



ECO HOLIDAYS

Protect the Environment, Give Back to Nature!



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THE PROBLEM OF MICROPLASTICS *in the environment*

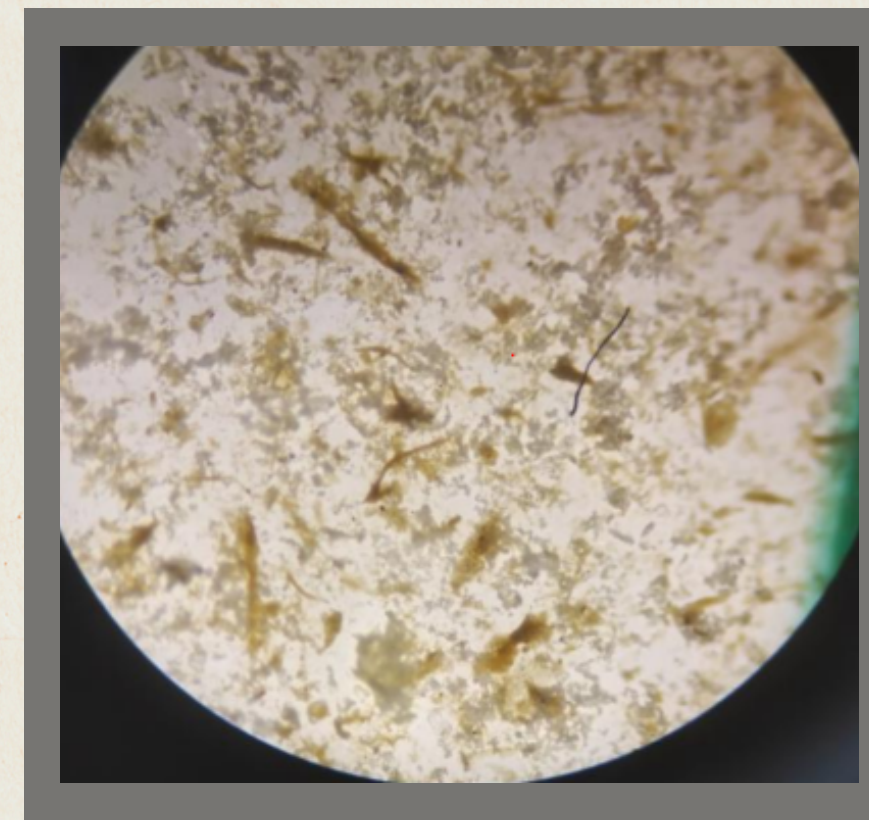
Plastic pollution is a global issue, with an estimated 11 million tons of plastic waste entering waterways every year.

Microplastics, invisible to the naked eye, are one of the most dangerous forms of pollution.

Our GLOBE team focused on the Drava River, collecting water samples to identify microplastic contamination.

Findings: Every sample we analyzed contained microplastics!

Primary sources: discarded plastic waste, industrial runoff, and even microbeads from personal care products.



Microscopic
Analysis of
Microplastics



MICROPLASTICS AND HOLIDAY WASTE

Holidays significantly contribute to the plastic pollution problem: Wrapping paper with plastic coatings, synthetic decorations, and disposable packaging.

Example: 60 tons of waste were generated at the Varaždin cemetery alone after All Saints' Day.

Most of this waste is improperly disposed of and eventually breaks down into microplastics. The Drava River, which flows through our community, reflects these global patterns of pollution





THE MICROPLASTICS PROJECT

Our research included:

Collecting water and sediment samples from various locations along the Drava River.

**Using microscopes and filters to isolate and identify microplastics in the samples.
Documenting sources of pollution and proposing solutions.**



Key Results:

Urban areas had higher microplastic concentrations due to runoff and improper waste management. Even rural areas were not free from contamination, highlighting the widespread nature of the issue.

IMPORTANCE: MICROPLASTICS DON'T JUST POLLUTE RIVERS - THEY ALSO AFFECT DRINKING WATER AND FOOD.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Christmas gift in a reused glass jar

To address the plastic pollution, we promoted sustainable practices during holidays:

Eco-friendly gifts: Handmade jars decorated with natural and reusable materials.

Waste-free wrapping: Fabric wraps and recycled paper replaced single-use plastic.



Workshops: We engaged the community by teaching them how to create eco-friendly decorations and reduce their holiday waste footprint.

These activities not only helped reduce waste but also raised awareness about the importance of reducing plastic consumption.





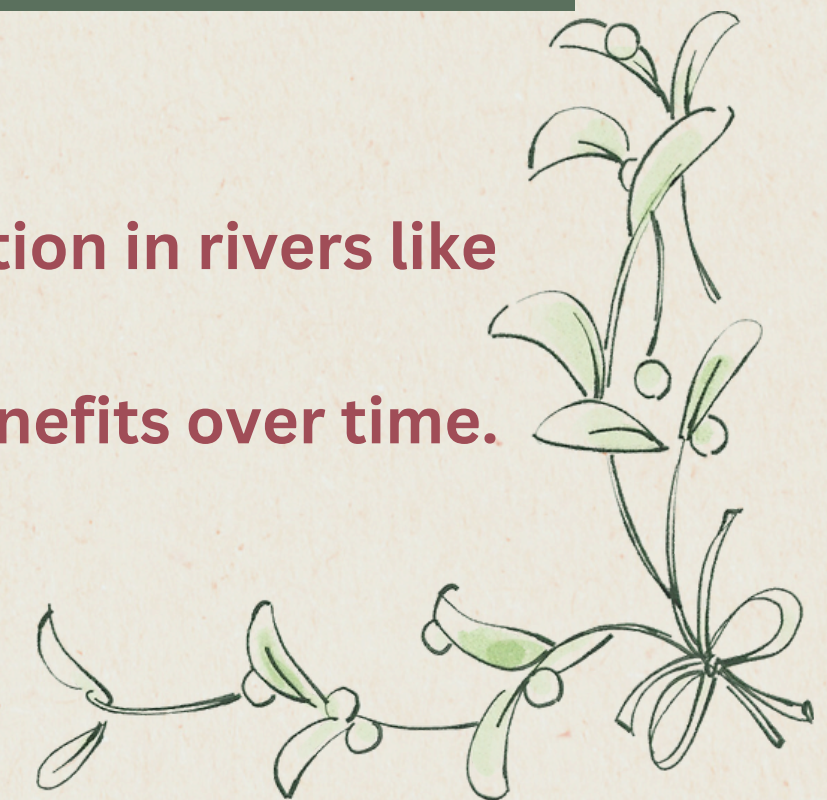
IMPACTS OF MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics affect both nature and humans:

In ecosystems: Harmful to aquatic organisms, disrupting food chains.

In humans: Microplastics are found in water, food, and even the air we breathe, with potential to cause long-term health issues such as hormonal imbalances and digestive disorders.

**By reducing plastic use during holidays, we can directly reduce microplastic pollution in rivers like Drava.
Eco-friendly practices are small changes that lead to significant environmental benefits over time.**



OUR VISION FOR CHANGE



Holidays offer an opportunity to live more sustainably:
Reuse and recycle holiday materials to prevent waste.

Choose quality over quantity: durable and eco-friendly decorations.

Educate others about the dangers of microplastics and how simple actions can make a difference.

Together, we can protect rivers like the Drava and create a cleaner, safer environment for future generations.

Take Action Today! Reflect on your habits, make greener choices, and inspire others to do the same.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

