Impact of Disposable Masks on our Environment

Brought to you by ALP members…

What is a Disposable Mask?

Disposable mask is …

…usually made of polypropylene, **a type of plastic that cannot be broken down quickly in the environment**. Most masks consist of three layers, and are made of composite materials that are difficult to separate, **making them unsuitable for recycling.**

But do you know?

Est. 3,000,000 (3 million!)

masks are used every minute globally

Source: How Covid -19 is choking the planet ?
ST, 9th Jan 2021

Why does one use disposable mask?

Helps to avoid inhaling different kinds of airborne contaminants

Helps to reduce the chances of coming in direct contact with infections

Filter bacteria effectively

However, improper way of disposing the masks had negatively impacted the environment we live in …

“From the beaches in the Mediterranean to Lantau Island in Hong Kong, a new kind of waste is washing ashore in disturbing quantities - used face masks, disposable gloves and discarded hand sanitiser bottles.”

Source
ST, Aug 1 2020

“Mask debris, latex gloves and other forms of personal protective equipment (PPE) have begun showing up in oceans”

Source
ST, Dec 31st 2020

Sea birds became entangled in masks

DUMPED MASKS BECOME DEADLY
THREAT TO WILDLIFE

“In Singapore, five to six pieces of masks have been found during each clean -up organised by environmental volunteer groups at local parks, beaches and waterways”

Source :
ST, 31st Dec 2020

“….Waterways Watch Society (an organization that does coastal and waterway clean ups each week in Singapore) has seen a threefold increase in mask litter in recent weeks.”

Source :
ST, 9th Jan 2020

Why is this happening?

Irresponsible manner of disposing the mask!