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Adventure Ecology's Plastiki Expedition begins her second leg across the Pacific Ocean

After spending 10 days on Christmas Island (Kiritimati Atoll) the Plastiki crew are making final preparations to set sail on Sunday for the next leg of their adventure across the Pacific to Australia.

Why? The Plastiki and her crew are on a mission to beat waste - 68% of the Plastiki's buoyancy is provided by using approx 12,500 of the everyday, highly consumed plastic bottle, showcasing how waste, in particular single use plastic can be reused as a resource.

It is estimated that between 60% and 80% of the marine pollution in the world is comprised of plastic materials. With the concentration increasing within the northern and southern Gyres to as much as 90 to 95% of the total amount.

According to Project Aware, 15 billion pounds of plastic are produced in the U.S. every year, and only 1 billion pounds are recycled.

It is estimated that in excess of 38 billion plastic bottles and 25 million styrene foam cups end up in landfill and although plastic bottles are 100% recyclable, on average only 20% are actually recycled.

Aiming to be an off the grid vessel, the Plastiki uses many energy systems that are directly influenced by natural processes, including:

Twin wind turbines, a trailing sea turbine, a vertical hydroponic garden, a bicycle generator, a regenerative electrical system, solar panels, and a rain water catchment system.

As the Plastiki travelled from San Francisco to the Line Islands the weather offered little rain and so the crew relied upon the purified rainwater stored pre-departure in the twin hulls of the catamaran. Performing minor maintenance and rigorous checks on the vessel have taken place during their stay with re-stocking the Plastiki being an important task, with water used for washing, cooking and drinking high up on their list of priorities.

David de Rothschild- Adventure Ecology's founder and the Plastiki Expedition leader fills us in on how the crew sourced and re-filled the water tanks locally...

"Today (May 6th) is our water day; we plan on filling up the big bladder bags that sit in the Plastiki's twin hulls which carry about a thousand litres of water. We made contact with a local supplier who had put aside some rainwater which he's purified for us.

This time we're going to take a little bit more water, the last leg went a little slower than anticipated so we were running slightly lighter on water towards the end, though we did have a nice downpour just before we reached Kiritimati Island which



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helped fill up the tanks. This leg we will probably take about 1,400 litres of water which is approximately 1.4 tonnes of water

We have to move the boat from her mooring to up alongside the dock and then gravity feeds the water off the back of the truck from some small containers into the big bladder bags of which there are four on each side. We leave on Sunday, the crew are excited to start the next leg."

Finding new ways to source, store and use water responsibly is an important factor in reducing the plastic debris in our oceans. Global bottled water consumption reached 154 billion litres in 2004 and for every one litre bottle produced another 3 litres of water is used in the bottle's manufacture. This alone shows that the world needs to be encouraged to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink.

Making a difference doesn't have to be difficult, one of Plastiki's goals is to see a 75% or more reduction in the amount of human produced waste heading out to landfill and sea. We believe that with a small shift and some smart thinking everyone could reduce their use of new plastic bottles, plastic bags and styrene foam. It's achievable if we work together on making small changes in our lives like the [MyPlastiki pledge](#) or remembering the 4R's: reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink.

To make your pledge for a plastic free ocean and more positive, ecological initiatives please log on to myplastiki.com

For further information please go to www.theplastiki.com

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