


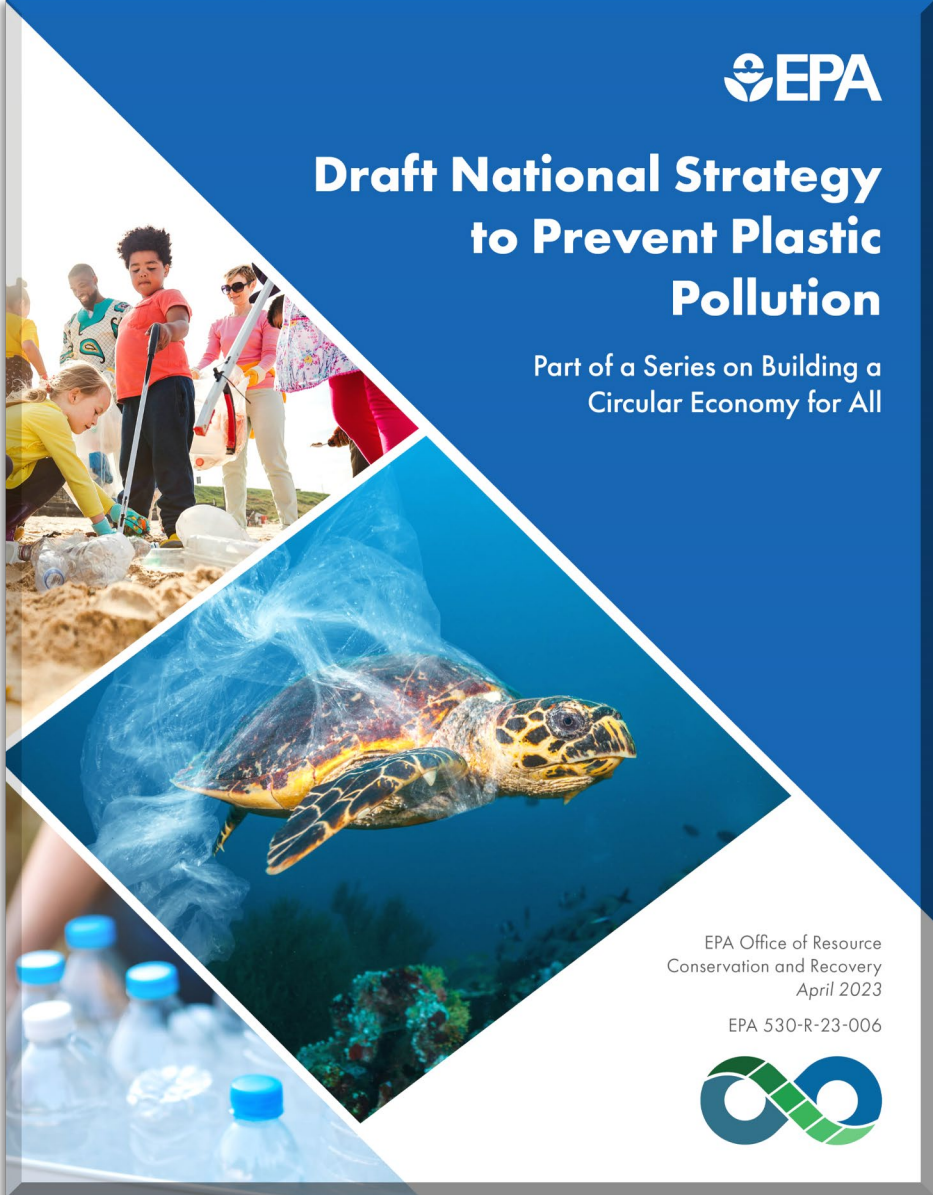
**Thanks for joining! The  
webinar will begin  
momentarily...**

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**Draft National Strategy  
to Prevent Plastic  
Pollution**

Part of a Series on Building a  
Circular Economy for All

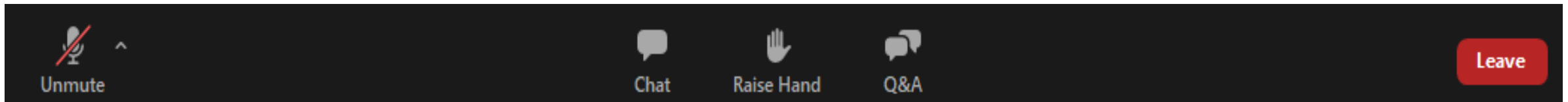


EPA Office of Resource  
Conservation and Recovery  
April 2023

EPA 530-R-23-006



# Webinar Logistics



- **To ask a question:** Type your question in the Q&A box. You will be able to upvote questions that are important to you.
- **To give comments:** Type comments into the Chat box, or raise your hand and we will unmute you to give verbal comments.
- **Technical difficulties:** If you are having technical difficulties, please send a message through the Chat or email [meetings@erg.com](mailto:meetings@erg.com)
- **Evaluation:** Please complete the survey evaluation at the end of the webinar.



# Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution

*Part Two of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Land and Emergency Management  
Office of Water*

Public Webinar  
May 11, 2023



## Disclaimer

The Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution represents *potential* actions by all stakeholders and does not imply approval for any specific action under Executive Order 12866 or the Paperwork Reduction Act. All federal government activities included in the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* are subject to budgetary constraints, interagency processes, stakeholder input, and other approvals, including the weighing of priorities and available resources by the Administration in formulating its annual budget and by Congress in legislating appropriations. This document is not intended, nor can it be relied upon, to create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the United States. This document does not impose legally binding requirements on any stakeholder working in the issue areas addressed by the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.



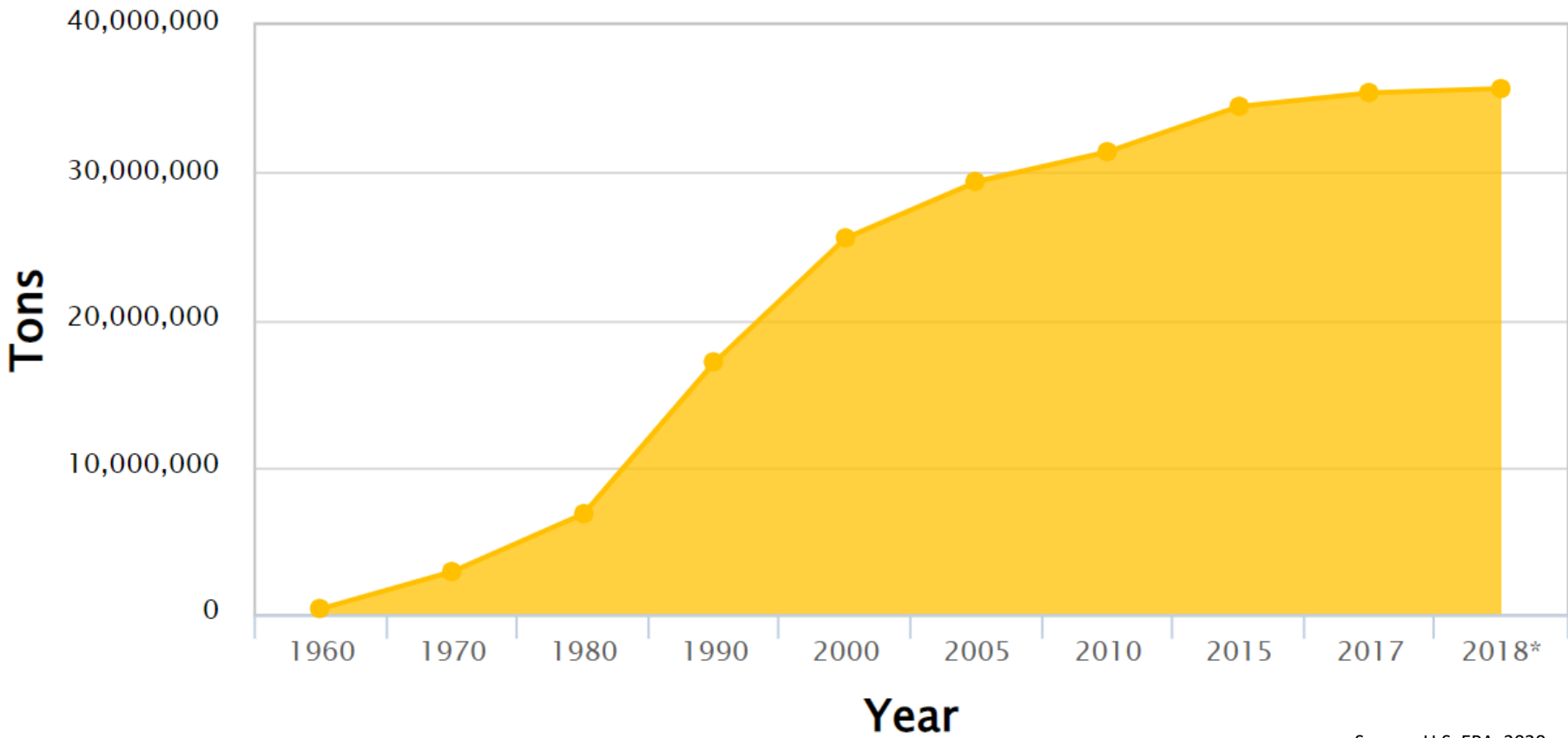
# Plastic Waste is both a U.S. and Global Challenge

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# Total plastic waste in the U.S. municipal solid waste system since 1960

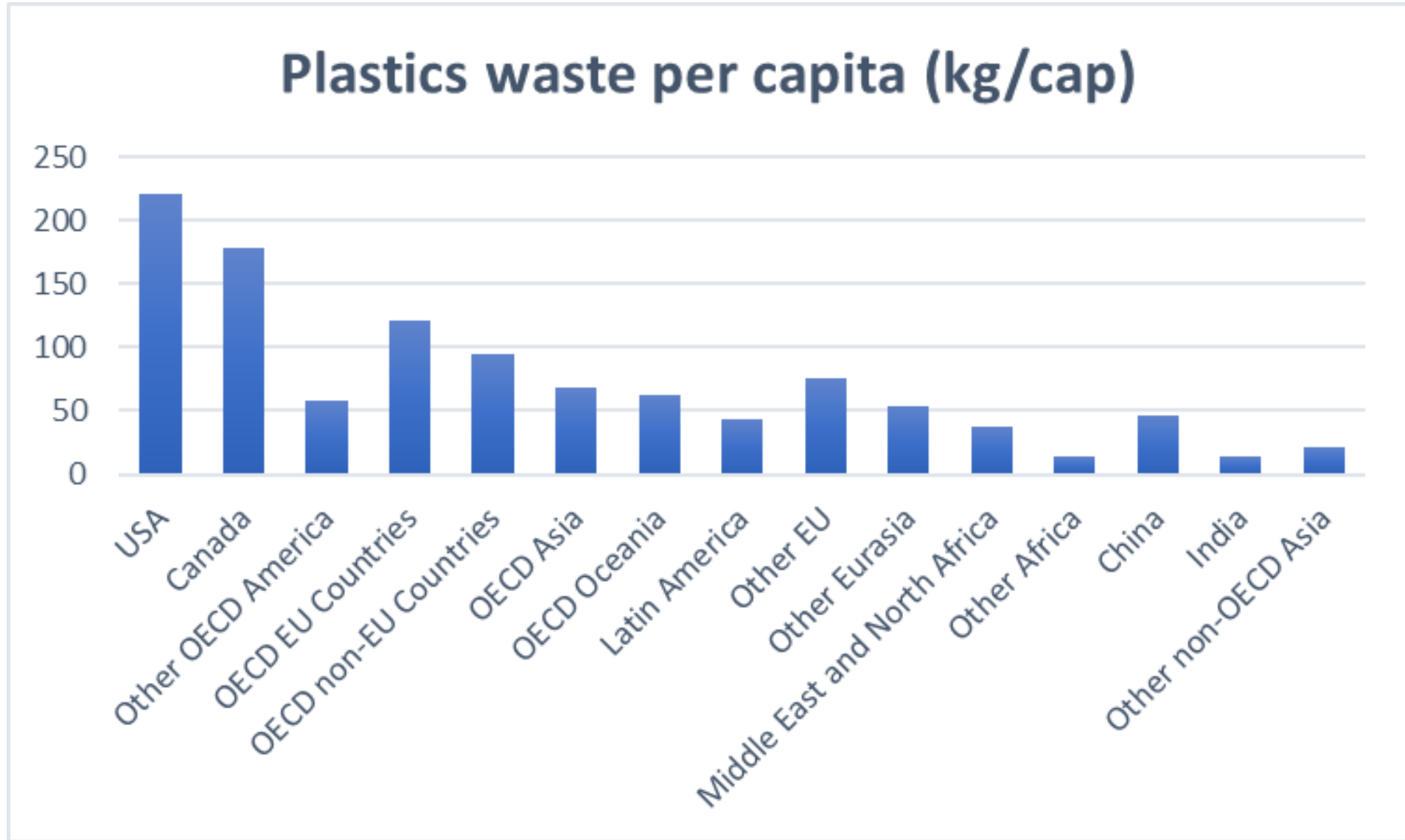
Generation Tonnages, 1960–2018



Source: U.S. EPA, 2020



# U.S. was the largest generator of plastic waste per capita in 2019

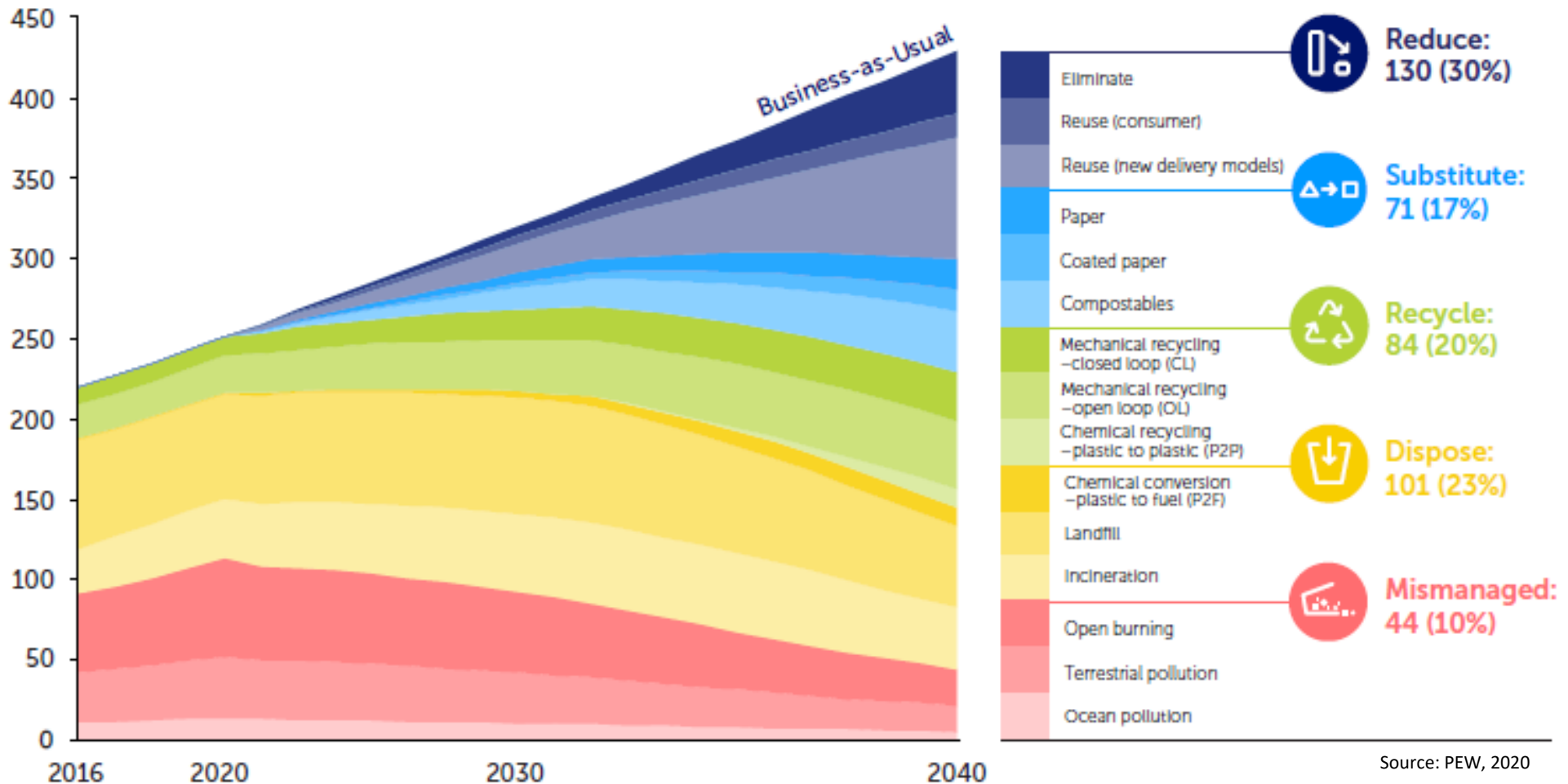


Source: OECD GPO V1, 2022



# Up to an 80% reduction of plastic pollution could be achieved by 2040 through immediate, concerted, and aggressive interventions.

Million metric tons per year





# Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Section 301



## SEC. 301. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT.


(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPA Administrator shall, in consultation with stakeholders, develop a strategy to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure for the purpose of **REDUCING** plastic waste and other post-consumer materials in waterways and oceans.


(b) **RELEASE.**—On development of the strategy under subsection (a), the EPA Administrator shall—

- (1) distribute the strategy to States; and
- (2) make the strategy publicly available, including for use by:
  - (A) for-profit private entities involved in post-consumer materials management; and
  - (B) other nongovernmental entities.




# Building A Circular Economy For All


 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 **\$275M** Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

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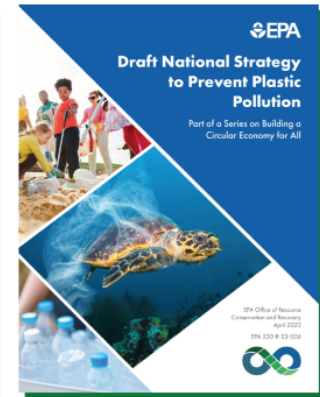
 **\$75M** Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

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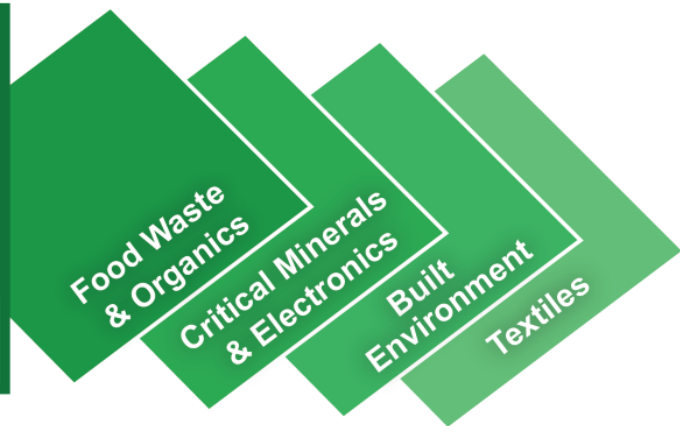
 **\$10M** Battery Collection Best Practices and **\$15M** Labeling Guidelines



National Recycling Strategy



National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution



To Come

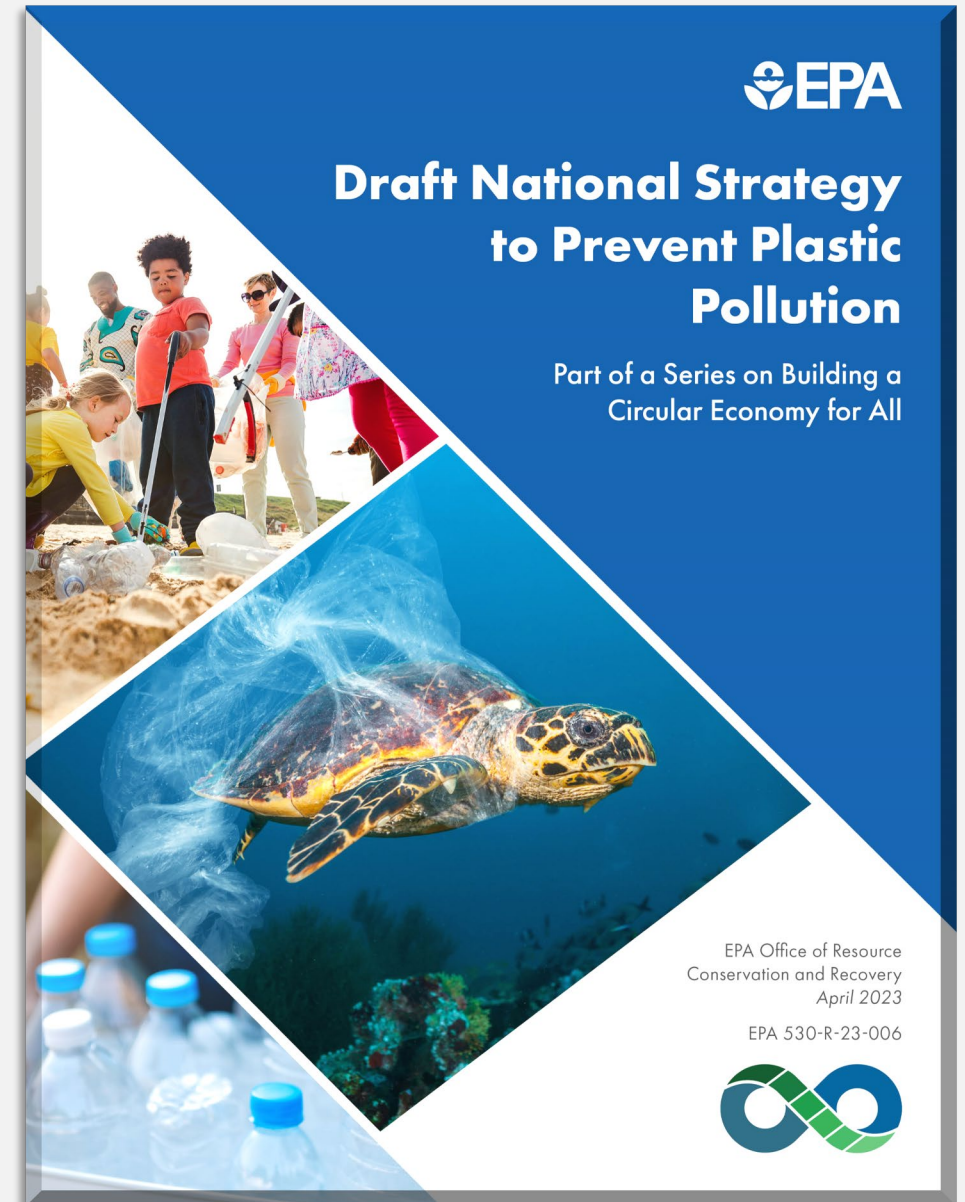
- Objectives:**
- A. Improve Markets for Recycling Commodities**
  - B. Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure**
  - C. Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream**
  - D. Enhance Policies to Support Recycling**
  - E. Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection**

Source: U.S. EPA



# Developing the Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution

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# Goal/Scope

## Goal:

Eliminate the release of plastic waste from land-based sources into the environment by 2040.

## Scope:

- Land-based sources of plastic pollution.
- Reduce, reuse, compost, collect, and capture plastic waste.
- Does not include processes that convert waste to fuels or generate energy.
- EJ and climate change considerations are addressed, when applicable.



Pathways of land-based sources of plastic pollution (image courtesy of Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program).



# OBJECTIVES

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- A. Reduce pollution during plastic production

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- B. Improve post-use materials management

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- C. Prevent trash and micro/nanoplastics from entering waterways and remove escaped trash from the environment

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# OBJECTIVE A

## Reduce Pollution During Plastic Production

A1. Reduce the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products.

A2. Minimize pollution across the life cycle of plastic products.



# OBJECTIVE B

## Improve Post-Use Materials Management

B1. Conduct a study of the effectiveness of existing public policies and incentives upon the reuse, collection, recycling, and conservation of materials.

B2. Develop or expand capacity to maximize the reuse of materials.

B3. Facilitate more effective composting and degradation of certified compostable products.



# OBJECTIVE B

## Improve Post-Use Materials Management

B4. Increase solid waste collection and ensure that solid waste management does not adversely impact communities, including those overburdened by pollution.

B5. Increase public understanding of the impact of plastic mismanagement and how to appropriately manage plastic products and other waste.

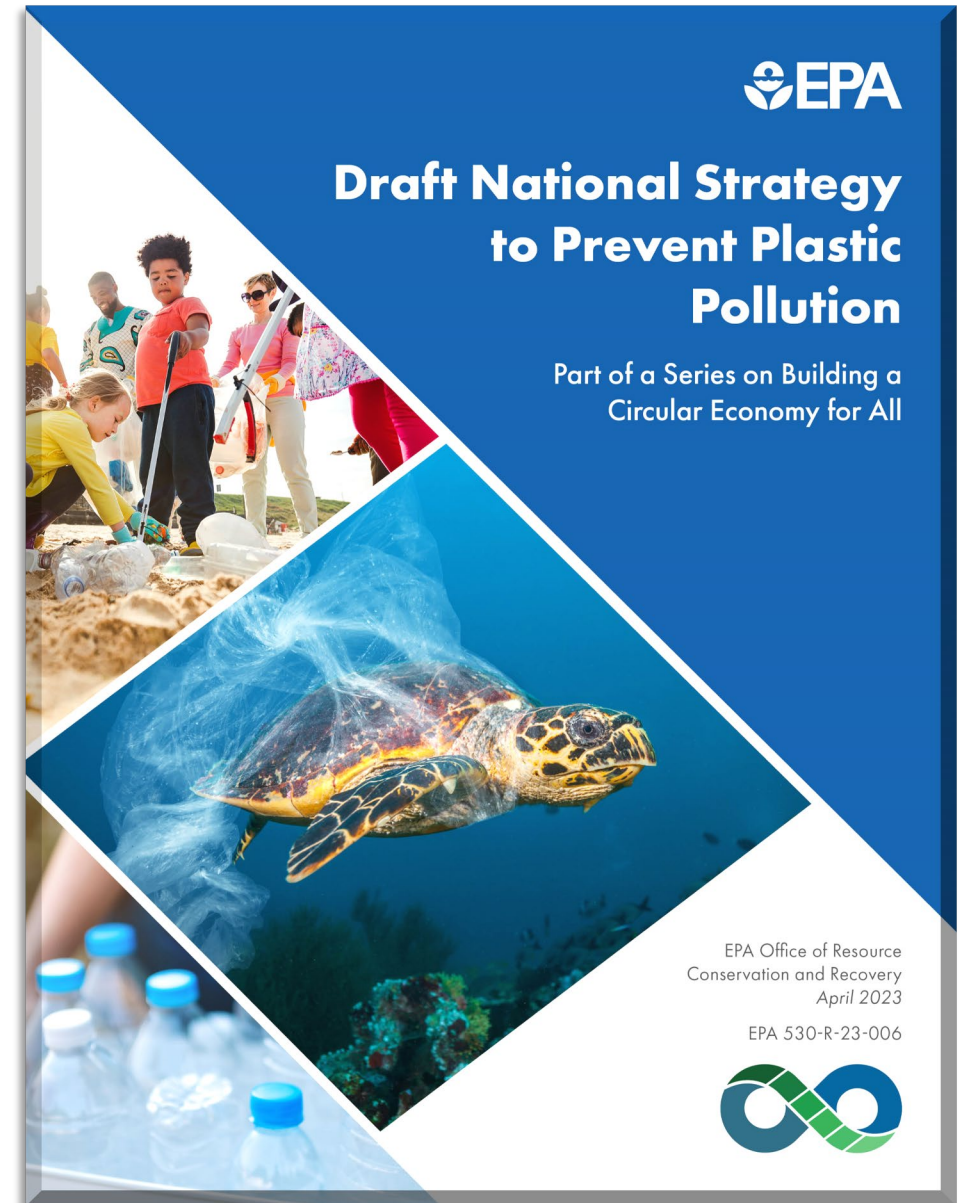
B6. Explore possible ratification of the Basel Convention and encourage environmentally sound management of scrap and recyclables traded with other countries.





# Prevention and Removal from Waterways and the Environment

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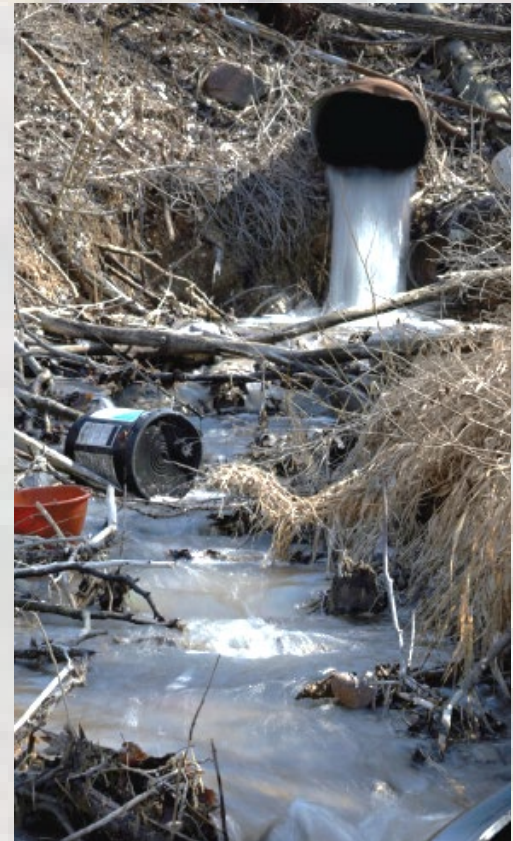
# OBJECTIVE C

## Prevent Trash and Micro/Nanoplastics from Entering Waterways and Remove Escaped Trash from the Environment

C1. Identify and implement policies, programs, technical assistance, and compliance assurance actions that effectively prevent trash/microplastics from getting into waterways or remove such waste from waterways once it is there.

C2. Improve water management to increase trash capture in waterways and stormwater/wastewater systems.

C3. Increase and improve measurement of trash loadings into waterways to inform management interventions.



# OBJECTIVE C

## Prevent Trash and Micro/Nanoplastics from Entering Waterways and Remove Escaped Trash from the Environment

C4. Increase public awareness of the impacts of plastic products and other types of trash in waterways.

C5. Increase and coordinate research on micro/nanoplastics in waterways and oceans.



# Opportunity for Comment

**Which actions are the most important and would have the greatest positive impact at the local, regional, national, and global level?**

**Consider:**

- Which actions can best protect human health and environmental quality?
- Which actions are most important to address environmental justice and climate pollution impacts?
- What are the key steps and milestones necessary to successfully implement the actions in the draft strategy?

**Deadline for comments is  
June 16, 2023**

**Notice published in the  
[Federal Register](#) on May 2, 2023**

***Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2023-0228***

**Find the Strategy at:**

<https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy>



# Opportunity for Comment

**What are the most important roles and/or actions for federal agencies to lead?**

**Is your organization willing to lead an action or collaborate with others to implement actions?**

- What factors would your organization consider when determining whether to lead an action?

**What are potential unintended consequences of the proposed actions that could impact communities considered overburdened or vulnerable, such as shifts in production or management methods?**

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# Opportunity for Comment

- **What are the key metrics and indicators that EPA should use to measure progress in reducing plastic and other waste in waterways and oceans?**
- **Are there other actions that should be included in this strategy?**
- **Do you have any additional information or recommendations for EPA regarding these or other proposed actions in this draft strategy?**

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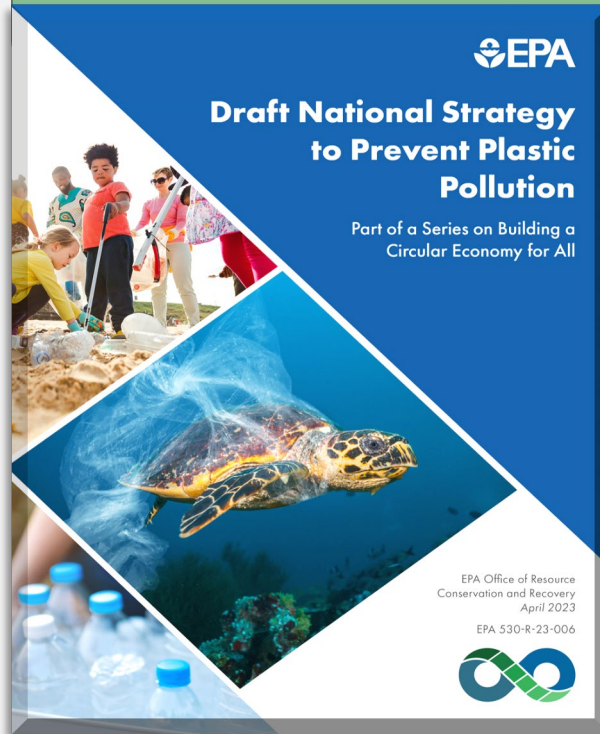
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# NEXT STEPS:

45-Day Public Comment Period – Ends June 16, 2023



Publish Final Strategy – Fall 2023

Implementation Plan – Fall 2023





# Thank You!

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