

2024

July - September

Quarterly E-Bulletin



COMBATING SINGLE- USE PLASTIC

NO MORE POLYTHENE BAGS

THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE,
BANGLADESH ANNOUNCED
POLYTHENE BAGS TO BE
BANNED FROM IN SUPER
SHOPS FROM OCTOBER 1



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ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION-ESDO

 Environment and Social Development Organization Action Plan Enforcement of National Polythene Bags Ban and Sustainability Initiative Implemented by DoE-MoEFCC, in association with ESDO					
Objectives:					
1. Eliminate Polythene Bags by implementing a nationwide ban on polythene bags through a multi-faceted approach. 2. Promote Sustainable Alternatives to Polythene Bags. 3. Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Sachets Through Policy Reform and Sustainable Alternatives. 4. Foster community involvement and ensure the effective monitoring of the implementation process.					
Activity name	Sub-Activities	Timeline	Start date	End date	Responsible Person/Agencies
Outcome 1		SEP OCT NOV			
Nation-Wide Ban Polythene Bags and Promote Sustainable Alternatives					
Output 1.1 Stakeholder consultation and Awareness Building					
Activity 1.1.1	Awareness Meetings with associations				
	- Shop owner association				
	- Airline and tour operators				
	- Food bloggers				
Activity 1.1.2	Marketplace committee				
	- Food delivery services				
	Consultation and awareness campaigns		1-Sep	15-Sep	ESDO/DoE
Output 1.2 Law Enforcement					
Activity 1.2.1	Law enforcement by magistrates and police according to the ban on polythene bags, and penalties for distributors, producers, and sellers.		15-Sep	20-Sep	ESDO/DoE
Activity 1.2.2	Seize all polythene bags from the market		20-Sep	30-Sep	ESDO/DoE

ACTION PLAN ON ENFORCEMENT OF National Polythene Bags Ban and Sustainability Initiative

Following the formation of the new interim government, ESDO met with the Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to finalize an action plan for enforcing the National Polythene Bags Ban. The plan aims to eliminate polythene bags and single-use plastic sachets through policy reforms and eco-friendly alternatives. From September to November 2024, this initiative will be implemented by the Department of Environment (DoE), MoEFCC, and ESDO, with a focus on community engagement and strong monitoring.



BANGLADESH ON PHASING OUT THE USE OF POLYTHENE:

Strategic Meeting of Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change (MoEFCC)

The Government of Bangladesh, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has announced a nationwide ban on polythene and polypropylene shopping bags in super shops, effective October 1, 2024, as part of efforts to combat plastic pollution. At a strategic meeting on September 9, 2024, chaired by MoEFCC Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan, plans were outlined to enforce the ban and promote eco-friendly alternatives like jute and cloth bags. Key measures include a media campaign starting September 15 to raise public awareness, collaboration with supermarkets to provide eco-friendly alternatives, an Eco-Bag Fair by September 30 to connect manufacturers with supermarkets, and engaging youth and students to promote behavior change. ESDO, a long-time advocate against plastic pollution, is actively involved in this initiative. On Behalf of ESDO, Monowarul Islam, Head of Program and Mailha Hoque, Senior Program Associate were present in the meeting.





Meeting with Super Shop Owners and Jute Products Entrepreneurs to Combat Polythene Bags

On September 18, 2024, a meeting organized by the Ministry of Jute and Textile was held at the BJMC Conference Room, Dhaka. The discussion involved super shop owners and jute product entrepreneurs, focusing on finding alternatives to polythene bags, which will be banned from October 1, 2024. Concerns about the cost and availability of alternatives were raised, and a follow-up session was scheduled for September 23 at the JDPC to continue discussions.

Going Green, Staying Smart

The Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC) meeting on September 23, 2024, provided a platform for super shop owners and jute producers to directly interact and explore solutions for affordable alternatives. The meeting facilitated dialogue, showcasing alternative products, and encouraged future collaboration



Environmental Footprint of Single-Use Plastic Bottles:

A Comprehensive Survey of Consumption, Retail, and, Waste Management

The project focuses on addressing the environmental challenges posed by single-use plastic (SUP) water and drink bottles, which contribute to pollution and strain waste management systems. Despite awareness, their convenience drives continued high consumption. The project aims to investigate the consumption, disposal practices, and impacts of SUP bottles by surveying consumers, retailers, and waste pickers. It seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the SUP bottle lifecycle and propose strategies to reduce their environmental footprint.



Objectives:

1. Assess consumption and disposal patterns of SUP bottles among consumers and retailers.
2. Evaluate the role of waste pickers in recycling and the challenges they face.
3. Analyze environmental and health impacts and recommend ways to reduce SUP usage and promote alternatives.



Plastic-free Campus (PFC) Graduation Ceremony at Sylhet Division

On 15 Sep, 2024, ESDO declared Sylhet Government Pilot High School and Hazrat Omar Faruque R. Academy in Sylhet Division as Plastic Free Campus through a graduation ceremony. These two schools have successfully transitioned into plastic-free campuses! This milestone reflects the dedication and hard work of the students, teachers, and the ESDO team.

**Marking the Start
of Plastic-Free life
and Raising Young
Voices Against
Plastic Pollution at
Sylhet Division!**





DoE and ESDO Host Fair and Seminar to Promote Alternatives to Polythene Bags

On September 26, 2024, the Department of Environment (DoE), in collaboration with ESDO proudly hosted the Polythene Bag Alternative Products Fair at DoE Auditorium, showcasing innovative, eco-friendly alternatives to harmful Polythene Bag like jute, cloth, and other biodegradable options.

Donec quisque velit, sit amet consequat mauris. Aenean consequat eget eros eu ornare.



The event was a hub where entrepreneurs and buyers connected to explore sustainable solutions for a greener future. This is a key part of our efforts to combat plastic pollution and promote responsible consumption!



Press Briefing “Ahead of Plastics Treaty Talks This August” organized by Break Free From Plastic

In a recent press briefing titled, “Press Briefing Ahead of Plastics Treaty Talks This August,” environmental groups worldwide urged the global community to eliminate polluting single-use sachets as part of the upcoming plastics treaty. The discussion highlighted the damaging effects of sachets on ecosystems, with particular focus on the Global South. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary-General of ESDO, who joined the session as one of the experts, emphasized the need for the treaty to phase out toxic chemicals from plastics, saying, “Over 13,000 chemicals are used in plastics, with more than 3,200 classified as hazardous.”





The 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Bangkok

At the 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF), Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO, emphasized the urgent need to address plastic pollution as both an environmental crisis and a driver of climate change. She highlighted ESDO's Plastic-Free Campus and Zero Waste Village initiatives, which tackle plastic waste and its impact on ecosystems and the climate. Sultana reaffirmed ESDO's commitment to reducing industrial pollutants, promoting sustainable land management, and protecting oceans, aligning with IUCN's goals to build resilience against pollution and climate change.

High-Level Roundtable Discussions on Plastic Waste Management: Challenges and Solutions in South Asian Countries

UNOPS Bangladesh organized a High-Level Roundtable on Plastic Waste Management: Challenges and Solutions in South Asian Countries at Hotel Intercontinental. The event brought together key stakeholders to discuss sustainable solutions for plastic waste management in the region.

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO, spoke on the “Implementation of Evidence-Based Work by Corporate and Civil Sectors for Plastic Waste Management in Bangladesh.” His presentation emphasized collaboration between corporations and civil society to tackle plastic pollution.

The event concluded with a networking session and lunch, fostering further dialogue on addressing plastic waste challenges.

