

Small Cities can Prevent and Reduce Plastic Pollution.

The Issue.

Plastics have enriched us all, consumers, producers and service providers. Like all good things, too much is too much; and that may be where we are with plastics. Cities are taking action, as shown below.

The Pacific Ocean sumps are the most dramatic evidence of our abuse of plastics and their disposal. Local beaches, rivers and lakes suffer likewise as do landfills and littered roadside rights-of-ways.



Recycling is growing. The US EPA found that in 2014 about 258 million tons of Municipal solid waste [MSW] were generated. More than 89 million tons of MSW were recycled and composted, equivalent to a 34.6 percent recycling rate. But programs beyond recycling are needed, as shown below.

The following pages offer a wide range of mitigation and collection programs directed at plastic waste. Large states, New York, and small cities, Iowa City, are taking the challenge seriously. Recently, Florida's Governor, Ron DeSantis, as reported in the Orlando Sentinel...

"last month vetoed a bill, embraced by his own party, that would have prevented cities and counties from banning plastic straws until 2024. In an encouraging veto message, DeSantis noted that such decisions are best left to locals. Previous legislatures and governors have foolishly stopped locals from regulating single-use plastic grocery bags and foam cups."

Recommended Municipal Actions.

1. Cities of any size can take actions to reduce pollution related to plastic bags, food and drink containers.
2. There are many cities, states and private/public entities taking action. Mentors and partners are readily available.
3. Actions are cumulative; do something, others will follow.

FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.....[BUSINESS](#)

McDonald's Happy Meal Toys Caught in Backlash Over Plastic

British petition calls for fast-food giant to scrap plastic toys included in kids' meals

By

[Saabira Chaudhuri](#)

Updated July 8, 2019 11:27 am ET

LONDON—The plastic backlash has a new target: Happy Meal toys.

Read more...

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/mcdonalds-happy-meal-toys-caught-in-backlash-over-plastic-11562583605>

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By **ORLANDO SENTINEL EDITORIAL BOARD.**

Orlando's ban on plastics at city venues sets an example for the private sector and other governments | Editorial

| ORLANDO SENTINEL | JUN 07, 2019 | 11:16 AM

Read more... <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/editorials/os-op-orlando-ban-plastics-amway-editorial-20190607-qbcwmhf3p5ctvb7hlgvipyul6u-story.html>

WALL STREET JOURNAL, U.S.

Plastic Bans: What You Need to Know

Single-use plastics have become a focal point for lawmakers seeking to reduce waste, but the industry is pushing back

Read more... <https://www.wsj.com/articles/plastic-bans-what-you-need-to-know-11561195802>

OneGreenPlanet.

This Publix Just Banned Plastic Bags – What Are Other Supermarkets Waiting For?

Read more...<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/news/publix-banned-plastic-bags/>

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National Geographic Society.

[ENVIRONMENT PLANET OR PLASTIC?](#)

A running list of action on plastic pollution

The world is waking up to a crisis of ocean plastic—and we're tracking the developments and solutions as they happen.

BY [BRIAN CLARK HOWARD](#), [SARAH GIBBENS](#), [ELAINA ZACHOS](#),
AND [LAURA PARKER](#)

PUBLISHED JUNE 10, 2019

This article was created in partnership with the National Geographic Society.

The world has a [plastic pollution problem](#) and it's snowballing—but so is public awareness and action. *National Geographic* magazine devoted a [special cover package to plastic in June 2018](#). Here, we continue to track some of the developments around this important issue. We will update this article periodically as news develops.

- Canada aims to ban single-use plastics by 2021, June 10, 2019
- Peru restricts single-use plastic, January 17, 2019
- San Diego bans styrofoam food and drink containers, January 11, 2019
- D.C. plastic straw ban begins, January 1, 2019
- Plastic fact named stat of the year, December 20, 2018
- "single-use" named word of the year, November 7, 2018
- Aquariums band together for "no straw November", November 1, 2018
- 250 groups launch massive global plastic partnership, October 29, 2018
- EU parliament approves single-use plastic ban, October 26, 2018
- Consumer companies invest in waste collection, October 25, 2018
- Redirecting plastic streams away from the sea, October 22, 2018
- American airlines cuts plastic from lounges, October 19, 2018
- Foodservice companies phase out single-use plastic, October 18, 2018
- President Trump signs bill to clean up ocean plastics, October 12, 2018
- Red Lobster phasing out plastic straws, October 1, 2018
- California approves bill to limit straw use in restaurants, September 20, 2018
- Giant trash collector heads to pacific garbage patch, September 7, 2018
- United airlines bans plastic straws from flights, September 7, 2018
- Carlsberg beer dumps plastic can rings, September 7, 2018
- Disney announces ban on plastic straws, July 27, 2018
- National geographic travel partner bans single-use plastics, July 26, 2018
- Big companies take aim at plastic straws, July 13, 2018
- Chile's ban on retail plastic bags stands, July 6, 2018
- Seattle becomes first U.S. city to ban plastic straws and utensils, July 1, 2018
- EU, UK, and India propose plastic bans, May 28, 2018

Read more... <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/07/ocean-plastic-pollution-solutions/>

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The Economist.

July 6th, 2019... “China churns out 80bn pairs of disposable chopsticks a year.”

June 22nd, 2019... “Texas and California are the biggest, brashest, most important states in the union, each equally convinced that it is the future.” “In America’s federal system no single state is a national template, and yet each holds lessons for all the others.” They are big enough to determine pollution mitigation policies that drive national industrial production. “Call this imagined place Texafornia.”

IOWA CITY Climate Action Plan, population 70,000.

“The Iowa City Climate Action Plan identifies 35 action items critical to meeting the city’s emission reduction goals.” *Planning, The Magazine of the American Planning Association* in its April 2019 edition offers an article describing the Iowa City program. The City’s population is 75,000. The link is www.icgov.org/climateaction.

New York State, population 19 million.

New York just passed the most ambitious climate target in the country

Carbon-free electricity by 2040 and a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

By [David Roberts@drvox.com](mailto:David.Roberts@drvox.com) Jun 20, 2019, 11:15am EDT

Read more...<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/6/20/18691058/new-york-green-new-deal-climate-change-cuomo>

Quartz.

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GHOST

How to collect 40 tons of plastic trash from the ocean in a month

By [Ephrat Livni](#), June 24, 2019

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Ghost nets are a big problem, partly because they are continually being found in the oceans where they were never anticipated. Ephrat Livni's reporting describes the use of disposable GPS trackers employed by volunteer mariners traveling the oceans to find these abandoned nets that are subsequently collected for proper disposal:

"Ghost nets are among the greatest killers in our oceans, and not only because of their numbers. Literally hundreds of kilometers of nets get lost every year and due to the nature of the materials used to produce these nets they can and will keep fishing for multiple decades, possibly even for several centuries." <https://mission-blue.org/2013/05/ghost-nets-among-the-greatest-killers-in-our-oceans/>

"The Great Pacific Garbage Patch lies halfway between Hawaii and California. The shifting mass of trash covers an estimated surface area of about 618,000 sq miles (1.6 million sq km), about twice the size of Texas or three times the size of France. Ocean Voyages distributed reusable GPS trackers to mariners over the last year, asking them to leave the devices with ghost nets they encounter. When the institute's vessel took to the waters last month, the crew tracked their devices. They were able to collect the nets, their reusable tech, and other plastics found en route."

Read more...<https://qz.com/1650745/gps-collected-40-tons-of-great-pacific-garbage-patch-plastic/>