MEDIATION

Original text:



"In the past few weeks, Richard Eckersley has noticed a change in the type of people who come into his shop. In 2017, the former Manchester United footballer set up Earth. Food.Love in Totnes, Devon, with his wife, Nicola. It's the UK's first 'zero waste' store - the food is in big jars and boxes and people bring their own containers. 'A lot of new people are coming in-people who have not necessarily been interested in environmental issues before', he says.

Recently, the government called for supermarkets to introduce plastic-free aisles. But Eckersley says many consumers are already way ahead of politicians. 'We are getting calls every week from people who want to do something similar.' He and Nicola have helped people set up stores in Wales, Birmingham, and Bristol. Ingrid Caldironi had a similar idea. She set up a plastic-free shop in London last year, which has been so popular that it is soon moving to a bigger site.



Eckersley and Caldironi are members of an anti-plastics movement in the UK that has been growing as a result of the BBC's Blue Planet series and a general worry about the damage plastic is doing to the environment. But big supermarkets have so far not tried very hard to reduce their plastic waste. Sian Sutherland, founder of the campaign 'A Plastic Planet', says, "The most exciting thing is that politicians and industry are no longer saying that recycling will solve the problem. Banning the use of plastic packaging for food and drink products is the only answer Walking down the aisles of the supermarket where everything from pizza to fresh fruit and vegetables is covered in plastic, Sutherland says urgent action is needed. 'It is really quite overwhelming," she says. 'I can buy gluten-free, fat-free, African food, Asian food, but I can't buy food without plastic.

Plastic pollution is causing widespread global damage. More than one million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute, and most end up in landfill or the sea. The contamination is so extensive that tap water around the world also contains plastic. Back in Devon, Eckersley says, 'After my daughter was born, it made me think about what future lies ahead for her. I wanted to say that at least I tried to make a difference."

Teacher Carmen Pinelo

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Main ideas:

- **Growing Interest in Zero-Waste Shopping** – Richard Eckersley has noticed more people, including those previously uninterested in environmental issues, visiting his store.
- **First Zero-Waste Store in the UK** – Eckersley and his wife Nicola opened Earth.Food.Love in 2017 in Totnes, Devon, where customers bring their own containers.
- **Influence of Environmental Awareness** – The BBC's *Blue Planet* series and general concerns about plastic pollution have fueled interest in zero-waste initiatives.
- **Government and Supermarket Response** – The government has suggested plastic-free supermarket aisles, but activists argue this is not enough. Supermarkets have been slow to take action.
- **Expansion of the Movement** – More zero-waste shops are opening across the UK, with Eckersley and others helping new businesses get started.
- **Plastic Pollution Crisis** – Over a million plastic bottles are bought every minute, leading to serious environmental damage, including contamination of tap water.
- **Call for Action** – Activists believe banning plastic packaging is the only real solution, as recycling is not enough.
- **Eckersley's Motivation** – The birth of his daughter made him reflect on the future and inspired him to take action against plastic waste.

In other words:

- **Increasing Interest in Waste-Free Shopping** – Richard Eckersley has observed a rise in customers, including those who were not previously concerned about environmental problems, visiting his shop.
- **Pioneering Plastic-Free Store** – In 2017, Eckersley and his wife Nicola launched a shop in Totnes, Devon, where shoppers must bring their own containers to purchase food.
- **Impact of Environmental Awareness** – Documentaries like *Blue Planet* and general worries about plastic pollution have encouraged more people to adopt sustainable habits.
- **Response from Authorities and Supermarkets** – The government has suggested having sections in supermarkets without plastic, but campaigners believe this is insufficient. Large stores have been slow to change.
- **Spread of the Concept** – More businesses following the zero-waste model have been established in different parts of the UK, with support from Eckersley and other entrepreneurs.
- **Serious Environmental Threat** – Millions of plastic bottles are purchased every minute, leading to severe ecological harm, including the presence of plastic in drinking water.
- **Need for Immediate Action** – Activists argue that eliminating plastic packaging is the only real solution, as recycling alone cannot solve the crisis.
- **Personal Reason for Action** – The birth of Eckersley's child made him reflect on the world's future and motivated him to contribute to environmental change.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Samples:

Sample 1 (79 words)

Richard Eckersley and his wife opened a zero-waste shop in 2017, where customers bring containers instead of using plastic. Recently, more people, even those new to sustainability, have shown interest. Inspired by this idea, similar shops have opened in other cities. Activists say banning plastic packaging is essential since supermarkets are slow to act. Plastic pollution is a major issue, even affecting drinking water. Concerned about his daughter's future, Eckersley wants to contribute to a better world.

Sample 2 (78 words)

Richard Eckersley founded a shop with his wife in 2017, selling food without plastic. More people are now supporting this idea, and similar stores have opened. Environmentalists argue that banning plastic is the only real solution since supermarkets are not taking serious action. Plastic waste is a global problem, contaminating even water. Thinking about his daughter's future, Eckersley feels responsible for making a change and inspiring others to reduce plastic consumption.

Sample 3 (80 words)

In 2017, Richard Eckersley and his wife opened a store where customers bring their own containers. Recently, more people have embraced this idea, leading to new plastic-free shops in other cities. Activists argue that banning plastic packaging is necessary, as supermarkets are not doing enough. Plastic pollution is a serious problem, harming nature and even affecting drinking water. Thinking about his daughter's future, Eckersley wants to take action and encourage others to reduce waste.



LIVEWORKSHEETS