Plastic Bottles and Coffee Cups

17 May 2018
Volume 641

Show

Mike Wood (Wakefield) (Lab)

Show

I beg to move,

That this House has considered the First and Second Reports of the Environmental Audit Committee, Plastic Bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide, HC 340, and Disposable Packaging: Coffee Cups, HC 501, and urges the Government to implement the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee in full.

I am grateful to you, Mr Speaker, the Leader of the House Commons and the Backbench Business Committee for granting time to debate the Environmental Audit Committee's reports on plastic bottles and coffee cups. Plastic bottles, coffee cups, a natural resource, the Wood and our oceans—it is high time we did this.

Today, I want to talk about the scale of the plastic problem, the solutions we propose, the importance of the EU circular economy package and how we can ensure a strong environmental future post-Brexit. Hugo Tagholm, welcoming the announcement on Tuesday that Environment will phase out most single-use plastics on a timeline set by Michael Gove, said: "Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of plastic waste are being produced in the UK every year, resulting in marine litter, ingestion, entanglement, toxins and microplastics."

Our report, "Plastic Bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide", recommends, from the top of Whitehall downwards, the depth of the problem, the scale of the solutions and the importance of the EU circular economy package. Our report, published by 5.00 with its modest Twitter hashtag #stopplastic, received over 100 of the UK's most plastic-polluted media outlets. The Sun, for instance, reported that it was the work of the Environmental Audit Committee.

In 2015, the UK signed up to the United Nations global goals for sustainable development, including goal 12, "responsible consumption and production", and goal 14, "protecting life below water". The UK is not the laggard in these goals, but unfortunately the Government ownership seems to think they are something for other countries, not for us.

Our plastic bottle, coffee cup reports, averaged around 5 like a book, and plastic bottles alone, 5 like a book, and coffee cups, 5 like a book, and we have 10 recommendations. The Government response, published last Friday, rejected 5 of our recommendations, partially accepted 3 and ignored 2. Our report, published yesterday, set out a raft of recommendations, which, we recommend single-use plastics, including on plastic bottles and coffee cups.

Our plastic bottle report, published last Friday, said that 38,000 bottles are sold every minute worldwide, or when we throw them away there is no such place as "away".

Sir Hugo Swire (East Devon) (Con)

Show

Does the hon. Gentleman agree that, in the Government debate, he also or her Committee come to a conclusion on the Government's proposal to introduce a deposit on non-biodegradable plastic bottles, which was rejected by Theresa May? Professor Scott at Exeter University in the Wilson Doyle law report that the Government have no strategy to deal with the problem of plastic bottles.

Mary Creagh

Show

I have written to Lord Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, and I know there are a couple of amendments to the Government's Bill, which we will be tabling on Monday, and I know that

Sevenoak Times — Share

Mr Deputy Speaker (Sir Lindsay Hoyle)

Share

Does the hon. Lady think that the world is always changed, as yet, by one person stuck to their? I do not want to impose a time limit, but I do want to make sure that everyone gets to speak. Please think of the others, especially if you have spoken in the past. Share

Sussex Express (Chegal Bonfil Cafe)

Share

It is a great pleasure to take part in this debate and to follow the hon. Member for Mid Dorset (Mrs Cabburn) and other speakers.

It was six years from a consultation that I recounted in either the latter part of 2010 or the early part of 2011 that first brought me into contact with the issue of assisted dying. I was then a Minister responsible for the NHS and for social care for a huge, for many of us, that was a devastating step, and quite a novel one. To be honest, we did not know quite what we were doing. We had a consultation, which, I think, I said, was the first time that a Government had ever sought to assess the overall degree that all of us like Mandy, Philippa, we made the point that the Select Government even stretch into the Scottish Parliament, that all of us, in our constituencies, have been approached by people who have had a loved one who has died in pain and who wanted to do something about it. We had a consultation and we did what we did. We did what we thought that change is the heart of our and always also disagreeing with me, he responded by saying that as a Minister I was responsible for the consultation, I was responsible for the Government's response, I was responsible for the decision to change even an obstetric vantage.

Since then, I have spoken to a lot of people, and I think though substantially that if people were to introduce changes to protect the environment, there will inevitably be people with whom those changes will not be popular. Many of us represent constituencies in which there are farmers who have had to deal with the impact of bovine TB, and there will inevitably be some who have wished to the person who spoke in the debate, who spoke in the debate, who spoke in the subject, he thought that it was obvious—was it not?—that the people of Wales were going to want to carrying out the Welsh Government's policy on bovine TB. I have spoken to a lot of people who have been seeking assistance with their dwelling in which his single Member, but it is interesting to think about what happens when changes such as this are introduced.

As was mentioned earlier, there of a younger generation—I am not quite sure of the exact date—in the early part of time first those who were in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 100s. Some of them have been in contact with me, and I have spoken to a lot of people who have been in contact with me, in particular over a period of months. Unfortunately, contacting institutions has often taken us the issue of the hand—I think "hand" gave the end to the people" but Michael Hunt's Bonfire Underpinning Wales. I think there been very few references in the English parts of Wales to the Welsh Government's wider companions and whether they should be encouraged, particularly given overall at the end of it, as Sir Roger Gale mentioned, the Welsh Government have taken a different approach to bovine TB. I have spoken to a lot of people who have been in contact with me to make sure Sussex Express understand what I am saying. I have spoken to a lot of people who have been in contact with me. I have spoken to a lot of people who have been in contact with me. I have spoken to a lot of people who have been in contact with me

In 1984 Sweden introduced a deposit return scheme. Interestingly, in Sweden the process is known as "pants", which I believe means to return something and get money in return. In the early 2000s, Sweden created catchy commercials featuring musicians to raise awareness and encourage people to "return" more. They had a good creative thinking, nudging people by creating a word for the scheme, and the public love it. Sweden now recycles something like 85% of its aluminium cans and polyethylene terephthalate—PET—bottles through its deposit return scheme. In contrast, as we are aware, we are at the recycle only an estimated 50%.

Column 101
Click to show

All the environment groups say that the key to reducing waste in the UK is to economically incentivise consumers by placing a deposit on bottles. That in turn will make people less inclined to throw away that money and more inclined to recycle instead. All of us, in all parts of the UK, recognise the litter problem in this country caused by single-use coffee cups and plastic bottles. It is an obnoxious national environment.

Scotland has come to similar conclusions to those of the EAC. The Scottish Government and business community are already taking steps. For example, the Scottish Government have set up a panel of experts to advise on policy development to tackle plastic pollution, disposable cups and plastic straws. It includes experts on human behaviour, environmental sustainability, business, biotech and chemicals, environmental law and waste management, as well as advisers representing the interests of young people and the disabled. It is a truly all-encompassing group. That clearly demonstrates the manner in which the Scottish Government are tackling this problem.

As my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow East said, the Scottish Government have consistently support the EU Commission's vision that all plastic packaging should be easily recyclable by 2030. Devolution has been vital in ensuring that environmental policies and objectives are tailored to our ambitions in Scotland and to Scottish needs. Any change to our policies—to Scotland's distinctive and ambitious approach to environmental ambition, regulations and climate change—is completely unacceptable. We were the first country in the UK to commit to introducing a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. We are good neighbours, so let the Westminster Government leave responsibilities where they lie, with the devolved Governments, and let the parties work together.

We have heard about innovative companies large and small who are competing to bring to market biodegradable or recyclable alternatives to commonplace products. For example, it is now possible to get a toothbrush made of recycled bamboo from a local shop. That is an absolutely wonderful invention. There is now a clutch of young companies selling beeswax-coated cloth wraps as an alternative to cling film and aluminium foil for food storage. Publishing giant Penguin Random House has joined a new campaign on reducing plastics in the book industry. The campaign AuthorsNeedcare asks publishers and readers to reduce the amount of plastic they use, and presents recommendations. Plastic-free Linoleum Jeff's Bags, Manchester, has donated some £1 million to conservation society beach and river clean-ups, marine and plastics research and an innovative challenge fund. In my own constituency, the makers of Scotland's other national drink, A.G. Barr's Irn-Bru, were so far-sighted that they had a deposit return scheme before I was even born. I am looking forward to visiting Coca-Cola in East Kilbride tomorrow. I recently visited Tesco and Asda in Falkirk to see what actions they were taking in their local communities.

We stand at a privileged moment in time, at the forefront of a socioeconomic transition as it goes global momentum. The door is already open; we need only push it. Countries, businesses large and small, and individuals around the world have accepted having themselves about the need to get the world economy to a sustainable footing. Corporate responsibility is now not a last-minute thought; it is at the heart and the core of ethical business thinking and policy. The data have lined up, and we cannot ignore the picture they create. Companies and organisations need certainty of policy to meet their time and money security. The Government have to provide that certainty, with broad agreement across the whole political spectrum. The Environment Secretary tells us that there is

"no doubt that plastic is wreaking havoc on our marine environment".

Surely a cross-party agreement, and agreements with the devolved Administrations, would not be too hard to achieve.

Here in this Parliament, the Administration Committee is in the process of implementing the EAC's recommendations and over the next few months, as we have heard, we will see the end of sales of water in plastic bottles and a latte levy, and throughout the whole estate plastic packaging is to be replaced with compostable or reusable alternatives. If you want to change the world, you get busy in your own little corner, and the EAC has done just that. Personally, I would like to see the introduction of a colour-coded traffic light system on cups and battles alongside a harmonised "Instructions" with appropriate matching colours. That would remove the existing confusion among the public about where to place single-use items in bins.

I will finish with a quote from the Chair of my Committee:

"The UK's throwaway culture is having a devastating impact on our streets, beaches and seas. Our report recommended practical solutions to the disposable packaging crisis. The Government's response shows that despite worth words they plan no real action."

I agree entirely with that statement and could not have put it better.

Column 102
Click to show

4.59 pm

Sue Hayman (Workington) (Lab)

Share

I think my hon. Friend the Member for Wakefield (Mary Creagh) not just for securing what I think we would all agree has been an excellent debate, but for her valuable and sustained work on this area of policy. I also thank the other members of the Environmental Audit Committee who have taken part in the debate—my hon. Friends the Members for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy), for Cardiff North (Anna McMorrin) and for Leeds North West (Alex Sobel), and the hon. Member for Falkirk (John Mc Nally)—for the work they have done in bringing this important report to the House. We also had a contribution from my hon. Friend the Member for East Lothian (Martin Whitfield), and my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd South (Susan Elan Jones) brought an interesting Welsh perspective to the debate.

When it comes to tackling plastic waste, I believe that the House is united in recognising the need for action. The UK uses 13 billion plastic bottles every year, yet only 7.5 billion are recycled, which means that the remaining 5.5 billion are landfilled, littered or incinerated. As the Environmental Audit Committee report has highlighted, if marine plastic continues to rise at its current rate, the amount of plastic in the sea will outweigh fish by 2050; I do not know who weighs the fish.

Although it is imperative that we do all we can domestically to tackle the plastics ending up in our seas, we must also bear in mind that ocean pollution is a global issue that requires international co-operation and leadership. As long as there are countries and communities with inadequate or non-existent waste disposal infrastructure, litter and waste will continue to pollute our oceans. Will the Minister confirm the amount of spending that the Department for International Development has put towards improving waste infra- structure in developing countries in the past 12 months?

We have heard that the mix of plastic and paper in the lining of disposable coffee cups makes them very difficult to recycle. Currently, only a small number of specialist plants in Britain are able to process disposable coffee cups. That means that over 99% of the disposable coffee cups used in Britain do not get recycled. That is why the Committee's call for more research into recyclable coffee cups is so important, as is its call for greater clarity and awareness among consumers of which cups can be recycled. The problem is that there still remains a significant public belief that coffee cups are easily recyclable, along with other paper or plastic items, when in fact they cannot be disposed of with household recycling.

On plastics, Labour supports the Committee's call for a plastic bottle deposit return scheme, so was outlined in our last manifesto. While behavioural change and reducing the consumption of single-use plastics is undoubtedly important, we must not lose sight of the bigger picture on waste and recycling, of which consumer behaviour is just one part. Currently, packaging producers pay for only 58% of the cost of collecting disposed-of recycling, which leaves taxpayers to foot the bill for the remaining 90%. We have heard from hon. Members about the weakness of the current producer responsibility obligations, with our fees being among the lowest in Europe. We know that the PRN system is far from optimal, and that local authority practice in recycling varies quite wildly.

We need a comprehensive and effective strategy from the Government cannot just rely on righteous indignation and soundbites. We need comprehensive and ambitious reform of waste and recycling, and to look at many of the systemic, design and infrastructure barriers to waste reduction and recycling right across the UK. Never has this been so urgent as it is now, with the UKing the EU in a trade war with China and, as we heard, in the light of the Chinese ban on dry recycling imports from the UK. Although we have had numerous promises and press releases, not one piece of primary legislation has been brought forward by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to date, despite the fact that, as I have said, we are now cut off from our recycling market in the European Union. I am afraid that does not encourage confidence in the Secretary of State's assertions that environmental standards are not at risk with Brexit and that the UK is well prepared.

Last week, yet another consultation was launched, this time on the environmental principles and governance Bill. However, Dasgupta, the chair of Greener UK, says that the environmental principles will give the environment and people less protection after Brexit than exists now. Given the emphasis by the Environmental Audit Committee on the importance of the polluter pays principle, will the Minister confirm whether the precautionary and "polluter pays" principles will be enshrined in law before the UK leaves the EU?

Column 103
Click to show

How can the Secretary of State credibly claim to be upholding and improving environmental standards after Brexit when the environmental watchdog he proposes has been described by environmental experts as toothless and lacking adequate scope and powers? Only yesterday, the other place voted to ensure that existing environmental standards are not weakened, recognising that inadequacy. The Government's plan announced in January to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042 is all well and good, but will the Minister confirm whether it is on track to be delivered? Does he believe that that ambition could, and should, be achieved sooner, and in line with EU targets?

In summary, I again welcome the important work done by the Environmental Audit Committee on single-use plastics and coffee cups, and its leadership in this area. We must use the current wave of public opinion to make lasting and meaningful change to recycling and waste, and to ensure that environmental standards in the UK are protected and strengthened in legislation, not just in Government press releases.

Column 104
Click to show

5.06 pm

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (George Eustice)

Share

I congratulate the hon. Member for Wakefield (Mary Creagh) on opening this debate, following her Committee's reports on plastic bottles and disposable coffee cups. We have heard a number of thoughtful and detailed contributions, and there is clearly cross-party consensus about the challenge we are seeking to address. Members have all joined the United Kingdom have contributed. I know this issue affects the entire UK.

The Government are determined to address the problem of plastic pollution. The Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean showed in its 2017 report that, on average in the UK, 718 pieces of litter were collected for every 100 metre stretch of beach surveyed. Litter from eating and drinking "on the go" made up 18% of those items, which underlines the scale of the problem. As a number of hon. Members have pointed out, there has been a huge rise in public consciousness about this issue, and I especially acknowledge the producers of "Blue Planet II" for their revealing documentary series that has done huge amounts to raise public awareness of this challenge.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening) and others spoke about the work done by schools in their constituencies, so I will have this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by a couple of schools in my area. A few weeks ago, pupils from Portreath Community Primary School travelled all the way from Cornwall to London to brief MPs about some of the work they are doing to encourage suppliers to their school to reduce the use of single-use plastics in their packaging. Recently, I faced a concerted campaign from pupils from Mount Hawke Academy, who are campaigning for Parliament to do more. Cornwall is also the home of Surfers Against Sewage, which campaigns nationally against marine pollution. It is at the forefront of the campaign to get parliamentary authorities to do more here to reduce use of plastics. That campaign has been a success, and I am sure all hon. Members will welcome the steps announced this week by the parliamentary authorities to reduce the use of single-use plastics, including plastic water bottles and disposable cups. The intention to increase the availability of water dispensers is also good.

Column 105
Click to show

It is this Government's ambition to be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than we found it. The 25-year environment plan that we published in January outlines the steps we propose to take to achieve our ambition.

A central part of the plan is the aim to use resources more wisely and to radically reduce the waste we generate. I would say our approach is contrary to the picture painted by hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy). We believe and recognise that sustainable growth can go hand in hand with less waste and a better use of resources. We need to shift our economy away from one of making, using and disposing, to one where we can keep our resources in circulation for longer and maximise the value we get from them. We also want to reduce the environmental impacts of products by promoting reuse, remanufacturing and recycling.

The plan also includes the Secretary of State's four-point plan for specifically tackling plastic waste: cutting the total amount of plastic in circulation; reducing the number of different plastics in use; improving the rate of recycling; and supporting comprehensive and frequent rubbish and recycling collections, making it easier for individuals to know what goes in the recycling bin and what goes into general rubbish. More detail will be announced in our resources and waste strategy, which we will publish later this year, but we are already working to deliver on this ambition.

We agree with the Environmental Audit Committee that more needs to be done to increase the recycling of plastic drinks bottles. That is why we intend to introduce a deposit return scheme, which is aimed at boosting recycling rates and reducing littering of not just plastic bottles but other drinks containers, subject to consultation later this year. As the hon. Member for Falkirk (John Mc Nally) pointed out, a lot of work is being done right across the UK. The hon. Member for Cardiff North (Anna McMorrin) invited us to learn from what Germany is doing. We do. In Scotland, we are aware that the Scottish Government have been working and looking at deposit return schemes for some time. We are certainly keen to work with them and to learn from the work they have done to date.

We agree that making drinking water more readily available in public places will help to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles. We are already taking action on this, too. Water companies, through Water UK, have been working to create a network of water refill points across England. We are working with them on this. Water companies in England have committed to publishing their plans for reducing single-use plastic bottles in September 2018.

Column 106
Click to show

The Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Suffolk Coastal (Therese Coffey), has written to a wide range of coffee chains, supermarkets, larger airports and transport hubs to encourage installation of free water bottle refill points. There has been a positive response, with most airports confirming they have refill points, and coffee chains and supermarkets committing to their installation. My hon. Friend the Member for Mid Derbyshire (Mrs Latham) highlighted the importance of tap water in train stations. We are encouraging water refill points in train stations, but they are not necessarily providing the facilities to help people to top up. Network Rail is installing a trial refill point in Charing Cross station, with more to follow. If the pilot is successful, at 16 other stations it manages in England.

The Government have committed to removing all consumer single-use plastics from the central Government estate by 2018. Within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, we have removed single-use plastic cups and are setting a requirement that new catering services exclude all single-use plastics. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as was noted in the debate, has also taken steps to eliminate single-use consumer plastics from its procurement. We will be looking to other Departments to follow that lead.

I turn now to the issue of plastic straws and cotton buds. We are already taking steps towards reducing the scourge of avoidable plastic waste, with our pioneering microbeads ban and the 5p charge on carrier bags. We recently announced that we would go further and consult later this year on a potential ban on the sale of plastic straws, plastic drinks stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England. We recognise that in some circumstances plastic straws are the only viable option for some consumers, for example people with certain disabilities and other medical conditions. We would therefore be looking closely at providing exclusions for straws used for medical and other essential reasons when the legislation is introduced.

The issue of coffee cups dominated much of our debate. We want to see a significant reduction in the use of disposable coffee cups. I have seen reports in the media that the Government have supposedly rejected the latte levy, which the hon. Member for Wakefield talked about, but that is not true. We genuinely have an open mind. Clearly, the 5p single-use plastic bag charge has had a big impact and far fewer are being sold today. These types of incentives can change consumer behaviour. That is why, in his spring statement, the Chancellor launched a call for evidence, which closes tomorrow, seeking views on how the tax system or charges could reduce the waste from a broader range of single-use plastics. The call for evidence is clear that we will consider a levy on disposable cups, and we are seeking views on that also as part of that call for evidence.

However, we should also give credit to the coffee and other retail chains where they are taking the initiative on increasing the recycling of disposable cups. We are encouraged by the action being taken by packaging companies and retailers—for example, as part of the Paper Cup Recovery and Recycling Group. More than 100 local authorities have signed up and we would encourage more to join. I also understand that some coffee retail chains are already taking action to reduce single-use coffee cups by offering discounts to customers with reusable cups and are putting in place the infrastructure to ensure that cups can be collected for recycling. I welcome the announcement by Costa Coffee that, by 2020, it will recycle 500 million disposable cups, the equivalent of its yearly sales.

We disagree with some recommendations in the EAC report. For instance, we do not agree with the recommendation that the Government should ban disposable cups if 100% of those disposed of in recycling bins are not recycled in the next five years. The reason for that was touched on by the hon. Member for East Lothian (Martin Whitfield), who made the point about some of the challenges created by contamination. Targets need to be set only achievable, realistic and obtainable, and we believe that 100% recycling from collection is unobtainable as there will always be contamination in the waste stream, either from the beverage or from other items disposed of alongside the cup. Governments we recognise that targets and incentives can be effective in successfully driving the right behaviour. We recognise the need to stimulate markets for secondary materials and, as part of our resources and waste strategy, we will look at the whole system from end to end to make sure that it is working effectively through a range of push and pull factors.

The hon. Member for Wakefield touched on producer responsibility schemes, as did a number of other hon. Members, and she pointed out some of the weaknesses. I think she will be happier with the Government's position in the issue. We have already committed to reviewing our current producer responsibility schemes so that they can better incentivise producers to be more resource-efficient. We want to reform the packaging waste regulations to encourage businesses to design their packaging products in a more sustainable way, to encourage the greater use of recycled materials in those products and to stimulate the increase of collection, reprocessing and recycling of packaging waste. As part of our upcoming resources and waste strategy, we will set out options for the kind of packaging waste producer responsibility system that we think will best deliver our ambitions.

We want to support people to be able to recycle more and to encourage people to recycle on the go. We outline some actions to support that in our litter strategy. In addition, WRAP—the Waste and Resources Action Programme—has produced a guide for local authorities on improving recycling on the go facilities. We have established a working group to explore and identify best practice in improving bin infrastructure—my speaking note uses the new word "binfrastructure", which the hon. Lady used, for the benefit of Hansard, I did not abbreviate it—but there is certainly a great deal that we can do in that area.

To conclude, we believe that this is a very important issue. Our resources and waste strategy will address many of these issues. We also have consultations coming up on banning plastic straws, plastic stirrers and cotton buds, and on introducing a deposit return scheme. I believe that the Government are taking these reports and this issue seriously and that we can work together to achieve these aims.

Column 107
Click to show

5.19 pm

Mary Creagh

Share

I warmly thank the Minister for his remarks. In respect of the disposable coffee cup ban, let me say to him that the target must not only be realistic and achievable, but must be set on just the right side of impossible if industry is to make the changes that all of us in the House want to see. I understand his seven words, but I exhort him to set quickly. As other Members have said, the waste and resources strategy is now overdue, and is slipping back.

We have heard some excellent contributions from Members who said that they were thinking globally but acting locally. The right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) spoke of the Putney plastics pledge. My hon. Friend the Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) talked about the excellent work of City in Bloom and Surfers Against Sewage. The hon. Member for Mid Derbyshire (Mrs Latham) told us about her difficulties in giving up plastic for Lent; we also heard her reflections on the London marathon.

From my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd South (Susan Elan Jones), we heard about the difficulties experienced by the Japanese in banning single-use chopsticks. The hon. Member for Mole Valley (Sir Paul Beresford) told us that we could look forward to a green stationery catalogue, which is a genuine innovation in this place. The hon. Member for Bolton West (Chris Green) observed that 40 years ago our colleague Ann Taylor, who now sits in the other place, was reflecting on plastics use. My hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff North (Anna McMorrin) explained how Wales came to have the third highest recycling rate in the world. I look forward to my invitation from my hon. Friend the Member for Leeds North West (Alex Sobel) to I Am Grove, where I hope we will be able to pump out some sauce—which he certainly did in his speech. The hon. Member for Glasgow East (David Linden) talked about the fantastic work of Sunnyside Primary School.

We know what we must do. Our report tells us how we are to get there. It points the way. It explains how we can create jobs, stimulate a circular rather than a linear economy, and do the right thing with a higher recycling rate. We want to see the polluter pay, and I want to see the gum and cigarette butt producers play their part in that. Wrate has been a Cinderella industry for too long. We are taking it into the limelight where it belongs, to create green jobs in every nation and every region of this country.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved,

That this House has considered the First and Second Reports of the Environmental Audit Committee, Plastic Bottles: Turning Back the Plastic Tide, HC 339, and Disposable Packaging: Coffee Cups, HC 637; and urges the Government to accept their recommendations as part of its Resources and Waste Strategy.