

Video: Plastic—the new fantastic?

5 June 2020



use resources without irreversibly changing the planet for [future generations](#)," adds Professor Erwin Reisner, who leads CirPlas, which is funded by UK Research and Innovation.

Provided by University of Cambridge

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Plastic has become a malevolent symbol of our wasteful society. It's also cheap, durable, flexible, waterproof, versatile, lightweight, protective and hygienic.

During the coronavirus pandemic, plastic visors, goggles, gloves and aprons have been fundamental for protecting healthcare workers from the virus. But what about the effects on the environment of throwing away huge numbers of single-use medical protection equipment? How are we to balance our need for plastic with protecting the environment?

Released on 5 June 2020, World Environment Day, this new film considers how society might 'reset the clock' when it comes to living better with a vital material. We hear how Cambridge University's Cambridge Creative Circular Plastics Centre (CirPlas) aims to eliminate [plastic waste](#) by combining blue-sky thinking with practical measures—from turning waste plastic into [hydrogen fuel](#), to manufacturing more sustainable materials, to driving innovations in plastic recycling in a [circular economy](#).

"Plastic is an example of how we must find ways to

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