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Zero Plastic Waste - Update on Plastics Initiatives and the Federal Plastics Registry

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Partners in Project Green

Circular Economy and Energy Leaders Consortium

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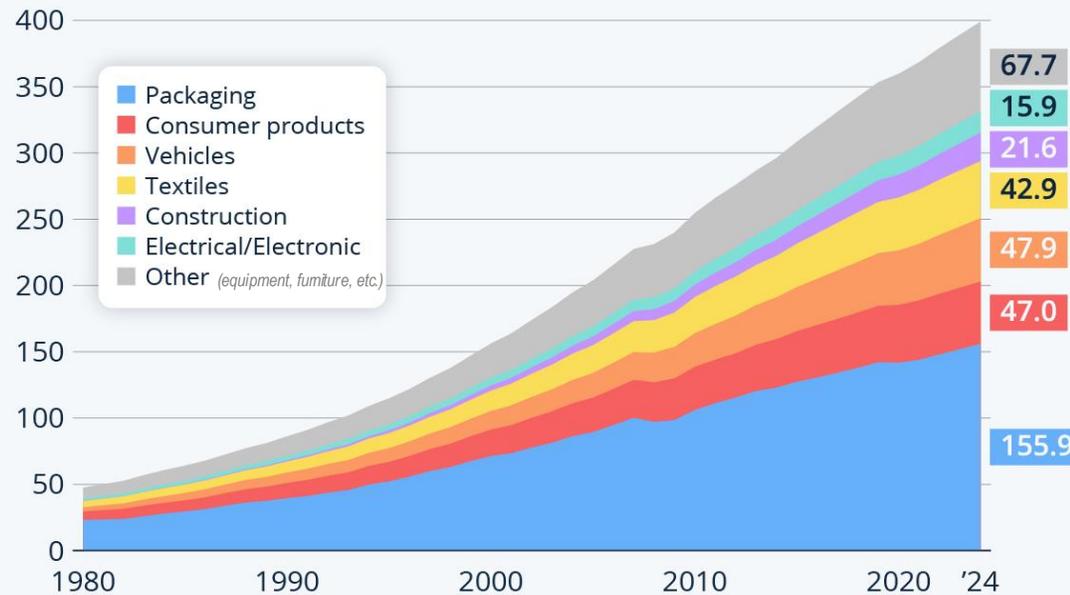
Canada 

State of Plastics Globally



- Global plastic production and waste is set to **triple** by 2060
- 22% of plastic waste is mismanaged or released into the environment - by 2040, 23-37 million tons of plastic waste will enter the ocean every year

Global plastics production, 1980 to 2020 (tonnes)



Data source: [OECD \(2022\)](#)



Plastic pollution costs up to **\$2.5 trillion** in **ecological, economic** and **social impacts** annually



Over **800 species** worldwide are impacted by marine litter



Plastic-related emissions could reach **1.34Gt/year** equivalent to **more than 295 new 500-MW coal-fired power plants** by 2030



Countries around the world are currently developing an **international legally binding instrument** on plastic pollution

State of Plastics in Canada



A threat...

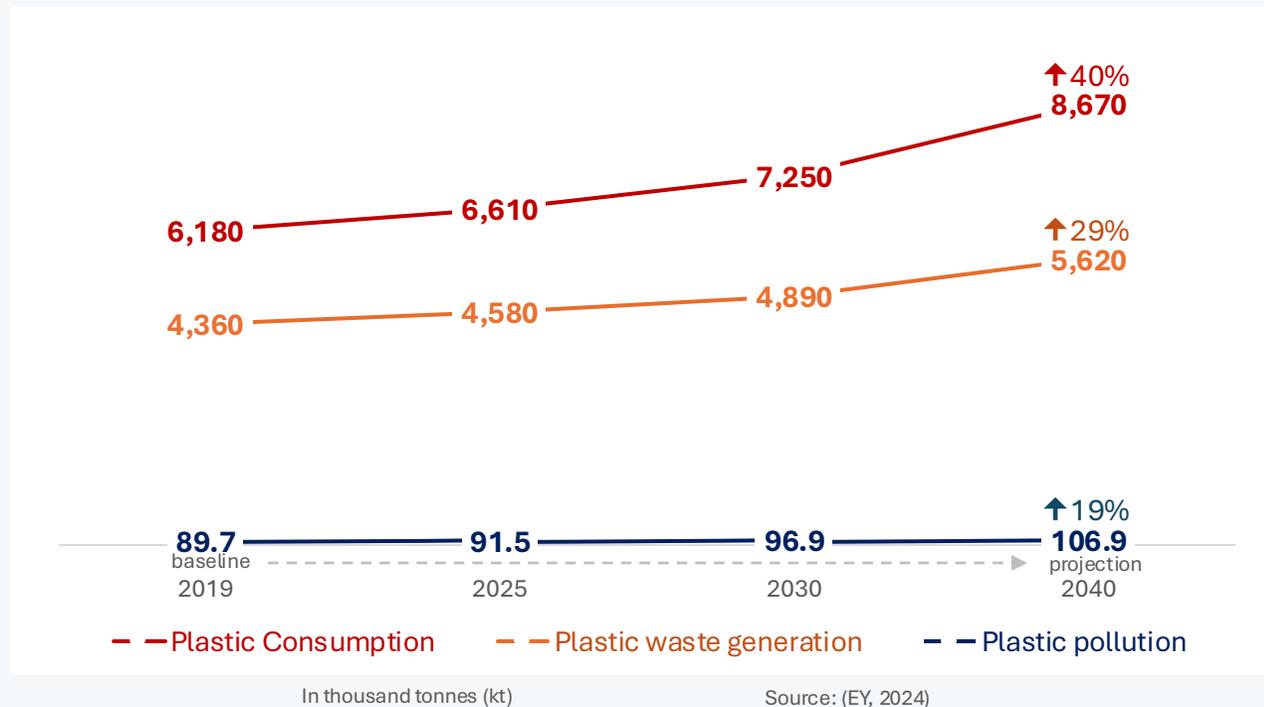
Plastic pollution is ubiquitous, persistent, harmful and comes from a wide range of sources, primarily attributed to the mismanagement of plastic waste. Plastic pollution is found across Canada in air, water, and land, and it impacts species.



But also an opportunity...

\$35B sector with almost **100,000 workers**, and a **\$540M recycling industry**

Plastic Consumption, Waste Generation and Pollution trends in Canada 2019 - 2040



In 2019, an estimated **90,000t of plastic materials** were **leaked** into the environment from three key sources: mismanaged solid waste (54%), litter and not recovered waste (34%), and stormwater (12%).



Almost **5 million tonnes** of plastic waste annually – estimated **economic loss of nearly \$8B** of landfilled plastic waste in 2016



2% of plastic waste enters the environment (90 kt/y), impacting wildlife and livelihoods – **\$400M annual plastic pollution costs** in the Great Lakes Region alone

Federal agenda to reduce plastic pollution and waste



Science and Data

Canada Plastics Science Agenda, Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution, Physical Flow Account for Plastic Materials, Federal Plastics Registry



Innovation

Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges



Industry-based Solutions

Textiles, agriculture, personal protective equipment



Measures

Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations; Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations



Mitigation and Remediation

Community clean-ups, citizen science, ghost gear



Government Operations

Procurement, greening government



Global Leadership

Ocean Plastics Charter, funding for developing countries

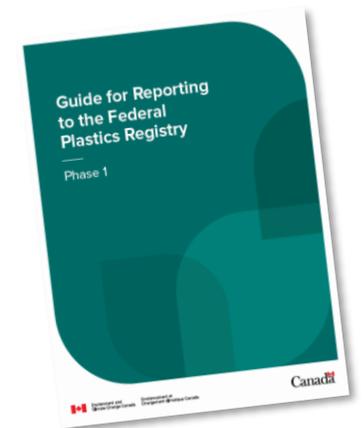
Federal measures that tackle plastic pollution and waste

→ **“Plastic manufactured items” (PMI)** added to List of Toxic Substances on Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) based on science showing the harms of plastic pollution (2021)

- Federal Court decision in November 2023 found that the PMI listing was unlawful and unconstitutional
- Federal Court of Appeal decision on January 30, 2026, struck down the lower court decision and upholds the PMI listing on Schedule 1 of CEPA

→ **Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations** (SUPPR) prohibit the manufacture, import and sale of checkout bags, cutlery, certain foodservice ware, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws (with exceptions) (2022)

- Remain in force
- Projected to reduce plastic waste by 1.3Mt and plastic pollution by 22kt over ten years



Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

The *Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations*, published in June 2022, are part of the Government of Canada's comprehensive plan to reduce plastic pollution.



Purpose

To prevent plastic pollution by eliminating or restricting **six categories of single-use plastics** that pose a threat to the environment, are difficult to recycle and have alternatives

Target

The Regulations prohibit the manufacture, import and sale of single-use plastic checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws, with some exceptions for single-use plastic flexible straws

Impact

From 2023 to 2032, it is estimated that the Regulations will avoid 1.3 million tonnes of plastic waste and 22,000 tonnes of plastic pollution, which is equivalent to over thirteen million full garbage bags

Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

Coming into force of the prohibitions

Item	Manufacture and import for sale in Canada	Sale	Manufacture, import and sale for export
Checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware, stir sticks, straws*	December 20, 2022	December 20, 2023	December 20, 2025
Ring carriers	June 20, 2023	June 20, 2024	December 20, 2025
Flexible straws packaged with beverage containers	Not applicable	June 20, 2024	December 20, 2025

*Single-use plastic flexible straws that are not packaged with beverage containers are excluded from the prohibitions under certain conditions.

Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

Recent developments

- Proposed amendments to the Regulations to allow the export of the six categories of single-use plastics were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I on December 20, 2025, for a 70-day consultation period, which ended on February 28, 2026.

Considerations

- Would prevent loss of Canadian manufacturing jobs and preserve important facility investments made by Canadian companies, while ensuring the Regulations continue to effectively protect the environment from the harms of plastic pollution
- Aligns Canada's approach with major trading partners, such as the European Union, who also have single-use plastics bans in effect

Next steps

- Aiming to finalize amendments in 2026 after considering received comments

Recycled Content Policy in Canada

Recycled content workshop

- On February 9, 2026, ECCC convened a workshop with 42 stakeholders across the plastics value chain, as a first step in its engagement on a path forward for federal recycled content policies.

Context

- Recycled content is gaining momentum globally as a way to close the loop on plastics recycling, drive investments in recycling systems, and incentivize changes to product design
- Recycled content commitments in CCME Canada-wide Strategy and Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste (2019)
- ECCC regulatory framework paper for RC & labelling published April 2023.
- Industry advancing commitments through corporate plans and the Canada Plastics Pact.

Next steps

- Workshop participants expressed broad support for federal mandates and other government measures (e.g. incentives) to strengthen recycled content demand for plastic collected through EPR.
- ECCC will continue to consult with partners and stakeholders as it determines any actions on recycled content, with consideration to costs, benefits, and affordability.

Federal Plastics Registry

Federal tool to gather data from across the plastics value chain to monitor and track the lifecycle of plastics

- Addresses need to develop and maintain Canada-wide data on plastic moving through the economy
- Covers data gaps not captured through EPR (e.g., inclusion of more types of packaging, more information on what plastic is making it into waste streams)

First reporting cycle has now been completed (data was due Sept 29, 2025).

- Currently undergoing our QA/QC process and continuing our deep dive on the data.
- Intend to publish an annual report and share data later this year (in Spring 2026) both on OpenData and Canada.ca.

▶ Who had to Report

- ▶ Producers of plastic packaging, SUDPs, EEE for residential waste stream
- ▶ $\geq 1000\text{kg/year}$ threshold

▶ What was Covered

- ▶ Category and subcategory
- ▶ Resin type
- ▶ Resin source
- ▶ Quantity (in kg)
- ▶ Calculation methods

▶ Reporting Deadline

- ▶ September 29, 2025; Extensions to October 29, 2025

Federal Plastics Registry

Reporting requirements update:

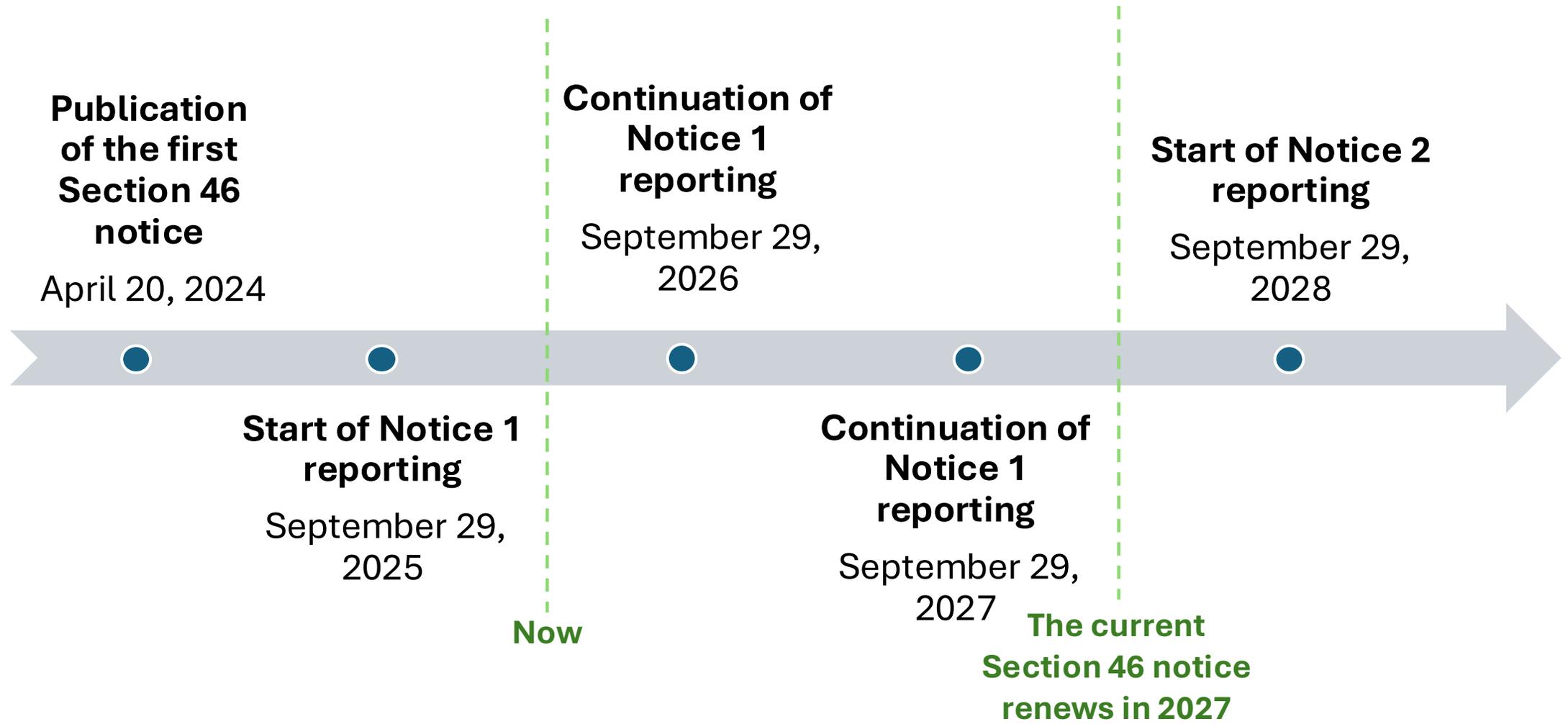
- In December 2025, ECCC announced that Phase 2 and 3 of the Federal Plastics Registry would be delayed.
 - We received valuable feedback about the challenges and complexity of reporting for Phases 2 and 3 of the Registry
 - The delay will allow for streamlining and optimizing reporting requirements.
 - It will also give organizations more time to collect and report high-quality and consistent data

Current reporting requirements:

- Phase 1 reporting requirements remain in place for the 2025 and 2026 reporting years.
 - If you reported in September 2025, then you will need to report on the same data points this year and next year

CATEGORY	Quantity of plastic (residential stream): a) imported b) manufactured c) placed on market in Canada
Plastic packaging	2024, 2025, 2026
Electronic and electrical equipment	2024, 2025, 2026
Single-use or disposable products	2024, 2025, 2026

Federal Plastics Registry



Federal Plastics Registry

Next steps for the Notice:

- On March 13, 2026, ECCC published a Notice to amend the existing Notice in the *Canada Gazette*, which formally delayed the Phase 2 and 3 reporting requirements.
- On March 13, 2026, ECCC also published a Notice of Intent in the *Canada Gazette*, which formally signaled that a new Notice will be published in Summer 2026.
- The new Notice will be published in Summer 2026 in the *Canada Gazette*, which will set reporting requirements for the 2027 to 2029 calendar years.

Next steps for the Guidance document

- A Guidance document will be published in Summer 2026 at the same time as the Notice.

Federal Plastics Registry

Upcoming consultations over the Spring on the reporting requirements for the next Notice. ECCC is looking to engage on:

- Definitions and product categories
- Modifications to the scope of reporting (placed on the market, used internally)
- Removal of distinction between filled and unfilled packaging
- Addition of secondary/tertiary packaging reporting for ICI waste streams
- Modifications to the scope of service provider requirements
- Modifications to the scope of waste generator requirements

