

POLLUTION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

MAYBE WE COULD ALL JUST TRY... USING LESS PLASTIC??

I GUESS.

DUDE! THERE IS A RECYCLE BIN RIGHT THERE!!!

LATERZ.

IDIOT.

ALEX NIXON

SCIENCESAUCEONLINE.COM

LEVEL 1

ALTER HUMAN ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE PRODUCTION OF THE POLLUTANT

- Use alternative products
- Lifestyle changes e.g. avoid overseas holidays, travel to work by bus etc.
- Campaigns, education, economic incentives and legislation to encourage the above strategies

PROS

- May save money on products and transport
- Possible to have multiple benefits e.g. reducing the use of cars can reduce smog and reduce CO₂ emissions

CONS

- The alternatives may be more expensive
- People can be reluctant to adopt lifestyle changes

LEVEL 2

CONTROL THE RELEASE OF THE POLLUTANT

- Legislation and regulations on standards of emissions
- Use technology like gas scrubbers and catalytic converters
- Separate waste into different types (so harmful waste can be separated)

PROS

- Allows continued use of products without lifestyle changes
- Some solutions e.g. catalytic converters can be cost effective in the long term

CONS

- Technology to remove pollutants from emissions can be expensive and this cost will be passed on to the consumer

LEVEL 3

CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION OF THE DAMAGED ECOSYSTEM

- Remove the pollutant from the environment
- Restore environmental conditions e.g. liming acidified lakes
- Replanting or restocking depleted/lost populations

PROS

- Restores damaged ecosystems (to some extent)

CONS

- Usually very expensive
- Often only a short-term solution
- Needs to be repeated regularly if the root cause of the problem is not tackled