

Seasonality and Environmental Impact Status of Polyethylene (Cellophane) Generation and Disposal in Benin City, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This paper investigates the environmental impact and seasonal variation of polyethylene (cellophane) generation and disposal in Benin City, Nigeria. Cellophane was generated from seven randomly selected markets. Two hundred and fifty respondents in the markets were given questionnaire and two wastebaskets each to determine the rate and types of cellophane generated in the markets and their homes. The results show that polyethylene is generated more during the dry season months (November – March) than the wet season months (April to October). Evbarake Spare Parts Market, which is not a foodstuff market, and also dominated, by male traders, registered the highest cellophane generation and disposal (51.31kg), followed by Oliha (48.72kg), New Benin (37.53kg) and Aduwawa (32.71kg). Based on the type of cellophane, table water sachet topped the list followed by cellophane for assorted items, ice cream and biscuit wrappers in that order. Polyethylene generation was higher in the markets than at home. At home and in the market an individual generated 4.85 (55.29kg), 145.8 (1.66kg) and 1749.6 (19.945kg) daily, monthly and annual bases. Cheapness and availability are some of the reasons for constant patronage of cellophane. Indiscriminate polyethylene disposal has constituted environmental nuisance and degradation. For cleaner and sustainable environments, vigorous enlightenment campaign, proper collection techniques and recycling among others are recommended.