



INFORMING CANADA'S G7 PRESIDENCY

A Workshop on Global Marine Plastics Solutions
April 25, 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Informing Canada's G7 Presidency (Top Ideas)	2
Executive Summary	3
Background and Workshop Overview	4
Setting the Stage	6
The Marine Plastics Problem.....	8
Building a Framework to Reduce & Eliminate Waste	8
Identifying Solutions to the Marine Plastic Challenge	10
Informing Canada's G7 Presidency (Top Ideas)	18
Next Steps	19
Appendix: Agenda & List of Participants.....	20
G7 Ocean Plastics Charter.....	22

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APRIL 25, 2018
OTTAWA, ON

INFORMING CANADA'S G7 PRESIDENCY WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL MARINE PLASTICS SOLUTIONS

The Top Ideas to Inform a G7 Initiative on Marine Plastic Waste

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase waste literacy and try to change consumer, producer, and government behavior, with appropriate monitoring in place to measure effects of interventions. ● Develop solutions that are appropriate to place – there is no “one size fits all” solution. ● Establish and support enabling, flexible, and enforceable policies that allow for effective action.
CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set a Canadian harmonized national standard for EPR to aim toward zero-waste and a circular economy. ● Create a Canadian national marine debris strategy.
G7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set ambitious G7-level targets on different aspects of the marine plastics issue, e.g. recycling rates and recycled content levels. ● Support innovation, science, and practical R&D domestically, across the G7, and globally.
GLOBAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use foreign assistance funds to support priority actions by developing countries to reduce marine debris, including education and capacity building and developing and implementing policies, plans, and finance tools. ● “Blend” domestic funding, bilateral and multilateral assistance and private funds to build capacity and solutions in developing countries and create a full waste/plastic management “ecosystem” to address the issue. ● Develop a city initiative to support cities and communities to reduce and manage marine plastic. Examples of how this could be achieved could include sharing best practices, increasing local recycling capacity and supporting innovative waste management technologies – early emphasis should look to existing networks and partnerships. ● Consider the need for an international agreement on plastics, perhaps one between China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the G7 countries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canada has identified ocean health as a priority issue for its 2018 G7 Presidency. On April 25, 2018 Oceans North and Ocean Conservancy cohosted a one-day workshop in Ottawa that brought together diverse experts, including from the private sector, local and national governments, scientists, and NGOs to inform a G7 initiative to combat marine plastic waste.

Following introductory remarks by representatives from Oceans North, Ocean Conservancy, and the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change, workshop participants heard from five experts, each with his or her own perspective on how to combat marine plastic waste. Participants then broke into six facilitated roundtable discussion groups tasked with identifying three to five priorities or ideas for a G7(+) initiative for marine plastic. Through these roundtable discussions, participants identified 30 ideas which were then grouped into four categories of thinking: (1) foundational/cross cutting elements, (2) actions items that Canada can take on domestically, (3) action items for the G7, and (4) work that is scalable to the global level.

Using a simple exercise, involving green and red dots, participants anonymously “voted” on the ideas they generated to see which had the most interest and support. The remainder of the afternoon was spent discussing the results of the voting exercise and narrowing down the list to present the group’s top ideas and priorities to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, at the end of the day.



BACKGROUND AND WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

On April 25, 2018 Oceans North, in partnership with Ocean Conservancy, cohosted a one-day workshop in Ottawa. The workshop brought together diverse experts, including from the private sector, local and national governments, scientists, and NGOs to inform a G7 initiative to combat marine plastic waste towards realizing a shared vision for leadership in marine plastic waste reduction both within Canada and more broadly for G7 countries and beyond.

To build on past initiatives, the workshop used the G20 and prior G7 commitments on plastics as well as Canada's Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) 2009 commitment for extended producer responsibility (EPR) as the starting point for discussions. While the issue was initially framed from a cities perspective, the results of the workshop extended beyond these confines.

Canada has identified ocean health as a priority issue for its 2018 G7 Presidency, with good reason. The stakes are high. Marine litter, including plastic waste, poses a serious threat to the health of oceans and waterways around the world. In 2015, Jambeck et al. estimated that roughly eight million metric tonnes of plastic waste enters the oceans each year. The majority of this plastic comes from the land, and most of that is waste, which is either not collected at all, or escapes from the waste management system after being collected.

According to Dr. Jambeck, seventy-five percent of this plastic has become waste. Even with one of the best waste collection and management systems in the world, Canada only recycles eleven percent of its plastic waste, leaving almost 90% sitting in landfills and in some cases reaching our lakes, rivers and ocean basins. Experts estimate that by 2050, plastic waste will double.

Cities are key actors in several areas that are needed to prevent plastic debris flowing into the ocean but have largely not been part of the marine plastic discussion to date. Workshop participants were encouraged to focus their facilitated discussions on opportunities to scale solutions, including (1) building effective waste collection and recycling systems, (2) amplifying public education, (3) developing resilient infrastructure, and (4) enabling multi-scale action through policy.

The workshop began with introductory remarks by Louie Porta (Vice President, Oceans North), Janis Searles-Jones (CEO, Ocean Conservancy), and Dr. Stephen Lucas (Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada). Dr. Jenna Jambeck (Associate Professor, University of Georgia) gave a presentation in which she provided context for the marine plastics problem. Workshop participants heard next from a moderated panel of four experts, including Dr. Judith Neumann (German Federal Ministry for the Environment), Ron Soreanu (Coca-Cola), Rob Kaplan (Closed Loop Ocean), and Susan Ruffo (Ocean Conservancy). Each panelist offered a different perspective on the issue. Participants then broke into six facilitated roundtable discussion groups tasked with identifying three to five priorities or ideas for a G7(+) initiative for marine plastic.¹

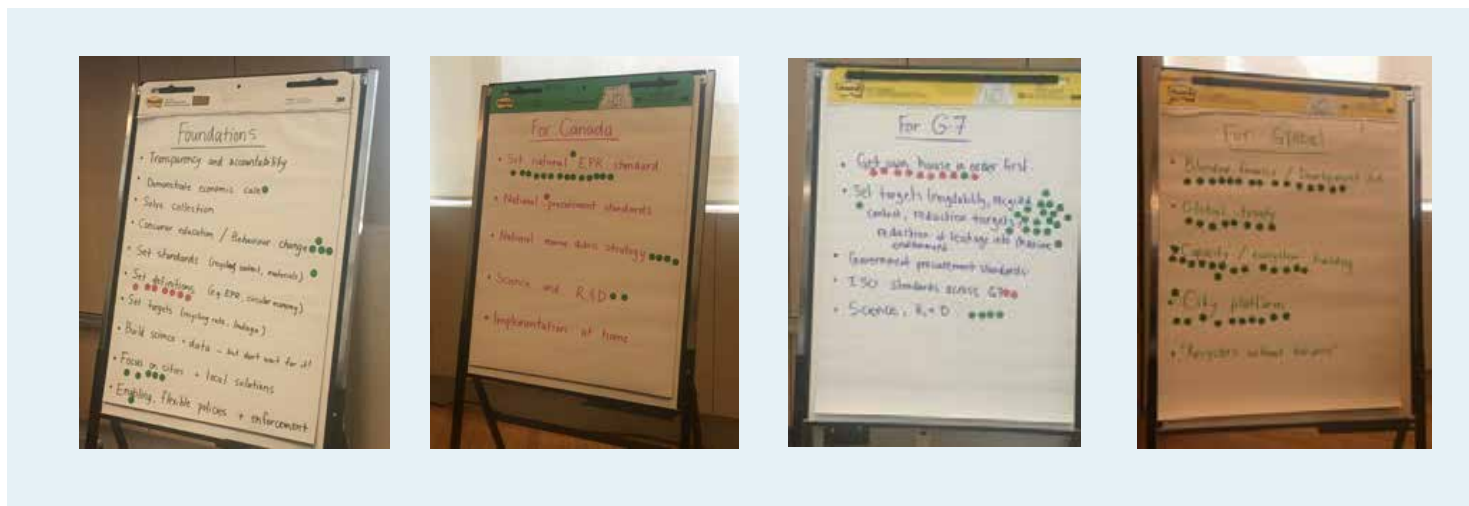
The roundtable discussions generated 30 ideas that were then grouped into four categories:

1. Foundational or cross cutting elements,
2. actions items that Canada can take on domestically,
3. action items for the G7, and
4. work that is scalable to the global level.

Using a simple exercise, involving green and red dots, participants anonymously “voted” on the ideas that they produced in the morning to see which had the most interest and support. The remainder of the afternoon was spent discussing the results of the voting exercise and reducing the list to a “Top 10” to present to Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, at the end of the day.

This report offers a comprehensive account of the workshop. It concludes with a set of recommendations and next steps.

Roundtable Discussion Boards



¹The workshop was conducted under Chatham House rules to promote open and free discussion. Where attribution is made in the report, it is with express permission of the speaker.



SETTING THE STAGE

What's at stake

Louie Porta, Janis Searles Jones, and Deputy Minister Dr. Stephen Lucas gave opening remarks to set the tone for the day and provide an overview of the problem, including some insight into the current Canadian government approach to addressing marine plastics. All three speakers recognized that plastics are ubiquitous and that there are no easy solutions to reducing or eliminating plastic waste from our oceans. As Janis Searles Jones stated:

”...we need to innovate, to engage and educate consumers, to make sure we have the right systems in place – physical, financial and policy – and each take responsibility for our part of the puzzle. And we need to do it together.”

— Janis Searles Jones

The issue is complex and involves every part of the globe and everyone from individuals to the world's largest corporations. Plastics have become an integral part of our lives and economies, and have brought us benefits. And yet there are enormous downsides, as plastic waste finds its way into every corner of the world and the deepest reaches of the ocean and its creatures.

However, all three speakers also acknowledged the urgent nature of this global problem and highlighted the need for collaborative action, across jurisdictions and sectors. Reducing marine litter, and plastic marine litter in particular, will require the full range of solutions, including reducing plastics, redesigning packaging, implementing proper disposal and recycling systems, and cleaning up whatever escapes into the environment. This, in turn, will require innovation not only in technology and infrastructure but also creative thinking around new and different ways to: engage and incentivize potential investors; educate consumers and producers; and mobilize action around the world.

...we need to innovate, to engage and educate consumers, to make sure we have the right systems in place – physical, financial and policy – and each take responsibility for our part of the puzzle. And we need to do it together.
(Janis Searles Jones)

All three speakers identified the role of cities as the place where “the rubber meets the road.” Deputy Minister Lucas encouraged participants to consider new financing models, improving waste management, product stewardship, and EPR laws and policies in both developed and developing countries. In his remarks, he acknowledged that plastic waste is not just an environmental issue, but an economic one as well. He challenged participants to think about the ways in which the G7 can support cities within their own countries and in the developing world.

Lucas explained Canada's approach to the G7 Presidency:

We want to move toward zero plastic waste through a circular economy approach. This will require coordinated action by governments, industry, retailers, consumers, academics, and individuals – including youth. It will also require a shift in emphasis from end-of-life management to treating plastics as a resource throughout the value chain.

Canada has made oceans health and addressing marine litter and plastic pollution a priority under its 2018 G7 Presidency. We're taking a clustered thematic approach to our discussions and Ministerial focused on climate change, oceans and clean energy. Building off existing G7 initiatives, we are working with our G7 partners to advance a commitment to take action on plastics throughout their lifecycle and reduce marine litter through a proposed G7 Plastics Charter.

According to Lucas, Canada is advocating for a comprehensive approach focusing on five key areas:

1. Sustainable design, production and after-use markets;
2. waste collection, management and infrastructure;
3. sustainable lifestyle and education;
4. research, innovation and new technologies; and
5. action on the ground.

Finally, all three speakers called on participants to combine their collective wisdom, experience, and resources to identify specific and concrete areas where they could work together in moving towards domestic, G7, and global solutions to this pressing matter.

” We want to move toward zero plastic waste through a circular economy approach. This will require coordinated action by governments, industry, retailers, consumers, academics, and individuals – including youth.”

– Stephen Lucas



THE MARINE PLASTICS PROBLEM

Building a framework to reduce & eliminate waste

Dr. Jenna Jambeck, Associate Professor at the University of Georgia, gave a short presentation to describe the scope and scale of the marine waste problem as well as global responses to plastic pollution. Through country-level data, Dr. Jambeck showed which nations had higher and lower leakage rates.* By examining this country-level data, it is possible to identify influencing factors in plastic pollution, including that many middle income countries simply lack the infrastructure needed to manage waste generated from economic growth. Her presentation concluded with some new research that looks at the global impact of the import/export of plastic waste.

Dr. Jambeck's presentation was followed by a moderated panel discussion in which each member of the panel gave a short presentation explaining a different perspective on the marine plastic problem:

Susan Ruffo of Ocean Conservancy offered some additional framing in her presentation about the scope of the marine plastic problem, referring to the work of several participants at the workshop. Ms. Ruffo highlighted the urgency of the problem and challenged participants to think boldly about how to build a framework for multi-sectoral action to reduce and eliminate marine plastic waste.

In 2015, Germany identified marine litter as a priority for its G7 Presidency. Dr. Judith Neumann from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety offered some insights into the German experience and highlighted the important role that cities play in implementing a possible charter or agreement on marine plastics. Her presentation served as a reminder of the important international agreements that have already been reached and emphasized implementation is now needed. The request for implementation also applies to the G7 countries, since there is still room for improvement in those countries as well.

Ron Soreanu, Vice President at Coca-Cola, one of the world's largest companies, shared with participants some of Coca-Cola's recent initiatives on reducing their plastic waste, including their overarching goal to collect and recycle a bottle or can

*"Leakage" is the term used to describe unmanaged plastic waste that reaches the ocean.

for every one they sell by 2030. Mr. Soreanu highlighted the importance of innovation and partnership in the design and manufacture of products; and the importance of multi-stakeholder coordination and investment in locally-appropriate collection and waste management.

Finally, Rob Kaplan's presentation raised the role of catalytic capital and capacity building to develop market-based and circular economy solutions to the challenge. His initiative, Closed Loop Ocean, enables the world's largest consumer goods and plastic companies with on the ground investments to bring needed capital into the waste management sector in emerging economies to prevent plastic from entering the environment.

” Bold, multi-sectoral action is needed to reduce and eliminate marine plastic waste.”

— Susan Ruffo





IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS TO THE MARINE PLASTIC CHALLENGE

During this session, participants worked in six facilitated multi-sectoral round-table discussion groups to identify their top recommendations for a G7 initiative on marine plastics. They were asked to consider the following four questions to guide their discussions:

1. What is missing from global action on marine debris, waste collection and recycling? What is needed to fill those gaps?
2. What can Canada do to move solutions forward, both domestically and through a G7(+) initiative?
3. What should a G7(+) initiative on this topic look like?
4. What can we all contribute and who else do we need to engage in order to make that happen?

The group discussions were spirited and productive, generating many ideas and recommendations for how to address the marine plastic problem in Canada and internationally. It was clear during the report back to the plenary that some common themes were emerging across the smaller groups. These are reflected in the next section.

The Solution Set: Results from the Roundtable Discussions and Voting Exercise²

During their roundtable discussions, participants generated a list of more than 30 ideas to help inform a G7(+) initiative on marine plastics. These ideas were grouped into four different categories to help participants organize their recommendations to Minister McKenna at the end of the day.

Roundtable discussion results were reported back to the plenary and an opportunity was provided for clarifications, additions or amendments.

²Participants were each given 3 green dots and 1 red dot. They were asked to review the 30 ideas generated during the Roundtable Discussions and place their green dots on their most preferred idea(s), and their red dot on their least preferred.

Here, we provide an overview of the four categories and offer a summary of the discussions that followed in plenary around the ideas that received the most attention during the voting exercise.

In general, the plenary discussions following the voting exercise revealed agreement-in-principle among participants in some key areas, such as the desire for Canada to be ambitious domestically, including through harmonized EPR practices; the utility of focusing on cities as a platform for concrete actions across the spectrum of solutions; and the importance of G7 countries not only working to reduce their own leakage and improve their own recycling, but also working globally, particularly with emerging economies, to address these issues. Discussions also revealed differences in the ways in which participants would prioritize these issues.

Foundational Principles

Most Preferred	Least Preferred	Other Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop public policy that creates enabling conditions for actions by the private sector and others (e.g. using “carrots” and “sticks”) • Promote creative approaches to public education/behaviour change • Set (harmonized) standards (e.g. for recycling content, materials) • Set baselines for targets • Focus on cities and local solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set common definitions (e.g. for Extended Producer Responsibility, circular economy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on what has already been done in Canada, the G7, and globally • Promote transparency and accountability across sectors • Demonstrate the economic case for reducing marine litter • Invest in infrastructure to address collection and operations & maintenance challenges domestically and globally • Set targets for marine litter leakage, recycling rates, etc. • Support science and data collection to develop baselines, inform monitoring, and assess impact of interventions • Recognize there is no one-size-fits-all solution

CATEGORY #1

■ Cities play a critical role in waste collection and management. They are the last line of defence before waste enters the marine environment.

It was clear that participants agreed on the importance of building on existing work undertaken by the G7 and G20, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and the United Nations, as well as domestic efforts taken in North America and abroad. Participants also agreed that setting targets and establishing strong baselines and strategies for monitoring are necessary steps towards reducing marine litter in our oceans. All participants recognized that the marine plastic problem is multi-scalar and multi-sectoral in nature – there will be no one size fits all solution; however, we should work hard to facilitate knowledge and resource sharing across borders, sectors, and scales.

Key ideas that emerged through the discussions included:

CHANGING BEHAVIOURS THROUGH EDUCATION

Participants agreed that public education and behaviour change are important aspects of solving the marine plastic problem; however, several participants pointed out that “raising awareness” alone is unlikely to impact consumer behaviour. Creative approaches to both consumer and producer education are needed, with a clear plan for who is going to take on these responsibilities. Some suggestions included mobilizing different constituencies, such as sports fans or organizations with large audiences. It was also recommended that any public education strategies should built in evaluation criteria and metrics to measure their effectiveness.

STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS

Most participants agreed that harmonizing standards for recycled content and materials is important; however, at the same time, there was some disagreement among participants about the importance of identifying common definitions of key terms and concepts such as recycling, EPR, and the circular economy. Some argued that with so many stakeholders involved, coming to an agreement around definitions could prove too time-consuming and passive, given the nature and scale of the issue(s) at hand. Others argued that one of the main barriers to addressing the marine plastic problem in a meaningful way is the lack of common standards and definitions across jurisdictions, even within Canada itself. One participant noted that for much of the developed world, “recycling” has been defined as shipping waste to other jurisdictions - most notably, China, which recently instituted an import ban on recyclables with contamination. In this context a new definition of what constitutes recycling is needed.

FOCUS ON CITIES AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS

As one participant noted, municipalities are the “goalkeepers” when it comes to waste collection and management – they are the last line of defense before waste enters the environment. They are also often the main actor in terms of designing, paying for, and operating waste collection and recycling systems. However, participants were careful to acknowledge that even though cities and municipalities play an important role in waste management, they cannot deal with this challenge alone, and should not bear sole responsibility. Similarly, care should be taken to ensure long-term operation and maintenance costs are addressed, and not just initial investments. Municipalities offer a useful lens through which to examine the waste collection and management problem. At the same time, leadership is needed at all levels if we are going to achieve the vision of zero plastic marine waste. Participants advocated for the inclusion of cities in a G7 initiative on marine plastics

■ Continued investment into applied science that can support action and solutions for marine plastic waste is essential.

ROLE OF PUBLIC POLICY

Participants agreed that public policy plays an important role in creating incentives to promote and regulate opportunities and behaviour across sectors, particularly the private sector. There also seemed to be agreement that policies should set overall objectives but leave flexibility for how to achieve those objectives. One participant from the business community commented that government and industry often have different perspectives on what constitutes an incentive, and on methods of enforcement. A G7 initiative must take these different perspectives into account.

What Can Canada Do?

Most Preferred	Least Preferred	Other Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set a national harmonized EPR standard• Create a national marine debris strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set a national government procurement standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support science and innovation• Implement at home

CATEGORY #2

SETTING NATIONAL STANDARDS

Participants across many sectors were clear that a national harmonized EPR standard for Canada would be welcomed. It was noted that that a national EPR standard does exist already but it is not harmonized across provinces and territories. There are two missing elements to the existing national EPR standard. (1) It does not cover many of the key plastics materials and items (such as derelict fishing gear and cigarette filters) that make up a significant proportion of marine plastic waste; and (2) it is not enforceable.



Participants were also supportive of creating a national marine debris strategy, led by the federal government with buy in from other levels of government, industry, ENGOs, and the academic community. It was reported that Canadian cities also expressed interest in a national strategy at a recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities board meeting. A number of participants suggested that Canada could look to other jurisdictions that have already implemented similar strategies in their regions, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program in the United States.

SUPPORT SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN CANADA

Participants agreed that more support for science and innovation is needed in Canada. Given Canada's high capacity and strong scientific community, participants urged continued investment into applied science that can support action and solutions for marine plastic waste. Recommended areas of focus include sources, impact and scale of micro-plastics; packaging alternatives, assessing amounts, flows and types of debris, identifying fishing gear so it can be recovered, and improving recycling of low value plastics.

CATEGORY #3

What Can the G7 Do?

Most Preferred	Least Preferred	Other Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set targets (recyclability, recycled content, reduction targets, reduction of leakage into the marine environment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get the G7 house in order first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set government procurement standards Support ISO standards across G7 Support science, research and development

GET THE G7 HOUSE IN ORDER (FIRST)?

Participants had different views on whether a G7 initiative on marine plastic should be primarily focused inward or on the largest emitters of marine litter, currently China and Southeast Asian nations. Some participants expressed their belief that efforts should begin within the G7, given its own low recycling rates and, until recently, dependence on China to take scrap plastics, such that the G7 might serve as an example. Others argued that the G7 nations are not the largest source of leakage into the world's oceans, and thus they should focus efforts in areas where they can have more impact. Despite these differing views, there seemed to be agreement among participants that G7 leadership is vital. Much of the discussion focused on

orders of action, but there was a lot of support for the idea that we have to balance the “it starts at home” ethos with supporting emerging economies to deal with their challenges, although the actions taken in different regions will almost certainly not be the same.

SET G7 TARGETS

Participants felt that targets at the G7 level are important but that not all targets are equally important. Some of the suggested areas requiring targeting included: reducing the flows of plastic material to the ocean, as well as on increasing the recovery, recyclability and reuse of plastic materials. In the interest of time, participants did not engage in a lengthy discussion about which targets are a priority; however, it was noted that further discussion on this matter would be required.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Participants acknowledged that the G7 countries have considerable influence over a number of international science working groups, including nominating world oceans experts at the United Nations. The G7 countries could help to shape what these groups work on by facilitating engagement between governments, industry, researchers, and investors around their informational needs. One participant noted that huge financial resources, time, and thinking have been dedicated to understanding and addressing climate change and that ocean health is worthy of similar investments by governments and others.

What Can be Done Globally?

IDEAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to emerging economies through blended finance/development aid • Develop a global treaty/international agreement • Support capacity/“ecosystem” building for marine debris efforts • Develop a City platform focused on addressing marine plastic waste

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO EMERGING ECONOMIES THROUGH BLENDED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AID

One critical barrier to development of systems and policies for addressing waste collection and recycling issues – including marine plastics – in the developing world is the lack of available funding and finance from both public and private sources.



CATEGORY #4

■ G7 nations are well positioned to provide support to emerging economies through foreign assistance programs and blended finance models.

The public sector has not historically prioritized waste and recycling, while the private sector views the topic as too high risk. Participants acknowledged that while all countries can invest in these systems, developing economies will require more support, and G7 nations can provide some of this through their foreign assistance programs. In addition, domestic funding and bilateral assistance can be leveraged, or “blended” to unlock other forms of funding, such as from impact investors, the private sector and multilateral institutions, to support the development and operation and maintenance of comprehensive waste collection and recycling systems.

This approach can rapidly increase overall funding available and allow critical enabling elements to be included, such as public education, capacity building, policy development (such as setting standards or designing locally appropriate EPR or return systems), etc.

Blending multiple sources of finance (grant resources, risk-taking capital, lending capital, etc.) not only distributes the risk, but also can support comprehensive planning, capacity building and knowledge development.

In addition, such investments can build the foundation for future investments through building capacity on the ground and developing investor track records to demonstrate that investments in this sector are viable and replicable. As one participant said, investing in the waste management sector should become as routine as investing in any other sector, like transportation or water.

DEVELOP A GLOBAL TREATY OR AGREEMENT?

While there was some interest in the idea of an international agreement, some participants questioned whether a legally binding *global* treaty is really needed and useful, and what the focus of that treaty would be. Suggestions included circular economy, EPR, marine debris, and marine plastics. Another suggestion was whether a regional international agreement such as the 2017 Central Arctic Ocean fisheries agreement³ might serve as useful model. Other participants made the case that a global treaty holds merit: if many nations sign on, it is a signal to the rest of the world about each nation’s commitment to reducing marine litter and plastic waste.

Examples such as the Montreal Protocol and the Paris Agreement were also raised, where countries came together to collectively pledge a reduction in ozone depleting chemicals or greenhouse gas emissions.

³For more about this Agreement visit: www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/12/nations-agree-ban-fishing-arctic-ocean-least-16-years.

SUPPORT CAPACITY/ “ECOSYSTEM” BUILDING FOR MARINE DEBRIS EFFORTS

Participants recognized that local municipalities, communities, entrepreneurs, and operators often lack the necessary capacity (i.e. experience, knowledge, and resources) to develop their efforts into scalable (and bankable) solutions to the marine plastic problem and improving waste collection.

To enable additional financing from public and private sources described in the blended finance section above, the group recommended prioritizing activities and policies that build full “ecosystems” of viable recycling sectors and markets in critical geographies.

This should be done from a systems perspective, driving toward circular economies and reductions in ocean plastics by supporting the full range of activities, from behaviour change and basic collection infrastructure, to recycling facilities and businesses developing innovative uses for recycled materials. It is important to invest for the health of the entire supply chain, and support enabling factors such as policy development, workforce organization, regulatory support, and municipal capacity. With the right mentoring and support, many innovative technologies, programs, and leaders operating today can be accelerated to create system wide change.

Participants supported the use of development, philanthropic, risk-tolerant investment capital and cross-sectoral collaboration to incubate the needed “ecosystems” of waste management and recycling innovators, particularly in high leakage regions. to ensure that plastic leakage to the ocean and environment can be halted, while establishing the foundation for truly circular economies.

DEVELOP A CITY PLATFORM FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING MARINE PLASTIC WASTE

Participants suggested that a G7 initiative could include launching and building a city-to-city program, or a network of cities with a common goal of ending marine plastic waste. Some participants noted that there are a number of city networks already established and that it might be possible to leverage these for an initiative around marine waste. For example, California has a “League of Cities”, which offers a useful platform for reviewing programs, knowledge transfer, and globally there are examples such as the C40 Cities and 100 Resilient Cities.

Participants also emphasized that no two municipalities are alike. A G7 initiative that engages or targets municipalities must take into consideration capacity differences between rural and urban municipalities, and the particular needs and challenges of municipalities in the developing world.

 We're all in this together.”

—Catherine McKenna,
Honourable Minister of the
Environment and Climate Change

DEVELOPING A G7 INITIATIVE ON MARINE PLASTICS: REPORTING TO THE MINISTER

After participants had a chance to reflect on the voting exercise, they worked to prepare a presentation to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. The group decided to share their top ideas with the Minister.

Minister McKenna's message to workshop participants upon her arrival was simple: "I'm here to listen. We're all in this together."

The Top Ideas to Inform a G7 Initiative on Marine Plastic Waste

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increase waste literacy and try to change consumer, producer, and government behavior, with appropriate monitoring in place to measure effects of interventions.● Develop solutions that are appropriate to place – there is no “one size fits all” solution.● Establish and support enabling, flexible, and enforceable policies that allow for effective action.
CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Set a Canadian harmonized national standard for EPR to aim toward zero-waste and a circular economy.● Create a Canadian national marine debris strategy.
G7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Set ambitious G7-level targets on different aspects of the marine plastics issue, e.g. recycling rates and recycled content levels.● Support innovation, science, and practical R&D domestically, across the G7, and globally.
GLOBAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use foreign assistance funds to support priority actions by developing countries to reduce marine debris, including education and capacity building and developing and implementing policies, plans, and finance tools.● “Blend” domestic funding, bilateral and multilateral assistance and private funds to build capacity and solutions in developing countries and create a full waste/plastic management “ecosystem” to address the issue.● Develop a city initiative to support cities and communities to reduce and manage marine plastic. Examples of how this could be achieved could include sharing best practices, increasing local recycling capacity and supporting innovative waste management technologies – early emphasis should look to existing networks and partnerships.● Consider the need for an international agreement on plastics, perhaps one between China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the G7 countries.

Minister McKenna responded positively to the presentation, with a number of follow up questions. In particular, she noted that she was interested in the idea of EPR standards and asked participants to provide more information about their thinking around possible timelines and processes for setting a standard.

NEXT STEPS

This workshop brought together leading experts from across society who must work together to solve the pressing but complex global marine plastic problem. The goal of this workshop was to identify a list of priorities for a G7 initiative on marine plastics. The participants achieved this goal. The next step is to make sure that these priorities are taken up by the appropriate people. Some will require action by government, some by the private sector, and others will require close collaboration across sectors.

Participants agreed to work together to implement the ideas identified at the workshop, both as individual organizations and as a collective, when appropriate. Participants have a shared expectation that this report and further action will result in a meaningful G7 leader's statement and a plastics charter that demonstrates leadership at home while helping the G7 to deal with the pressing threat to the world's oceans.



■ Participants agreed to work together to implement the ideas identified at the workshop, both as individual organizations and as a collective.

AGENDA & LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



INFORMING CANADA'S G7 PRESIDENCY

A Workshop On Global Marine Plastics Solutions

April 25, 2018

Canadian Museum of Nature

Ottawa, Ontario



Ocean Conservancy®



OCEANS
NORTH

AGENDA

Purpose: Develop a G7 initiative to combat marine plastic for the G7 Environment Ministerial

8:30 Welcome and charge for the day

Louie Porta, Vice President, Oceans North
Janis Searles Jones, CEO, Ocean Conservancy

9:00 Environment and Climate Change Canada

SESSION ONE - THE MARINE PLASTIC PROBLEM

9:15 Identifying Our Main Challenges

Jenna Jambeck, Associate Professor, University of Georgia

9:30 Where we are, and where we can go forward: Moderated Panel Discussion

Judith Neumann, German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nature Conservation
Ron Soreanu, Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications, Coca-Cola Canada
Rob Kaplan, Co-founder, Closed Loop Partners
Susan Ruffo, Managing Director, Ocean Conservancy

BREAK - 10:45 AM

SESSION TWO - IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS TO THE MARINE PLASTIC CHALLENGE

11:00 Roundtable Discussion and Analysis: Identifying concrete actions we can take to solve the marine plastic challenge

We will use the questions below to guide discussion and inform the session.

- What is missing from global action on marine debris, waste collection and recycling? What is needed to fill those gaps?
- What can Canada do to move solutions forward, both domestically and through a G7(+) initiative?
- What should a G7(+) Initiative on this topic look like?
- What can we all contribute and who else do we need to engage in order to make that happen?

LUNCH 12:30 – 1:30 PM

A healthy lunch will be provided on site. You will not be hungry!

SESSION THREE - DEVELOPING A G7 INITIATIVE ON MARINE PLASTICS

1:30 The Solution Set: Results from the Roundtable Discussion

2:00 Now we vote!

2:15 Quick Coffee Break

2:30 Discussion: Developing a G7 Initiative on Marine Plastics

Moderated Full Plenary: The purpose of this session is to develop a set of practical recommendations for what Canada can deliver during its G7 Presidency, and beyond. These will be presented to Minister McKenna and her staff at 4:00PM. Participants will be encouraged to think about specific ways in which their organizations can participate in recommended actions.

BREAK – 4:00 – 4:45 PM (WINE & CHEESE)

SESSION FOUR - PRESENTING SOLUTIONS

5:00 Presentation to Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

- Amcor Ltd
- American Chemistry Council
- Canadian Plastics Industry Association
- Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
- Circular Economy Partnership
- Closed Loop Ocean
- Coca-Cola
- Corporate Policy Group LLP
- Danone
- Dow Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Loblaw Companies Limited
- Memorial University
- National Zero Waste Council/ Metro Vancouver
- Nestlé Canada
- NOVA Chemicals
- Ocean Conservancy
- Ocean Wise
- Oceans North
- Policy Studies, Queen's University
- Procter and Gamble Canada
- Region of Peel
- Summa Strategies Canada
- Tetra Tech BAS
- Tetra Tech/Environment Natural Resource
- The Economist Group
- The Natural Step Canada
- U.S. Department of State
- Unilever Canada Inc.
- University of Georgia
- University of Leeds
- ISWA
- University of Toronto
- West Coast Environmental Law
- World Animal Protection
- World Bank Group
- World Resources Institute
- World Wildlife Fund

CANADA'S 2018 G7 PRESIDENCY (OFFICIAL DOCUMENT)

Source: <https://g7.gc.ca/en/official-documents/>

OCEAN PLASTICS CHARTER

Plastics are one of the most revolutionary inventions of the past century and play an important role in our economy and daily lives. However, the current approach to producing, using, managing and disposing of plastics poses a significant threat to the environment, to livelihoods and potentially to human health. It also represents a significant loss of value, resources and energy.

We, the Leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, commit to move toward a more resource-efficient and sustainable approach to the management of plastics. We resolve to take a lifecycle approach to plastics stewardship on land and at sea, which aims to avoid unnecessary use of plastics and prevent waste, and to ensure that plastics are designed for recovery, reuse, recycling and end-of-life management to prevent waste through various policy measures. We endeavor to increase the efficient use of resources while strengthening waste diversion systems and infrastructure to collect and process plastic materials and recapture the value of plastics in the economy, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preventing waste and litter from being released into the environment. We seek to stimulate innovation for sustainable solutions, technologies and alternatives across the lifecycle to enable consumers and businesses to change their behaviour. We will work to mobilize and support collaborative government, industry, academia, citizen and youth-led initiatives. We also recognize the need for action in line with previous G7 commitments and the 2030 Agenda, which sets a global framework for sustainable development.

WE COMMIT TO TAKE ACTION TOWARD A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO PLASTICS IN THE ECONOMY BY:

1. Sustainable design, production and after-use markets

- a. Working with industry towards 100% reusable, recyclable, or, where viable alternatives do not exist, recoverable, plastics by 2030.
- b. Taking into account the full environmental impacts of alternatives, significantly reducing the unnecessary use of single-use plastics.
- c. Using green public procurement to reduce waste and support secondary plastics markets and alternatives to plastic.
- d. Working with industry towards increasing recycled content by at least 50% in plastic products where applicable by 2030.
- e. Supporting secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.
- f. Working with industry towards reducing the use of plastic microbeads in rinse-off cosmetic and personal care consumer products, to the extent possible by 2020, and addressing other sources of microplastics.

■ In June 2018, as an outcome of the G7 meeting in Charlevoix, Quebec the *Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient and Coastal Communities* was released. Included in this Blueprint is a *Plastics Charter*, encompassing many recommendations provided by the *Oceans North and Oceans Conservancy workshop on plastics to inform the G7*.

2. Collection, management and other systems and infrastructure

- a. 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.
- b. Increasing domestic capacity to manage plastics as a resource, prevent their leakage into the marine environment from all sources, and enable their collection, reuse, recycling, recovery and/or environmentally-sound disposal.
- c. Encouraging the application of a whole supply chain approach to plastic production toward greater responsibility and prevent unnecessary loss, including in pre-production plastic pellets.
- d. Accelerating international action and catalyzing investments to address marine litter in global hot spots and vulnerable areas through public-private funding and capacity development for waste and wastewater management infrastructure, innovative solutions and coastal clean-up.
- e. Working with relevant partners, in particular local governments, to advance efforts to reduce marine litter and plastics waste, notably but not exclusively in small island and remote communities, including through raising awareness.

3. Sustainable lifestyles and education

- a. Strengthening measures, such as market-based instruments, to prevent plastics from entering the oceans, and strengthening standards for labelling to enable consumers to make sustainable decisions on plastics, including packaging.
- b. Supporting industry leadership initiatives and fostering knowledge exchange through existing alliances and other mechanisms.
- c. Promoting the leadership role of women and youth as promoters of sustainable consumption and production practices.
- d. Support platforms for information sharing to foster awareness and education efforts on preventing and reducing plastic waste generation, plastics pollution and eliminating marine litter.

4. Research, innovation and new technologies

- a. Assessing current plastics consumption and undertaking prospective analysis on the level of plastic consumption by major sector use, while identifying and encouraging the elimination of unnecessary uses.
- b. Calling on G7 Ministers of Environment at their forthcoming meeting to advance new initiatives, such as a G7 Plastics Innovation Challenge, to promote research and development of new and more sustainable technologies, design or production methods by the private sector and innovators to address plastics waste in the oceans with a focus on all stages of the production and supply chain.
- c. Promoting the research, development and use of technologies to remove plastics and microplastics from waste water and sewage sludge.

- d. Guiding the development and appropriate use of new innovative plastic materials and alternatives to ensure they are not harmful to the environment.
- e. Harmonizing G7 science-based monitoring methodologies.
- f. Collaborating on research on the sources and fate of plastics and their impact on human and marine health.

5. Coastal and shoreline action

- a. Encouraging campaigns on marine litter in G7 countries with youth and relevant partners to raise public awareness, collect data and remove debris from coasts and shorelines globally.
- b. Accelerating implementation of the 2015 G7 Leaders' Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter through the Regional Seas Programs, initiatives led by RFMOs, where appropriate, and targeted investments for clean-up activities that prove to be environmentally sound in global hotspots and priority areas, in particular on Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFG) and wastes generated and collected by fishery activities.

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For more information on Canada's 2018 G7 Summit: <https://g7.gc.ca/en/>

