

# Combating Plastic Pollution: How Communities Make a Difference

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

## INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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## Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, affecting marine life, ecosystems, and human health. In recent years, communities around the globe have taken significant steps to combat this problem. For instance, in San Francisco, local government and citizens have united to implement a comprehensive ban on single-use plastics. This initiative not only reduces plastic waste but also encourages businesses and residents to adopt more sustainable practices. The city has set an ambitious goal to achieve zero waste by 2030, showcasing how community action can lead to real change.
- B** In addition to legislative measures, grassroots movements play a crucial role in raising awareness about plastic pollution. Organizations like Surfrider Foundation organize beach cleanups that not only clear plastic debris but also educate participants about the impact of their consumption choices. These events foster a sense of community and responsibility, inspiring individuals to rethink their everyday habits. Furthermore, schools are incorporating environmental education into their curriculums, teaching students about the significance of reducing plastic use and promoting recycling. By engaging young minds, these initiatives ensure that future generations will be equipped to tackle plastic pollution effectively.
- C** Moreover, innovative solutions are emerging from local communities. In the coastal town of Cape May, New Jersey, residents have started a program that incentivizes businesses to offer discounts to customers who bring their reusable bags. This simple yet effective strategy has led to a noticeable decrease in plastic bag usage, proving that small changes can make a significant impact. Through collaboration and creativity, communities are not only addressing plastic pollution but are also setting a powerful example for others to follow. The collective efforts of individuals, organizations, and local governments demonstrate that when communities unite for a common cause, meaningful progress can be achieved in the fight against plastic pollution. The ongoing commitment to these initiatives is essential for fostering a sustainable future and protecting our planet for generations to come.

## Vocabulary Glossary

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Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
<b>pressing</b>	very important and needing immediate attention	<i>We need to address the pressing issues of climate change.</i>
<b>comprehensive</b>	including everything that is needed; complete	<i>The school offers a comprehensive program for new students.</i>
<b>initiative</b>	a new plan or action to solve a problem	<i>The government launched an initiative to improve public health.</i>
<b>grassroots</b>	started and supported by ordinary people rather than leaders	<i>The grassroots campaign helped bring about political change.</i>
<b>incentivizes</b>	to give someone a reason or reward for doing something	<i>The company incentivizes employees to work harder with bonuses.</i>
<b>foster</b>	to help something grow or develop	<i>The teacher's encouragement helped foster a love of reading.</i>
<b>debris</b>	pieces of waste or remains	<i>After the storm, debris was scattered everywhere.</i>
<b>significance</b>	the importance or meaning of something	<i>The discovery of the ancient city was of great significance.</i>
<b>collaboration</b>	working together with others to achieve a goal	<i>The project was a collaboration between two universities.</i>
<b>sustainable</b>	able to continue over a period of time without harming the environment	<i>Using solar power is a sustainable way to generate electricity.</i>

### Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The company launched a new \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce energy consumption.
2. The beach was covered with plastic \_\_\_\_\_ after the storm.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ efforts of the community led to a successful event.
4. The teacher's goal is to \_\_\_\_\_ a love of learning in her students.
5. Switching to renewable energy is a \_\_\_\_\_ choice for the future.
6. Local activists started a \_\_\_\_\_ movement to clean up the park.

## Comprehension Questions

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These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

### Question 1

**What is the primary focus of grassroots movements mentioned in the passage?**

- A. Implementing government regulations
- B. Raising awareness and education
- C. Funding new technology
- D. Building infrastructure

### Question 2

**Why does the passage mention the Surfrider Foundation?**

- A. To highlight a legislative action
- B. To describe a community event
- C. To discuss a business initiative
- D. To explain an educational program

### Question 3

**What goal has San Francisco set regarding waste management?**

- A. To reduce waste by 50% by 2025
- B. To achieve zero waste by 2030
- C. To eliminate all plastic by 2025
- D. To recycle all waste by 2030

### Question 4

**What effect did Cape May's program have on plastic bag usage?**

- A. It increased plastic bag usage
- B. It had no effect
- C. It decreased plastic bag usage
- D. It resulted in more plastic waste

### Question 5

#### What is the author's purpose in discussing innovative solutions?

- A. To argue against community efforts
- B. To show how small changes lead to big impacts
- C. To criticize government policies
- D. To emphasize the need for international cooperation

### Discussion & Writing Prompts

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*Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).*

1. Paragraph 1 mentions San Francisco's goal of zero waste by 2030. What challenges do you think cities face in trying to achieve zero waste, and how can they overcome them?

2. The passage discusses grassroots movements like the Surfrider Foundation's beach cleanups. How effective do you think these events are in changing people's behavior long-term?

3. Paragraph 3 describes Cape May's program to reduce plastic bag use. What similar initiatives could be implemented in your community to reduce plastic waste, and how would you promote them?

# Answer Key

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 B

Q3 B

Q4 C

Q5 B

## VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 initiative

FIB2 debris

FIB3 collaboration

FIB4 foster

FIB5 sustainable

FIB6 grassroots

## Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

### 1. What is the primary focus of grassroots movements mentioned in the passage?

✓ B — Raising awareness and education

The passage states that grassroots movements play a crucial role in raising awareness about plastic pollution.

✗ A — Implementing government regulations

*The passage does not mention grassroots movements implementing regulations.*

✗ C — Funding new technology

*Funding new technology is not discussed as a focus of grassroots movements.*

✗ D — Building infrastructure

*Building infrastructure is not mentioned in relation to grassroots movements.*

### 2. Why does the passage mention the Surfrider Foundation?

✓ B — To describe a community event

The passage mentions the Surfrider Foundation organizing beach cleanups, which are community events.

✗ A — To highlight a legislative action

*The Surfrider Foundation is not mentioned in relation to legislative actions.*

✗ C — To discuss a business initiative

*The passage does not describe a business initiative by the Surfrider Foundation.*

✗ D — To explain an educational program

*The foundation is not specifically linked to an educational program in the passage.*

### 3. What goal has San Francisco set regarding waste management?

✓ B — To achieve zero waste by 2030

The passage states that San Francisco aims to achieve zero waste by 2030.

✗ A — To reduce waste by 50% by 2025

*A 50% reduction by 2025 is not mentioned in the passage.*

✗ C — To eliminate all plastic by 2025

*The passage does not mention eliminating all plastic by 2025.*

✗ D — To recycle all waste by 2030

*Recycling all waste by 2030 is not stated in the passage.*

#### 4. What effect did Cape May's program have on plastic bag usage?

✓ C — It decreased plastic bag usage

The passage states that Cape May's program led to a noticeable decrease in plastic bag usage.

✗ A — It increased plastic bag usage

*The program decreased, not increased, plastic bag usage.*

✗ B — It had no effect

*The passage clearly states there was an effect, a decrease in usage.*

✗ D — It resulted in more plastic waste

*The program did not result in more plastic waste.*

#### 5. What is the author's purpose in discussing innovative solutions?

✓ B — To show how small changes lead to big impacts

The passage highlights that small changes, like those in Cape May, can make a significant impact.

✗ A — To argue against community efforts

*The author supports community efforts, not argues against them.*

✗ C — To criticize government policies

*Government policies are not criticized in this context.*

✗ D — To emphasize the need for international cooperation

*The passage does not emphasize international cooperation in this section.*

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#### MORE C1 LEVEL READING PRACTICE

Sociology Trust Modern Societies — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/c1/sociology-trust-modern-societies>

Economics Global Art Market — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/c1/economics-global-art-market>

Digital Memory Technology Changing Human Recall — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/c1/digital-memory-technology-changing-human-recall>