

A Strategy to Stop Polluting Our Oceans



BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTICS WILL NOT STOP OCEAN LITTER

WHY? THE PROBLEM IS PEOPLE, NOT PLASTIC

COMMON ASSUMPTION: Banning single use plastics in Canada will solve the problem of ocean plastic pollution even though Canada **is not a major contributor to ocean plastic pollution.**

The definitive Jambeck study of ocean litter found that Canada contributes less than 1% (0.4%) to the ocean plastic problem.

And out of 192 countries Canada was at the bottom of the heap of plastic ocean polluters. Canada ranked 187 out of 192 countries.¹

THE REALITY: A Canadian ban on single use plastics will not even to begin to solve the oceans plastic pollution problem.

Why? Because Canada's federal government is completely ignoring the core problems causing ocean litter – Pacific Rim countries dumping waste into the ocean and anti-social littering behaviour by Canadians.

Banning plastics in Canada will solve nothing, just lead to loss of investment and well-paying jobs for Canadians.

¹ [Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean - Jenna Jambeck](#)

THE FACTS/SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Problem 1: Pacific Rim Countries Dumping Waste into the Ocean

- Most have no waste management infrastructure so dumping into the environment is the only option.
- China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam are dumping more plastic into oceans than the rest of the world combined. ²
- 60% of ocean plastic comes from SE Asia countries - Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, The Philippines, and Malaysia where they have no waste management option except to dump into the environment.³
- China is responsible for 27% of all ocean plastic pollution. ⁴

Rank	Country	Econ. classif.	Coastal pop. [millions]	Waste gen. rate [kg/ppd]	% plastic waste	% mismanaged waste	Mismanaged plastic waste [MMT/year]	% of total mismanaged plastic waste	Plastic marine debris [MMT/year]
1	China	UMI	262.9	1.10	11	76	8.82	27.7	1.32-3.53
2	Indonesia	LMI	187.2	0.52	11	83	3.22	10.1	0.48-1.29
3	Philippines	LMI	83.4	0.5	15	83	1.88	5.9	0.28-0.75
4	Vietnam	LMI	55.9	0.79	13	88	1.83	5.8	0.28-0.73
5	Sri Lanka	LMI	14.6	5.1	7	84	1.59	5.0	0.24-0.64
6	Thailand	UMI	26.0	1.2	12	75	1.03	3.2	0.15-0.41
7	Egypt	LMI	21.8	1.37	13	69	0.97	3.0	0.15-0.39
8	Malaysia	UMI	22.9	1.52	13	57	0.94	2.9	0.14-0.37
9	Nigeria	LMI	27.5	0.79	13	83	0.85	2.7	0.13-0.34
10	Bangladesh	LI	70.9	0.43	8	89	0.79	2.5	0.12-0.31
11	South Africa	UMI	12.9	2.0	12	56	0.63	2.0	0.09-0.25
12	India	LMI	187.5	0.34	3	87	0.60	1.9	0.09-0.24
13	Algeria	UMI	16.6	1.2	12	60	0.52	1.6	0.08-0.21
14	Turkey	UMI	34.0	1.77	12	18	0.49	1.5	0.07-0.19
15	Pakistan	LMI	14.6	0.79	13	88	0.48	1.5	0.07-0.19
16	Brazil	UMI	74.7	1.03	16	11	0.47	1.5	0.07-0.19
17	Burma	LI	19.0	0.44	17	89	0.46	1.4	0.07-0.18
18*	Morocco	LMI	17.3	1.46	5	68	0.31	1.0	0.05-0.12
19	North Korea	LI	17.3	0.6	9	90	0.30	1.0	0.05-0.12
20	United States	HIC	112.9	2.58	13	2	0.28	0.9	0.04-0.11

*If considered collectively, coastal European Union countries (23 total) would rank eighteenth on the list

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Problem 2: Anti-Social Littering Behaviour by Canadians.

- 80% of ocean plastic pollution is land-based, yet governments in Canada ignore the problem
- Most municipal bylaws deal with anti-dumping, not anti-littering. Land-based litter ends up in gutters, is washed into storm drains and our rivers where it flows out to the Great Lakes.
- Toronto is one of the few cities that has an anti-litter bylaw, but it is not enforced.

² <https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/full-report-stemming-the.pdf> McKinsey Centre for Business and Environment

³ [Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean - Jenna Jambeck](#)

⁴ https://www.iswa.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Calendar_2011_03_AMERICANA/Science-2015-Jambeck-768-712.pdf

⁵ Ibid; Jambeck

TAKING ACTION: WHAT GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO CONSIDER DOING

Actions

1. Government needs to stop blaming a material for ocean/Great Lakes pollution and fix what is causing the problem.
2. Call on China, as the second largest economy in the world, to stop dumping waste in their rivers and the oceans and invest in waste recovery and recycling systems.
3. Canadian governments help Pacific Rim countries build waste recovery, sorting and recycling infrastructure and train them to operate it.
 - Canada's NOVA Chemicals has invested \$2 million over a three-year period in Indonesia through Project Stop.
4. Canada should prohibit shipping trash outside of North America to other countries.
5. Ontario working with municipalities should put in place an aggressive anti-littering regulatory regime and public education program that puts a stop to anti-social littering behaviour.