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### **How Recycling Reduces Plastic Pollution**

Recycling plays an important role in the process of reducing plastic pollution. Recycling allows waste such as bottles, cans, plastics, metals, papers, and glass to be reused so they don't end up in our oceans, lakes, forests, and other ecosystems. Not only is plastic pollution harmful to humans, it's also harmful to local wildlife. Animals may mistake pieces of plastic as food and eat it. These plastics take a long time to break-down and if an animal is harvested for food, then people may also consume the same plastic. Recycling presents a solution to plastic pollution in that it reuses plastics and reduces the amount of waste in landfills. Not only does recycling help protect the environment from pollution, it also helps create job opportunities and brings money into communities. One important responsibility of waste manufacturers is to create products that can be used more than once and won't harm the environment. Another responsibility for waste manufacturers is to create programs that encourage people and other companies to clean up the environment and teach the public on how to properly recycle waste products. The responsibility of consumers is to buy recyclable products and properly dispose of them after use. Consumers can also use some products more than once in order to fully use it and to prevent it from possibly polluting the environment. Another thing consumers can do is to encourage people and their communities to recycle more and make sure waste is properly disposed of. Professionals who take care of and dispose of plastic wastes have a responsibility to make sure they do their job correctly and efficiently. Professionals have the responsibility to speak out against plastic pollution so it can't become an even bigger problem in the environment. Waste management professionals should also reach out to people, organizations, and schools in different communities to help them understand just how important recycling is and possibly start recycling programs.