



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

# TOWARDS ZERO PLASTIC WASTE IN CANADA

August 20, 2019

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Annual Conference



Canada 

# OUTLINE

- Plastics: Global issue and opportunity
- Towards zero plastic waste in Canada
  - CCME Canada-wide Strategy and Action Plan
  - Government of Canada action
- Waste exports

# PLASTICS: GLOBAL ISSUE AND OPPORTUNITY

- **Integral to the global economy**
  - >380 million tonnes produced / year
- **Plastic pollution impacts ecosystems, tourism, fisheries, livelihoods and potentially human health**
  - >150 million tonnes of plastics in the oceans and >8 million tonnes added each year
- **Poorly managed globally, wasting valuable resources and energy**
  - 6% of current global oil consumption
  - 9% recycled and 91% landfilled, littered or incinerated
  - USD 80-120 billion / year global opportunity to recover value from plastic packaging alone



**Urgent need for global action to reduce plastic pollution and recover lost value**

# PLASTICS: GLOBAL ISSUE AND OPPORTUNITY

- **Canada launched the Ocean Plastics Charter under its 2018 G7 Presidency**
  - Commitment to take action on all plastics (including packaging, single-use and durable products) throughout their lifecycle
  - \$100 million to help developing countries address plastic pollution
- **Mobilizing international action**
  - G7, G20, United Nations, OECD, Basel Convention and others

## Key Ocean Plastics Charter Targets

- *100% reusable, recyclable, or recoverable plastics by 2030*
- *Increasing recycled content in products by at least 50% by 2030*
- *Recycle and reuse at least 55% of plastic packaging by 2030 and recover 100% of all plastics by 2040*
- *Reduce the use of plastic microbeads by 2020, and address other sources of microplastics*

Taking action through international leadership, innovation and partnerships

# TOWARDS ZERO PLASTIC WASTE IN CANADA

**Zero plastic waste** means keeping all plastics in the economy and out of the environment

- **86% of Canada's plastic waste was landfilled in 2016, representing a lost value of up to \$7.8 billion / year**
  - Rest was recycled (9%), incinerated for energy (4%) or leaked to the environment (1% or 29,000 tonnes)
  - Main sources: packaging (47%), automotive (9%), textiles (7%), electronics (7%) and construction (5%)
  - Plastic litter and microplastics found on all three coasts and in freshwater systems, including the Great Lakes
- **Achieving zero plastic waste by 2030 could generate >40,000 jobs and recover up to \$4.8 billion in lost value**
  - Opportunity for Canadian innovations in product design, end-of-life collection, clean-up and recycling

**Zero plastic waste will deliver significant environmental and economic benefits**

# TOWARDS ZERO PLASTIC WASTE IN CANADA

- In 2018, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) launched a **Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste**
  - Comprehensive, circular-economy approach in priority result areas across the plastics lifecycle
- **CCME Action Plan** to implement the Strategy:
  - Phase 1 was approved in June 2019 with concrete actions for the first five result areas
  - Phase 2 will be developed in 2020 and focus on the remaining five result areas

1. PRODUCT DESIGN

6. CONSUMER AWARENESS

2. SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

7. AQUATIC ACTIVITIES

3. COLLECTION SYSTEMS

8. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

4. MARKETS

9. CLEAN-UP

5. RECYCLING CAPACITY

10. GLOBAL ACTION

Working with provinces and territories on a Canada-wide approach

# TOWARDS ZERO PLASTIC WASTE IN CANADA

## Phase 1 of the CCME Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste (June 2019)

<b>Extended producer responsibility (EPR)</b>	Facilitate consistent EPR programs for plastics through guidance on categories, definitions, standards, etc.
<b>Single-use and disposable products</b>	Develop a roadmap to address priority single-use and disposable plastics most commonly released into the environment
<b>National performance requirements and standards</b>	Develop targets and timelines for recycled content; new standards for bio-based plastics; a roadmap for specific sectors for repair, reuse and remanufacture; and guidelines for recyclability
<b>Incentives for a circular economy</b>	Develop best management practices; economic and fiscal incentives; and agreements and tools with willing industry sectors
<b>Infrastructure and innovation investments</b>	Assess infrastructure needs for improved plastics life-cycle management and facilitate access to capital funding or financing
<b>Public procurement and green operations</b>	Develop guidelines and tools for government procurement practices to green operations and reduce plastic

**Canada will be actively involved in implementing all areas of the action plan**

# TOWARDS ZERO PLASTIC WASTE IN CANADA

- **Canada is funding organizations to support pollution prevention, citizen science and community cleanups**
- **Projects funded include:**
  - The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
  - 10,000 Changes
  - The Ocean Pollution Research Program
  - Ocean Plastics Education Kit

**Working with communities and organizations to tackle plastic pollution**

# ENGAGEMENT AND NEXT STEPS

- **Ongoing engagement with provinces, territories, other governments, businesses and stakeholders**
  - Implementing the Canada-wide action plan
  - Building the science and evidence base
  - Consulting on measures and options
  - Developing innovative technologies and solutions
  - Strengthening standards and performance requirements
  - Collaborating to prevent pollution and protect the marine environment
  - Improving industry collaboration and coordination

*“We have a responsibility to work with our partners to reduce plastic pollution, protect the environment, and create jobs and grow our economy”*

*- The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada*

**Moving forward together towards zero plastic waste**

# PLASTIC WASTE EXPORTS

- Countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia and China have put in place controls on imports of plastic waste
- Recent amendments to the Basel Convention aim to strengthen control of transboundary movements of plastic waste (hazardous, non-hazardous and non-recyclable):
  - The amendments will enter into force in January 2021
  - Canadian organizations wanting to export this kind of waste will have to obtain consent from the importing/transit Parties before shipment can take place (except for the US)
- By supporting demand for recycled plastics, our goal remains to keep all plastic in the economy and out of the environment

# THANK YOU

Contact us: [ec.plastiques-plastics.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.plastiques-plastics.ec@canada.ca)

## Links

- ECCC Plastics website: [www.canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste](http://www.canada.ca/zero-plastic-waste)
- Ocean Plastics Charter: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/international-commitments/ocean-plastics-charter.html>
- CCME Strategy and Action Plan: [www.ccme.ca/en/resources/waste/waste/plastic-waste.html](http://www.ccme.ca/en/resources/waste/waste/plastic-waste.html)
- Canada's Plastics Science Agenda: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/canada-science-plastic-agenda.html>
- Economic study of the Canadian plastic industry, markets and waste (Deloitte): <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-pollution/publications/plastic-waste-report.html>

