

December 2025

## BALTIPLAST in Hamburg – Together for Less Plastic!

### A Review

As part of the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region project [BALTIPLAST](#), the Baltic Environmental Forum Germany (BEF) worked on strategies to prevent and reduce plastic waste in the Baltic Sea Region. In Hamburg, and particularly in the district of Bergedorf, these goals were implemented locally in collaboration with partners and citizens through events, educational activities, and clean-up initiatives.

A central aim of all activities was to motivate consumers—especially at home—to reduce their use of single-use plastics. To support this, an [online tool](#) was developed to help individuals track and lower their single-use plastic consumption. Users regularly enter data about their plastic waste, either by weighing or estimating it. The tool tracks and visualizes changes over time, revealing opportunities for savings and summarizes the progress. It also provides educational materials such as guides and pocket brochures to encourage lasting behavior change toward less plastic in everyday life. This practical approach raises awareness and supports gradual, achievable reduction of plastic waste.

A similar tool was also designed specifically for businesses. Below is a look back at the highlights of our activities.

### Bergedorf

#### Bergedorf Climate Week

From 8 to 13 April 2024, BEF, together with HAW Hamburg, the Bergedorf District Office, and KuBus e.V. – Initiative “Plastic-Free City”, organized [Climate Week Bergedorf](#) at the event space *Plietsch*.

The week centered around one key question: *How can we all avoid plastic in everyday life?*

Through workshops for pupils, discussion rounds, a litter clean-up activity, an escape game, and a screening of the film *Plastic Fantastic*, people of all ages could participate and learn about sustainable alternatives. The week was officially opened by Hamburg’s former Senator for the Environment, Jens Kerstan, and Cornelia Schmidt-Hoffmann, Head of the Bergedorf District Office.

#### Cooperation with Leuschnerstraße Primary School

An outstanding example of successful education for sustainable development is the close collaboration with Leuschnerstraße Primary School in Bergedorf. Since May 2023, HAW Hamburg, BEF, and the

school's teachers have developed interactive formats to integrate plastic reduction into everyday school life.

During Climate Week Bergedorf, 35 children attended the theatre play *Flupsi the Fish*, which highlights the consequences of marine plastic waste. In the following Sustainability Week in June 2024, more than 350 children took part in workshops on "Plastic in Everyday Life and How to Avoid It" and visited the Bergedorf Recycling Center. Together with their families, they also carried out a personal "plastic inventory" following the [Plastic Diet Programme](#).

Other highlights included participation in the ["Sustainable Christmas Days"](#) (December 2024) and ["Easter Egg Hunt Week"](#) (April 2025), where over 500 children created sustainable, plastic-free decorations and playfully learned about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Household Award Ceremony**

At the end of 2024, BEF invited participants to a [thank-you event](#) on 10 December at Plietsch in Bergedorf. Together with the Bergedorf District Office, the Initiative "Plastic-Free City", and HAW Hamburg, we honored households that had successfully reduced their single-use plastic consumption as part of BALTIPLAST.

### **Outlook**

The cooperation between KuBus e.V., BEF, and the Bergedorf District Office has proven especially fruitful under BALTIPLAST, providing key impulses for resource conservation and circular economy efforts. Building on the success of past joint initiatives, the collaboration will continue into late 2025 — with events designed to raise awareness of plastic-free alternatives among both employees and citizens. In addition, the district office is evaluating its own plastic consumption to develop future measures and anchor sustainable structures for the long term.

### **Clean-ups**

#### **World Cleanup Day Activities**

On 20 September 2024, BEF organized its own clean-up event in Isebekpark, Hamburg-Eimsbüttel, as part of the global World Cleanup Day. Together with Stadtreinigung Hamburg, several bags of waste were collected, and more than 50 passers-by received information about plastic reduction. The event demonstrated that everyone can contribute to a cleaner environment—and reduce their own plastic consumption at home.

#### **Hamburg Cleans Up!**

BEF remained active in 2025: on 14 February, the team joined the "Hamburg Cleans Up!" campaign and carried out a clean-up along the Isebek Canal. In addition to filling bags of trash (and collecting stray

e-scooters), many committed volunteers helped raise awareness of the negative impacts of single-use plastics.

## **International Cooperation: Baltic Sea Plastic-Free**

### **Sailing Action & Cleanup**

In July 2024, BEF, together with the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation (Håll Sverige Rent), HAW Hamburg, and the initiative #SailingForSeas, took part in a cross-border event in Stockholm. During the two-hour clean-up “Baltic Sea Plastic-Free” along the Strandvägen promenade, large amounts of plastic waste were removed from the Baltic Sea—supported by emission-free sailing activists and numerous volunteers. The message was clear: More Oceans, Less Plastic!

## **Fehmarnbelt Days 2025**

### **On-Site Presence**

At the Fehmarnbelt Days 2025, BEF presented its projects promoting sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region. Through interactive activities, quizzes, and DIY workshops, visitors learned how plastic reduction and recyclability can be put into practice in daily life. The strong interest—especially among young people—showed that awareness of sustainable consumption continues to grow.

## **Our Plastic Guide**

### **A Practical Guide to Reducing Plastic**

In addition to these activities, BEF developed the guide [\*\*“Plastic is Fantastic – But Less is More: The Path to a Plastic-Free Everyday Life”\*\*](#). This guide explains what plastics are, why they can be problematic for the environment, health, and social justice, and how everyone can reduce plastic use through conscious everyday choices and by avoiding single-use products. It answers core questions about plastic types, production, and recycling, discusses impacts on climate and ecosystems, and offers practical tips for living with less plastic step by step. Acting as a “travel companion” through different areas of daily life, it shows realistic ways to move toward a plastic-reduced lifestyle.

This guide served as a valuable resource across all our events, clearly communicating the goals of the BALTIPLAST project.

The guide is available in different languages, such as [Turkish](#) or [Ukrainian](#).

## **Our Conclusion**

With every event, workshop, and conversation, awareness for a plastic-reduced city continues to grow. BEF remains committed—together for a cleaner Hamburg and a healthy Baltic Sea!