



Ecobricks: A Solution To Pollution

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What is an Ecobrick?

According to ecobricks.org, an eco-brick is a reusable building block created by packing clean and dry used plastic into a plastic bottle to a set density. "Ecobricks enable us to take personal responsibility for the plastic that we've consumed by keeping it out of industrial systems, securing it out of the environment, and putting it to good use in modules and earth constructions." - Ecobricks.org



What can you do with an ecobrick?

Ecobricks are becoming increasingly more common in the US but are most prominent in third world countries. In countries where people may not have the resources or money to build a house, ecobricks can be used in conjunction with some form of mortar to make walls for structures. They can also be used to make furniture, specifically outdoor benches, and structures in gardens, which is a more common use in the US.

My Project/Future Work

This is where my project comes into play. Obviously COVID-19 has delayed things, but it is my plan to build a bench on campus from the ecobricks. When packed correctly, they can support the weight of a human. I have been working to make ecobricks and will continue to until I have enough to form a bench with mortar.



Why should you care?

There are endless reasons for why you should be packing your own ecobricks. For starters, it is easier than recycling since you don't have to pay to recycle this soft plastic, and you don't have to take it anywhere. Another reason is if you use ecobricks to build things in your home, you can save a considerable amount of money. Even if money is not an issue for you, you should still consider making ecobricks because you are saving this plastic from potentially going to a landfill, the ocean, or an incinerator, and you can donate the ecobricks to someone who needs them.. And lastly, if none of this appeals to you, you could get service hours for packing bottles! Service hours were offered to all students who aided me in packing bottles this past year!

References

<https://www.ecobricks.org/why/>