This disruption can weaken the natural processes that regulate the Earth's climate, highlighting the interconnectedness of pollution and climate change. Addressing microplastic pollution is therefore crucial not only for protecting wildlife and human health but also for mitigating climate change. By tackling the issue of mi-