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Canada

Toward a national approach to zero plastic waste

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Overview

- Global perspective on plastics and marine litter
- The Ocean Plastics Charter
- Towards a national approach to zero plastic waste



Global plastic production and use

- Integral to the economy: Low cost, unrivalled functionality & durability
- Used in all sectors with majority in packaging, construction & automotive
- Increase from 1.5 to >380 million tonnes produced/year since 1950s
- More than 1,000 types with ~90% made from virgin fossil fuels
- Poorly managed: Globally, ~9% recycled, ~12% incinerated, and remaining 79% landfilled or littered

Plastics Demand by Sector (2015)

Packaging	40%
Building & Construction	20%
Automotive	9%
Electrical & Electronic	6%
Agriculture	3%
Others	22%

Source: Plastics Europe 2016; Data refer to EU-28, Norway and Switzerland



Plastic waste and marine litter

- Significant wasted material value and embedded energy.
 - USD 80-120 B/year in plastic packaging material value lost to the economy.
 - 6% of global oil consumption (20% by 2050).
- > 150 million tonnes of plastics are in the oceans.
 - 8 million tonnes of plastic waste enters the oceans from land every year
 - Without action plastics input could double by 2025 with more plastic than fish by weight in the oceans by 2050
- > \$13 billion/year damage to marine ecosystems.
 - >600 marine species affected; 15% are endangered
 - Impacts tourism, fisheries, shipping, livelihoods and potentially human health



Macrodebris UN Environment



Microbeads pixabay.com



Pellets © Dave Crawford



Fragments 5 Gyres



Emerging international leadership

Initiatives and commitments to address marine litter and micro-plastics have recently been adopted by many international bodies



2018 EU Plastics Strategy

2030 Goals

- All plastics packaging placed on the EU market is either reusable or can be recycled in a cost-effective manner
- >50% of plastics waste generated in Europe is recycled
- 400% increase in sorting and recycling capacity since 2015

Action Areas

- Improving the economics and quality of plastics recycling
- Curb plastics waste and littering
- Drive investment and innovation towards circular solutions
- Harness global action

Sample Initiatives

- Improved collection & recovery (Harmonized EPR, deposit-systems)
- Incentives for design & recycled content (financial, regulatory)
- EU-wide pledging campaign to use recycled plastics
- Investment in circular solutions
- Targeted research & action on single-use plastics; fishing gear; aquaculture; compostable plastics; micro-plastics



Global industry momentum

Global plastics industry commitments

- Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter
- Canadian and American industry association goals of 100% recyclable or recoverable plastic packaging by 2030 and 100% of packaging reused, recycled or recovered by 2040

New plastics economy

- Led by Ellen MacArthur Foundation with goal to rethink and redesign the future of plastics, starting with packaging
- January 2018: 11 leading companies commit to **100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging by 2025** or earlier (*including Unilever and Walmart*)
- June 2018: Launch of **UK Plastics Pact** with industry, governments and NGOs along the value chain committing to ambitious 2025 targets for reuse, recycling, composting and recycled content



Ocean Plastics Charter

- Developed under Canada's G7 Presidency and introduced by Prime Minister Trudeau at the G7 Leaders Summit in Charlevoix in June 2018. Adopted by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.
- A comprehensive commitment to take action on all plastics (including packaging, single-use and durable products) throughout their lifecycle to reduce plastic waste and marine litter.
- Follow up actions being discussed at G7 Environment Ministers Meeting in Halifax from September 19-21, 2018.



<https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OceanPlasticsCharter.pdf>



Ocean Plastics Charter highlights

Key Targets

- Working with industry towards 100% reusable, recyclable, or where viable alternatives do not exist, recoverable plastics by 2030
- Working with industry towards increasing recycled content by at least 50% in plastic products where applicable by 2030.
- Working with industry and other levels of government to recycle and reuse at least 55% of plastic packaging by 2030 and recover 100% of all plastics by 2040



Commitments to action across five pillars:

1. Sustainable design, production and after-use markets
2. Collection, management and other systems and infrastructure
3. Sustainable lifestyles and education
4. Research, innovation and new technologies
5. Coastal and shoreline action



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Plastic use and disposal in Canada

- **\$29.2 B plastics industry in Canada.**
 - Durables (e.g. electronics) & non-durables (e.g. packaging, single-use products).
 - Most use is for packaging (39%), construction (33%) and automotive (14%).
- **Up to 89% of plastic waste in Canada is sent to landfills or incinerators.**
 - 20-25% of plastic packaging is recycled. Limited data on durables.
 - Products covered by product stewardship have highest collection & recycling
 - Majority (66%) of plastic waste collected for recycling is processed in Canada.
- **Canada released ~8,000 tonnes of plastic waste into oceans from land in 2010**
 - Marine litter and microplastics found on all three coasts and in freshwater systems, including the Great Lakes
 - Plastics are in 10 of the top 12 items collected in shoreline clean-ups

Top twelve most collected items in Canadian shoreline clean-ups



1. Tiny Plastic or Foam



7. Plastic Bags



2. Cigarette Butts



8. Miscellaneous Packaging



3. Plastic Beverage Bottles



9. Straws & Stirrers



4. Food Wrappers



10. Foam materials



5. Plastic Bottle Caps



11. Beverage Cans



6. Paper Materials



12. Rope (1 piece = 1 meter)

Federal activities to date

- Legislation and regulations in place to prevent pollution and protect habitat. In 2017 Canada became one of the first countries to phase out microbeads in toiletries.
- Investments in waste and wastewater infrastructure, industry innovation and research on marine litter and microplastics
- Support for national initiatives such as the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up
- National engagement, including ECCC-led online public consultation (Moving Canada towards zero plastic waste) and CCME-led stakeholder consultation.
- Federal leadership to reduce waste and increase diversion in federal operations under the Greening Government Strategy
- Strengthening international public and private sector investments, including committing \$100 million to support plastic waste management and innovation in developing countries



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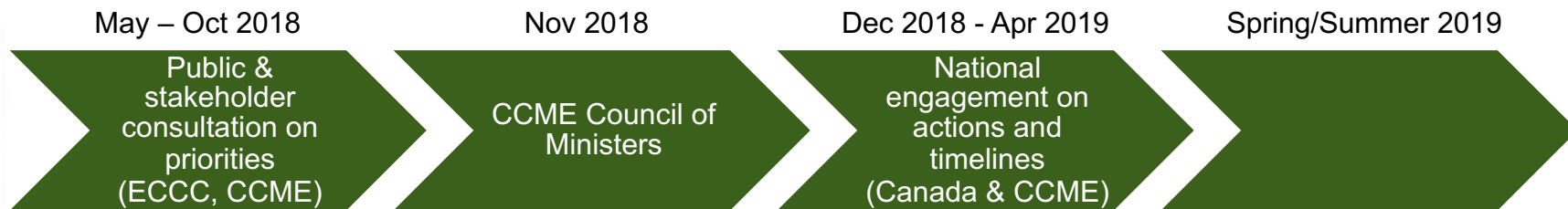
Closes Sep. 21!

www.placespeak.com/moving-toward-zero-plastic-waste



Moving toward a national approach

- A national zero plastic waste approach that:
 - Supports implementation of the Ocean Plastics Charter
 - Has broad federal, provincial, territorial (FPT) support
 - Keeps plastics in the economy and out of landfills and the environment
 - Supports long-term transition to a circular economy
- Will develop the approach through:
 - FPT collaboration through the CCME
 - Stakeholder engagement (Industry, NGOs, researchers)
 - Public engagement



Thank you!

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