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How clean is our drinking water?

*In the project “Our future (in Oldenburg)”, some 9th grade students are pushing for the construction of **drinking water fountains**.*

You’ve probably heard that plastics contaminate our drinking water. But how does this impact our health? Water is one of our most important basic resources. Many public access points to drinking water are, however, polluted. In many instances, it’s our own fault. For example, we buy drinking water in plastic bottles. Some researchers warn that certain harmful substances can pass from the plastic into the water. When consumed, they act like hormones. They can make you happy or sad - or sick.

Additionally, a lot of plastic waste ends up in the sea. Here, the harmful substances swim around until they evaporate with the water, rise upwards and form clouds in the sky. When it rains, it falls back to earth and seeps into the groundwater.

Besides the risk for us humans, animals and plants are also endangered. They drink the water or absorb it through the rain. This could result in a decline in animal populations.

Sewage treatment plants already purify the various drinking water sources very thoroughly, but small impurities cannot be filtered out.

Drinking water fountains are a good alternative to plastic bottles. By the end of the school year, our project group hopes to win over local residents of our home town Oldenburg to this idea. Our goal is to add drinking fountains to the Oldenburg city centre. Passers-by will then be able to drink water directly from the tap free of charge or collect water in containers they bring with them. According to our research, one such fountain costs about 3,000 euros. We are already working on a Power-Point presentation that will demonstrate the necessity and benefits of the purchase.

Quelle:

<https://www.handelsblattmachtschule.de/angebote/newcomer/archiv/newcomer-engl-ausgabe.html>