

Better laws to reduce ocean plastics

Every year, Canadians remove over 100,000 kilograms of trash that accumulates on our shorelines. But clean-ups don't address the root problem of plastics reduction – Canada needs binding legal solutions to prevent and mitigate plastic pollution.

Demand laws that will keep plastics out of our oceans and waterways.

LOCAL ACTION

Local governments can act on plastic pollution by bringing in bylaws to ban single-use plastic bags, place fees on plastic and/or paper bags, or implement a combination of bag bans and fees to limit their use.

If you don't have a city bylaw on plastic bags or other single-use plastics, you can start a campaign to get one passed.



PROVINCIAL ACTION

The BC government has the power to control waste and can take more action, such as putting fees on single-use plastics.

Citizens can write to the BC Minister of Environment and ask what action the government is taking on plastic waste. (ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca)

NATIONAL ACTION

In January 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada will use its year-long G7 presidency to turn the global spotlight on ocean plastics and pollution. But we also need real action to address pollution here at home.

Support the Parliamentary petition calling for a national strategy to combat plastic pollution in and around aquatic environments, which would include important regulatory and funding measures.

View and sign the petition at: <https://tinyurl.com/M151Petition>
(Open until April 11, 2018)

You can encourage your governments to take action on marine plastics.



Read more at wcel.org



Resources

LOCAL ACTION

West Coast Environmental Law's summary of regulatory actions in Canada and around the world to reduce single-use plastics

<https://tinyurl.com/WCEL-SingleUseActions>

* Helpful guide from the US Plastic Pollution Coalition on how to start a bag ban

<https://tinyurl.com/PlasticPollutionCoalition>

A 2017 report from the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria

<https://tinyurl.com/ELCPlasticPollutionReforms>

PROVINCIAL ACTION

* A US resource for legislative bodies considering laws limiting the use of plastic bags.

<https://www.plasticbaglaws.org/legislation>

NATIONAL ACTION

Petition to adopt M-151 national strategy for plastic pollution (open until April 11 2018)

<https://tinyurl.com/M151Petition>

A Guide to the Environmental Petitions Process

<https://tinyurl.com/EnvironmentalPetitionsProcess>

West Coast Environmental Law's petition for a national plastics strategy

<https://tinyurl.com/PlanktonOverPlastic>

* Canadian laws will vary

