PLASTIC
VS. THE ALTERNATIVES

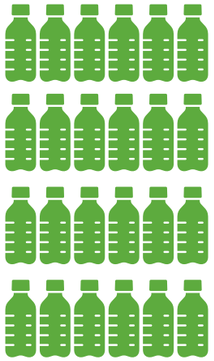
Plastics are often seen as the major culprit for polluting habitats and the most visible component of waste and litter, and as a result various campaign groups and petitions call for it to be banned.

However, removing plastics or replacing them with alternatives such as paper, glass, and cotton is not the answer. 'Greener' alternatives are supposably less harmful to the environment but are in fact more polluting in production, distribution, and recycling than plastics. Recovering plastic does not require the need for functional, protective packaging, we must therefore be mindful of the implications such a move would have. Here are the facts:

GLASS

As glass is heavier, and the melting point is >1,000C higher than plastic, it is extremely energy intensive to produce, distribute, and recycle.

The same amount of energy & emissions to make a single glass bottle could be used to make 24 plastic bottles. Furthermore, recycling rates for plastic bottles are among the highest of all materials.



PAPER

Paper is 30% more dense than plastic and also uses considerable amounts of water and energy in production, it's carbon footprint is 4x that of a polythene carrier. Unless you re-use your paper bag >4 times, paper is more environmentally damaging On account of its contribution to global warming Green House Gases.

COTTON

Using the same principles, the cotton shopper of all the bags available, have the most negative Co2 footprint and require re-use 173 times, or >3 years of weekly shops In order to meet the equivalent Co2 footprint of a conventional carrier bag.