



IT CAN'T BE STOPPED !

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Here are seven reasons why the global plastic waste crisis will not end until we're gone.

* There's no person on Earth (except in aboriginal ethnic cultures), or a single corporate personhood, who can achieve a zero plastic footprint. Products made of plastic are so ingrained in our society that it is no longer possible to exist without them (eg. cell phones, car tires, infection control products, etc.). In fact, how we function as a species depends on plastics.

* There's no technology that can eco-eliminate the estimated 7 billion metric tons of plastic waste (of all types and sizes) that has trashed the environment during the past 70+ years. Thermal processing (pyrolysis) has the potential to convert recovered degraded plastic into oil, semi eco-friendly, but not at any meaningful scale. And, it does not address the huge cradle-to-grave carbon footprint of fossil fuel-based plastics.

* There's no financially viable eco-solution to manage today's plastic waste stream (well over one million metric tons per day). And, when oil prices drop, the few categories of plastic, which can actually be recycled (PET #1 and HDPE #2), are even less competitive than cheap virgin plastic.

* There's no foreseeable solution to address the trillions of hazardous micro and nano plastic particles that have contaminated the entire ecosystem (air, water, soil, and biological community). It is worth noting that nano particles have crossed the blood barrier in fish and more recently have been identified in human brains. They play a significant role in climate change, the current mass extinction event (only the 6th in the span of 450 million years), and the imminent collapse of Earth's biosphere (widely attributable to the agricultural revolution). A broad range of adverse health effects are now attributed to micro and nano plastic ingestion, which is estimated at 5 grams per week or over 40 pounds per person per year.

* There's no competitive comprehensive replacement for fossil fuel-based plastic. Although bioplastics (PLA) are considered promising they still have to overcome considerable challenges with feedstocks and range of application. As such, the global oil-based plastics market will continue to grow exponentially (due to increasing global population, consumer demand for more plastic goods, and the oil industry's pivot to plastics to stave off losses in the fossil fuel sector). It is estimated that by 2050 the cumulative total of plastics ever produced will have reached 34 billion metric tons - all of which will eventually be discarded.

* There's no chance the international community will ever agree on what needs to be forfeited for the survival of the species - primarily the market driven economic system with its U.S. led money-printing sprees. The more invested institutions are in the status quo the less motivation there is for change. Regardless, dramatic irreversible changes are happening. The next step is to accept that "it can't be stopped".

* The collective stratum of human consciousness (as opposed to individual awareness) is not able to comprehend; 1) the big picture consequences of living unconsciously, 2) what's required to shift consciousness in order to avoid the inevitable, and 3) the sense of urgency for right action before time runs out. With that said, the catastrophic gift now unfolding does offer potential for discovering a better way forward (albeit into the unknown). What follows is a series of fact-based stories based on this premise. The author's intention is not to lay blame but to help awaken a higher state of consciousness within each of us.