



#break**free**fromplastic

CONGRESSIONAL  
STIMULUS AND  
FUNDING BILLS:  
Recommendations  
to Reduce Plastic  
Pollution

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February 2021

## INTRODUCTION

As the United States builds back from our ongoing health and economic crisis, we can do so better with systemic reforms that provide equitable protection against the environmental and health damage caused by plastics, while also creating new jobs. The petrochemical industry, and the waste that it creates, disproportionately harms people of color and low-income communities at every stage of the plastics supply chain—from fossil fuel extraction and processing to plastic production, use in consumer products, and disposal—by polluting our air, water, and soil.

This situation has become even more apparent as the coronavirus pandemic causes inordinate damage to communities that were already facing the impacts of pollution. Today, the area known as “Cancer Alley” (which has roughly 150 petrochemical plants that have caused cancer rates to skyrocket to more than 50 times the national average) has also become known as “[Coronavirus Alley](#)” because it has some of the highest COVID-19 death rates in the country.

These connections are not coincidental, but rather the result of federal, state and local governments allowing the private sector to build hazardous facilities in low-income communities and communities of color—a stark example of environmental racism. Now is the moment to reverse course, stop subsidizing more pollution, and embrace innovation to reduce plastic pollution.

As the new Biden-Harris Administration and Congress consider items to include in various executive and legislative measures, which may include a stimulus package, infrastructure bill, and/or climate change legislation, the undersigned 257 local and national organizations urge you to invest a minimum of \$1.3 billion in lasting and cost-effective solutions to reduce the production, use, and improper disposal of plastics, and create better jobs.

The following 13 recommendations will improve conditions in frontline and fenceline communities, stimulate innovation, and promote public health, cleaner communities, healthy oceans, and a more sustainable economy. These recommendations are consistent with the [Presidential Plastics Action Plan](#) delivered to the Biden-Harris transition team and Congress on December 8, 2020, which highlights eight executive actions to address the plastic pollution crisis. Together, these two plans will foster U.S. leadership on a major domestic and global crisis.

## THE CRISIS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

There are over [350 million tons of plastic](#) produced each year, of which 91 percent is not recycled. The U.S., [which produces the most plastic waste per capita of any country](#) and mismanages the majority of its own plastic waste, exports 225 shipping containers of plastic waste per day to countries with limited or nonexistent waste management systems, where plastic may be crudely processed in unsafe facilities and incinerated in open areas, creating additional pollution and health problems.

Plastic pollution negatively impacts human and environmental health, the economy, and climate change:

- 15 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year from land- and sea-based sources, with more than [three-quarters](#) coming from land-based sources.
- The petrochemical industry and its waste disproportionately affect communities of color, low-income communities and Indigenous communities by polluting their air, water and soil.
- By 2030, emissions from plastic production could reach 1.34 gigatons per year—[equivalent to the emissions released by more than 295 new 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants](#)—if plastic production and use grow as currently planned.

- Each of us inhales or [consumes one credit card-sized amount of plastic \(5g\) per week](#) and at [least 74,000 microplastic particles every year](#). Microplastics are in the air we breathe, in our drinking water, and in many food products. A recent study even documented the presence of [microplastics in maternal human placentas](#).
- Plastic pollution harms or kills thousands of marine mammals and sea turtles in U.S. waters—and [88% of those animals were listed as endangered or threatened](#) under the Endangered Species Act.
- Plastic pollution disrupts tourism, especially in coastal communities where the tourism industry represents a cornerstone of the local economy.
- Plastic is often cleaned up at the public’s expense using tax dollars, rather than by the corporations who produced the plastic that pollutes these lands and waterways.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents 13 key recommendations that the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress should include in a stimulus package, infrastructure bill, and/or climate legislation. It also identifies five elements that should be omitted from any legislative or executive action because they do not reduce plastic pollution or stimulate economic growth, and have negative consequences for human health and the environment.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION	
RECOMMENDATION	PURPOSE
1. \$150 Million for Government Facilities, Educational Institutions, and Public Lands To Shift To Reusable Products	The Government Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Department of Education should establish Reusable Foodware Systems and install water refill stations in publicly-funded educational institutions, government buildings, and in public-lands service areas. Filters to capture microfibers in commercial washing and drying appliances should also be installed in all applicable facilities.
2. \$25 Million to Investigate and Pursue Violations of Environmental Laws by the Petrochemical Industry in Environmental Justice Communities	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Justice (DOJ) should investigate all violations of law by plastic producers, transporters, and molders/formers on the environment and communities, and prosecute them for any damages they have caused.
3. \$6 Million to Install Water Refill Stations to Replace Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles at National Parks and Across Public Lands	The National Park Service should install water refill stations in national parks and across public lands with existing services like visitor centers and rest areas.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION	
RECOMMENDATION	PURPOSE
<p>4. \$50 Million to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Improve Data Collection and Better Regulate the Plastics Industry</p>	<p>The EPA should accurately report waste reduction, recycling and composting rates from local and state governments and from the private sector.</p> <p>The EPA should update existing federal regulations and pollution standards under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act that apply to plastic refinery, production and processing facilities.</p> <p>The EPA should update federal policies to require zero plastic discharge and use zero-emissions energy sources for all facilities that produce, package, transport, use, recycle and process plastic materials.</p> <p>The EPA should take additional measures to promulgate the environmental, public health, and environmental justice impacts of the plastics industry, as well as enforce financial assurance obligations under the CERCLA (Superfund law).</p>
<p>5. \$150 Million for Research on the Health Impacts of Plastics</p>	<p>The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) National Toxicology Program (\$50 million) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) (\$35 million) should conduct a series of studies on the presence of plastics in the human body and its impact on human health.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences and the National Institutes of Health (\$4 million) should conduct a study and report on the environmental, public health, and environmental justice impacts of the plastic industry and its planned expansion.</p> <p>The Food and Drug Administration (\$5 million) should do a nationwide study on the presence of microplastics in food products, beverages, fish, fruits, and vegetables.</p> <p>The EPA (\$50 million) should study the presence of microplastics in drinking water and sewage treatment plant effluent.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$6 million) should study the presence of microplastics in soil and in sewage sludge from sewage treatment plants.</p>

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION	
RECOMMENDATION	PURPOSE
6. \$500 Million to the EPA for Recycling Programs and Materials Recovery Facilities for Non-Plastic Recyclables	The Administration and Congress should provide the EPA sufficient funding to support new and improved Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in local jurisdictions across the country to achieve higher quality materials suitable for local end-markets, while providing jobs and stimulating innovation.
7. \$250 Million for Composting	The EPA should provide funding to local governments and public colleges to upgrade and expand commercial-scale composting and other infrastructure for organic waste.
8. \$50 Million to Develop Waste Reduction, Reuse and Refill Systems	The U.S. Department of Commerce should establish a new Office of Waste Reduction Innovation and Recycling Market Development, with a primary focus on creating new domestic jobs and organizing job training programs for companies investing in waste reduction and reusable and refillable technologies and products, and a secondary focus on recycling and composting companies.
9. \$1 Million for the Architect of the Capitol to Reduce Single-Use Plastic in the Capitol and Legislative Offices	The Architect of the Capitol should install or upgrade water refill systems and improve organics collection throughout the Capitol Building, legislative offices, and other buildings under the management of the Architect of the Capitol.
10. \$25 Million for Green Chemistry	The EPA Office of Research and Development should invest in sustainable, green chemistry which will lead to a wave of innovation and job creation, including a core focus on 21st century green chemistry and toxicology methods.
11. \$50 Million for AmeriCorps	AmeriCorps should establish a new program creating intensive waste reduction, recycling, and composting zones around the country.
12. \$20 Million to the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Stormwater, Trash, and Debris Capture Systems and Green Infrastructure Design	The EPA should ensure that there are adequate resources nationally for the installation of storm drain waste capture devices and green infrastructure in response to rain storms becoming more intense.
13. \$25 Million for Reducing and Mitigating Plastic in the Ocean	The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) should develop regulations, in consultation with the EPA, to reduce and mitigate abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, as well as to reduce plastic in hunting and fishing items. Additionally, burning plastic fishing gear (as is currently being facilitated by NOAA) must stop.

WHAT SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN FEDERAL ACTIONS	
POINT OF CONCERN	WHY SHOULD IT BE OMITTED?
1. The production, distribution, and export of plastic must be reduced.	Federal funding must help stop plastic contamination at its source before it enters the marketplace while improving our waste management systems, developing new business models, phasing out the worst plastic offenders, and shifting to reusable non-plastic alternatives. The federal government should also prohibit the export of plastic waste.
2. Chemical or “Advanced” Recycling is costly, polluting, and ineffective, and should not receive direct funding or loan guarantees.	Although pyrolysis and gasification companies have promoted themselves as an alternative to waste disposal for decades, not one of the 37 “chemical recycling” projects announced in the U.S. in the last 20 years has successfully recycled plastic at a commercial scale.
3. Plastic Carbon Sequestration is not a good policy.	Funding should be provided for carbon sequestration activities in the area of land use (e.g. reforestation, improved agricultural practices, soil restoration, composting, organic food and yard waste). No funding or tax incentives should be provided for the landfilling of plastic as carbon sequestration or the production of plastic as carbon utilization.
4. Downcycling is not the solution.	The term “recycling” should not include the conversion of plastic into material that is of lower quality and functionality than the original material (commonly referred to as “downcycling”). Likewise, “recycling” should not include the conversion of plastic waste to fuel, energy, chemicals or other products.
5. Incineration under the guise of “waste to energy” or “waste to fuel” or gasification or pyrolysis is harmful and ineffective.	These facilities are disproportionately built in low-income communities and communities of color, where they release harmful emissions and greenhouse gases. Incineration is also one of the most expensive ways to generate energy, competes with recyclers for the same materials, and creates fewer jobs compared to zero waste practices.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Biden-Harris Administration and Congress should include the following 13 funding areas in a stimulus package, infrastructure bill, and/or climate legislation. These areas will help transform the country's extractive, throwaway culture into a regenerative, inclusive one that creates American jobs and is good for our economy and environment.

These recommendations focus “upstream” on eliminating the source of plastic production and its negative impacts. They also aim to mitigate “downstream” impacts in communities, on land, and in our oceans and rivers. Overall, policies should seek to reduce our use of products and packaging routinely disposed of after a single-use.

All investments should prioritize support for communities that the petrochemical industrial sector and its waste have historically harmed “first and worst”, namely, communities of color, Indigenous communities, and low-income communities.

## WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN FEDERAL SPENDING BILLS AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

### 1. \$150 Million for Government Facilities, Educational Institutions, and Public Lands To Shift To Reusable Products

As the single largest purchaser of goods and services in the U.S., the federal government spends more than \$450 billion on products and services each year. Its actions can lay the groundwork for broader societal change. The Government Services Administration (GSA) and U.S. Department of Education should:

- Install reusable foodware systems, including energy efficient and low-water dishwashing equipment in publicly-funded educational institutions and government building cafeterias;
- Install water refill stations in educational institutions, public buildings and public spaces. Before installation, the water must be confirmed to be safe for consumption; if unsafe, any water quality problems should be rectified;
- Install filters to capture microfibers in commercial washing and drying appliances in applicable schools/universities and all government-run facilities, including hospitals and military base laundries. [One-third of microplastics in our ocean](#) come from laundering synthetic clothing, and actions like this can prevent billions of microplastics from entering the ocean and endangering the ocean food web.

### 2. \$25 Million to Investigate and Pursue Violations of Environmental Laws by the Petrochemical Industry in Environmental Justice Communities

The U.S. EPA and Department of Justice (DOJ) should investigate all violations of law by plastics producers, transporters, and molders/formers on the environment and communities, and pursue civil and criminal enforcement and compliance proceedings against them to remedy the harm they have caused and prevent further damage.

This initiative is monumentally important and needs to be expanded in future years. This is just first year funding for what should be an ongoing focus by EPA and DOJ.



“Cancer Alley” - Reveille Town Cemetery borders a petrochemical complex in Plaquemine, LA. (Photo: Center for Biological Diversity)

**3. \$6 Million to Install Water Refill Stations to Replace Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles at National Parks and Across Public Lands**



Reusable water bottle fill up stations at Grand Canyon National Park provide fresh spring water. (Photo: National Park Service)

The National Park Service should install water refill stations in national parks and across public lands with existing services like visitor centers and rest areas. Before installation, the water must be confirmed to be safe for consumption; if unsafe, any water quality problems should be rectified.

**4. \$50 Million to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Improve Data Collection and More Effectively Regulate the Plastics Industry**

The EPA should:

- Develop and implement new data collection and reporting methodologies to accurately and transparently report waste reduction, recycling, and composting rates throughout the U.S.;
- Update existing federal regulations and pollution standards under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act that apply to plastic refinery, production, and processing, and transport facilities using best available science and technology, including adopting a zero plastic discharge standard and requiring zero-emissions energy sources for all new and expanded facilities that produce, package, transport, use, recycle and process plastic materials;
- Require consistent reporting from local and state governments and from the private sector;
- Promulgate regulations requiring continuous emissions and fence-line monitoring of pollutants for all plastic refineries and production facilities, require accurate and continuous recordkeeping, and ensure records are available to the public; and
- Enforce financial assurance obligations under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Superfund law) for oil refining and chemical manufacturing industries to ensure that companies are not self-bonded and are fully responsible for funding closure costs.



Petrochemical complexes in Houston, TX, refine fracked gas to make plastic, releasing toxins into local communities. (Photo: The Story of Plastic)



## 5. \$150 Million for Research on the Health Impacts of Plastics

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) National Toxicology Program (\$50 million) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) (\$35 million) should conduct a series of studies on the presence of plastics in the human body and its impact on human health.

The National Academy of Sciences and the National Institutes of Health (\$4 million) should conduct a study and report on the environmental, public health, and environmental justice impacts of the plastic industry and its planned expansion. The study and report must consider the entire supply chain, including the production, end uses, disposal fate, and lifecycle impacts of plastic products. The study and report must also assess the best available technologies and practices that reduce or eliminate the pollution impacts of plastics facilities and associated infrastructure as a matter of environmental justice.

The Food and Drug Administration (\$5 million) should conduct a nationwide study on the presence of microplastics in beverages, fish, fruits, vegetables, and other food products.

The EPA (\$50 million) should study the presence of microplastics in drinking water and sewage treatment plant effluent.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$6 million) should study the presence of microplastics in soil and in sewage sludge from sewage treatment plants.



*This rainbow runner fish consumed 17 plastic fragments, which can then enter our food supply. (Photo: Dr. Marcus Eriksen, 5 Gyres)*

## 6. \$500 Million to EPA for Recycling Programs and Materials Recovery Facilities for Non-Plastic Recyclables

The Administration and Congress should provide EPA sufficient funding to support new and improved Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in local jurisdictions across the country. These facilities should generate higher quality materials that are better suited for local end-markets, while providing jobs and stimulating innovation. Funding should be specifically allocated for equipment that improves worker safety.

Plastic recycling has been wholly inadequate, with an anemic 8.2% recycling rate. Historically, only #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) plastic actually gets recycled and occasionally #5 (polypropylene) plastic. This means that over 90% of plastic never gets recycled.



*The U.S. produces the most plastic waste per capita in the world, and exports tons of that waste overseas. (Photo: The Story of Plastic)*

There is a need to invest in recycling infrastructure for materials that actually have strong end markets. Many materials that are core to recycling programs can be effectively recycled for social and environmental benefit, including paper, cardboard, metal, and glass.

The federal government must play an active role in substantially increasing recycling rates to prevent vast amounts of materials from being buried in landfills or burned in incinerators, especially because these waste facilities are almost always located in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

## 7. \$250 Million for Composting

The EPA should provide funding to local governments and public educational institutions to upgrade and expand commercial-scale composting and other infrastructure for organic waste, including the collection of source-separated yard waste and wasted food. Organics management programs divert waste from landfills into more useful alternatives with significantly lower environmental and public health impacts, including by reducing methane releases. Certified compostable products that are accepted at these facilities should contain no [perfluorinated compounds](#) or other toxic substances.

## 8. \$50 Million to Develop Waste Reduction, Reuse and Refill Systems

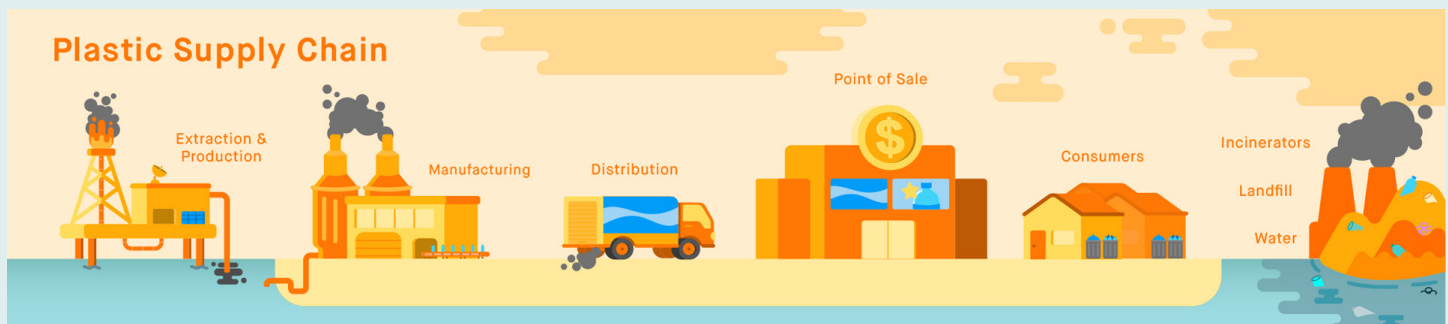
The U.S. Department of Commerce should establish a new Office of Waste Reduction Innovation and Recycling Market Development, with a primary focus on creating new domestic jobs and organizing job training programs for companies investing in waste reduction and reusable and refillable technologies and products, and a secondary focus on recycling and composting companies. Additionally, the Office of Waste Reduction Innovation and Recycling Market Development should make clear that environmental justice concerns related to waste reduction are a core part of the office's mission. These funds should not be used for chemical recycling, plastic-to-fuel, or related technologies.

## 9. \$1 Million for the Architect of the Capitol to Reduce Single-Use Plastic in the Capitol and Legislative Offices

The Architect of the Capitol should install or upgrade drinking water systems for reuse or refill, and improve organics collection throughout the Capitol Building, legislative offices, and other buildings under the management of the Architect of the Capitol.

## 10. \$25 Million for Green Chemistry

The EPA's Office of Research and Development should invest in sustainable, green chemistry that can lead to a wave of innovation, job creation, and public health benefits. Our scientific understanding of toxicity, particularly of endocrine disruptors found in plastics, is far superior to what we had when today's plastics were designed and commercialized. Yet, we are still using this old technology and old environmental standards, leading to unacceptable damage to public health and our environment. We must apply 21st century green chemistry and toxicology methods to design and produce new materials that can avoid and minimize a wide array of adverse cumulative health and environmental effects on fenceline communities with the greatest need for these protections and the general public.



### 11. \$50 Million for AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps should establish a new program creating intensive waste reduction, recycling, and composting zones around the country. AmeriCorps volunteers will work with local governments, businesses, and civic organizations to design and promote neighborhood-based waste reduction, recycling, and composting programs. AmeriCorps volunteers should be paid a livable wage.

### 12. \$20 Million to EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Stormwater, Trash, and Debris Capture Systems and Green Infrastructure Design

The EPA should have adequate resources to install nationwide storm drain trash and debris waste capture devices and other green infrastructure such as bioswales to keep waste out of our rivers, lakes, and oceans. This is needed to address the trash and litter runoff problems accompanying increasingly intense weather events. These types of devices will restore natural water flow by controlling water output through water basins, and prevent physical garbage from entering major waterways connected to drinking water sources and the ocean. Additionally, green infrastructure design can trap small plastic particles and other pollutants not impeded by trash capture systems.

### 13. \$25 Million for Reducing and Mitigating Plastic in the Ocean

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) should:

- Develop regulations, in consultation with the EPA, to reduce and mitigate abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, including gillnets and fishing traps/pots which cause ecological and economic harms. The regulations must include: (1) reporting, labeling, traceability, and monitoring measures; and (2) measures to eliminate or substantially reduce the impacts of lost and abandoned fishing gear on wildlife, including gear retrieval projects.
- Have sufficient funding support to fully implement its Fishing for Energy program to collect derelict fishing gear at ports across coastal states, *but only if* the existing incineration element of the program is eliminated.
- Develop regulations to reduce plastic in hunting and fishing gear.



*This albatross chick died from consuming pieces of plastic that it mistook for food. (Photo: Dan Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)*

## WHAT SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN FEDERAL SPENDING BILLS AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

To effectively reduce plastic pollution and stimulate economic growth, it is essential that the Administration and Congress **DO NOT** promote false solutions in federal spending bills and other actions, and should therefore uphold and adhere to the following:

### 1. The production, distribution, and export of plastic must be reduced.

We cannot recycle our way out of this problem. The solution to plastic pollution is to reduce the amount of unnecessary plastic that is produced and consumed. Federal funding and action must help stop plastic contamination at its source before it enters the marketplace while improving our waste management systems, developing new business models, phasing out the most harmful and wasteful plastic products, and shifting to reusable non-plastic alternatives. Priority should be given to replacing single-use plastic for consumer goods, personal care products, toys, and other materials where there are substitutes available.

**Direct and indirect subsidies to the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries must cease.**



*Refining and producing plastic releases carcinogenic and toxic pollution into the air. (Photo: The Story of Plastic)*

Likewise, actions to find outlets for plastic waste collected in the United States should not cause harm to communities in other countries. Tabulated trade statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce show that the U.S. continues to export about [28,000 metric tons of plastic waste per month](#) to developing countries. **The federal government should prohibit the export of plastic waste.**

### 2. Chemical or “Advanced” Recycling is costly, polluting, and ineffective.

The petrochemical industry has flooded the world with plastic, while maintaining that the answer to the plastic pollution problem is not making less of it, but rather investing in “downstream” technologies, including “chemical recycling,” which is costly, polluting and ineffective.

For decades, pyrolysis and gasification companies have promoted themselves as a beneficial alternative to waste disposal, securing significant private and public sector investment with no concrete evidence to support their claims. Based on public information, not one of the 37 “chemical recycling” projects announced in the U.S. in the last 20 years has successfully recycled plastic at a commercial scale. Attempts to use thermal treatments to recover plastic from waste streams has, in fact, resulted in a track record of high-profile failures around the world, along with reports of fires, explosions, and financial losses (\$2 billion from canceled or failed projects internationally as of 2017).

These projects are not viable for several reasons including: the heavy up-front cost of constructing the facilities; the energy required to operate them; the immaturity of the technology, which increases waste management costs; the additional treatment costs beyond sorting and washing; and the compliance risks associated with toxic emissions and byproduct disposal. **Therefore, federal legislation should not include funding for chemical or advanced recycling research, development, or technology.**

**3. Plastic Carbon Sequestration is not a good policy.**

Funding or tax incentives for the landfilling of plastic as carbon sequestration or the production of plastic as carbon utilization should not be included in any stimulus or other bill. (The funding for plastic landfilling and sequestration in the current “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividends Act” is hugely problematic).

Instead, funding should be provided for land-based carbon sequestration activities like reforestation, improved agricultural practices, and soil restoration. Investments should also be made in programs involving composting of organic food and yard waste, which returns carbon to the soil.

**4. Downcycling is not the solution.**

The term “recycling” means a series of activities by which a product is collected, sorted, and processed, then converted into a raw material with minimal loss of material quality. The term “recycling” should not include the conversion of plastic into material that is of lower quality and functionality than the original material (commonly referred to as “downcycling”). Likewise, “recycling” should not include the conversion of plastic waste to fuel, energy, chemicals or other products through pyrolysis, hydrolysis, methanolysis, gasification, enzymatic breakdown, or similar technology.

**5. Incineration under the guise of “waste to energy” or “waste to fuel” is harmful and ineffective.**

Incinerators are disproportionately built in low-income and communities of color, burdening them with air pollution, diesel trucks transporting waste, toxic ash, and much more. Burning waste in incinerators releases various types of [harmful emissions and greenhouse gases](#), including lead, mercury, dioxins and furans, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, acidic gases, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and brominated polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHS). Direct exposure to such toxins risks the health of facility workers and residents in nearby communities. Incineration is also cost-prohibitive (i.e. one of the most expensive ways to generate energy), competes with recyclers for the same materials, and creates fewer jobs compared to zero waste practices.

## CONCLUSION

The federal government must take action to eliminate single-use plastic in its own operations and to promote our country’s transition away from plastic production, over-consumption, and pollution. The [Presidential Plastics Action Plan](#) published on December 8, 2020 identifies important steps the Biden-Harris Administration can take today to address this important issue. Additionally, the [Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act](#) which is expected to be reintroduced in early 2021, identifies common sense actions the federal government can take to address the plastic pollution crisis.

Alongside these efforts, a stimulus package that follows the recommendations provided in this document would help protect frontline communities from plastic factories’ toxic emissions, while also preventing plastic pollution from contaminating our communities, lands, rivers, and oceans. These measures will resonate with the American public, which overwhelmingly supports measures to protect public health and reduce our dependence on single-use plastic. Through innovation and design, we can rediscover how to produce and deliver goods in a way that protects our communities and our environment.

## ABOUT BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC

The [#breakfreefromplastic](#) movement is a global movement envisioning a future free from plastic pollution. Since its launch in 2016, more than 11,000 organizations and individual supporters from across the world have joined the movement to demand massive reductions in single-use plastics and to push for lasting solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. BFFP member organizations and individuals share the common values of environmental protection and social justice, and work together through a holistic approach in order to bring about systemic change under the #breakfreefromplastic core pillars. This means tackling plastic pollution across the whole plastics value chain - from extraction to disposal – focusing on prevention rather than cure and providing effective solutions.

## ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

ActiveSGV, a project of Community Partners	<i>El Monte, CA</i>	Center for Biological Diversity	<i>National</i>
Advocates for Clean & Clear Waterways, Inc.	<i>Fort Lauderdale, FL</i>	CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm	<i>Delafield, Wisconsin and Franklin, Arkansas, AR</i>
Algalita	<i>Long Beach, CA</i>	CERBAT	<i>Los Angeles CA and Kingman, AZ</i>
Alliance for Mission-Based Recyclers (AMBR)	<i>National</i>	ChicoBag Company / To-Go Ware	<i>Chico, CA</i>
Already Devalued and Devastated Homewners of Parsippany	<i>Parsippany, NJ</i>	Church Women United in New York State	<i>Rochester, NY</i>
American Sustainable Business Council	<i>Washington, DC</i>	Clean Economy Coalition	<i>Corpus Christi, TX</i>
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.	<i>Watertown, MA</i>	Clean Energy Now Texas	<i>Driftwood, TX</i>
Animas Valley Institute	<i>Durango, CO</i>	Climate Reality Project: Bay Area Chapter	<i>San Francisco Bay Area, CA</i>
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism	<i>New York, NY</i>	Climate Reality Project: Capital Region, NY Chapter	<i>Capital Region, NY</i>
Battle Creek Alliance	<i>Manton, CA</i>	Climate Reality Project: Greater Cincinnati Chapter	<i>Cincinnati, OH</i>
Bay Area - System Change not Climate Change	<i>Oakland, CA</i>	Climate Reality Project: Lehigh Valley PA Chapter	<i>Lehigh Valley, PA</i>
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community	<i>Ambridge, PA</i>	Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles Chapter	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle	<i>Albany, NY</i>	Climate Reality Project: New Orleans Chapter	<i>New Orleans, LA</i>
Beyond Plastics	<i>National</i>	Climate Reality Project: Philadelphia and Southeastern PA Chapter	<i>Philadelphia, PA</i>
Big Reuse	<i>Brooklyn, NY</i>	Climate Reality Project: Pittsburgh & Southwestern PA Chapter	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
Breathe Project	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter	<i>Central PA</i>
BRINGiT	<i>Palo Alto, CA</i>	Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ	<i>Northern NJ</i>
Bronx Climate Justice North	<i>Bronx, NY</i>	Compressor Free Franklin	<i>Franklin, NY</i>
Bucks County Audubon Society	<i>New Hope, PA</i>	Concerned Ohio River Residents	<i>Bridgeport, OH</i>
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>	Concerned Residents of Oxford	<i>Oxford, NY</i>
Bureo Inc	<i>Ventura, CA</i>	Concord on Tap	<i>Concord, MA</i>
Cafeteria Culture	<i>New York, NY</i>	ConcordCAN! - the Concord Climate Action Network	<i>Concord, MA</i>
Cahaba Riverkeeper	<i>Birmingham, AL</i>	Conservation Law Foundation	<i>Boston, MA</i>
California Resource Recovery Association	<i>Sacramento, CA</i>	Cooperative Energy Futures	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>
Californians Against Waste	<i>Sacramento, CA</i>	Cup Zero	<i>Ridgewood, NY</i>
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife	<i>Cape Coral, FL</i>		
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition	<i>Albany, NY</i>		

## ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

DC Environmental Network	<i>Washington, DC</i>	Health Care 4 All PA, Isaak Walton League	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition	<i>North Eastern NJ</i>	Health Promotion Consultants	<i>Roanoke, VI</i>
Don't Waste Arizona	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>	Hispanic Access Foundation	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Drawdown East End	<i>Long Island, NY</i>	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.	<i>Beacon, NY</i>
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (DRAC)	<i>Dryden, NY</i>	Hyde Consulting	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
Earth Care Committee at Sixth Presbyterian Church	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	In the Shadow of the Wolf	<i>Greenwich, CT</i>
Earth Ethics, Inc.	<i>Pensacola, FL</i>	Indivisible Bainbridge Island	<i>Bainbridge Island, WA</i>
Earth Island Institute	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>	Inland Ocean Coalition	<i>Boulder, CO</i>
Earth Rights Defenders	<i>Ponca City, OK</i>	Inspiration of Sedona	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
Earth Uprising	<i>International</i>	Institute for Local Self-Reliance	<i>Washington, DC   Minneapolis, MN   Portland, ME</i>
Elders Climate Action (ECA) NorCal Chapter	<i>Northern CA</i>	Interfaith Earthkeepers	<i>Eugene, OR</i>
Endangered Habitats League	<i>CA</i>	Interfaith Oceans	<i>Hudson, WI</i>
Environment New Jersey	<i>Trenton, NJ</i>	Interfaith Power & Light	<i>Oakland, CA</i>
Environment Texas	<i>Austin, TX</i>	International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>
Environmental Advocates NY	<i>Albany, NY</i>	Izaak Walton league of America, Allegheny County	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
Environmental Justice Taskforce	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>	Kickapoo Peace Circle	<i>Viroqua, WI</i>
Extinction Rebellion Kentucky	<i>Louisville, KY</i>	Lonely Whale	<i>Austin, TX</i>
Feminists in Action Los Angeles	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>	Long Island Progressive Coalition	<i>Massapequa, NY</i>
Fenceline Watch	<i>Houston, TX</i>	Louisiana Bucket Brigade	<i>New Orleans, LA</i>
Fluoride Action Network	<i>National</i>	Louisiana League of Conscious Voters	<i>New Orleans, LA</i>
Food & Water Watch	<i>National</i>	Lower East Side Ecology Center	<i>New York City, NY</i>
Foodscraps360	<i>Albany, NY</i>	M-W & Associates Environmental Policy Consultants	<i>New Orleans, LA</i>
For Love of Water (FLOW)	<i>Traverse City, MI</i>	Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board	<i>New York, NY</i>
FracTracker Alliance	<i>Camp Hill, PA</i>	Marin Sanitary Service	<i>San Rafael, CA</i>
FreshWater Accountability Project	<i>Grand Rapids, OH</i>	Massachusetts Climate Action Network	<i>Waltham, MA</i>
Friends of the Bitterroot	<i>Hamilton, MT</i>	Mercy Focus on Haiti	<i>Cedar Rapids, IA</i>
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>	Metro N.Y. Catholic Climate Movement	<i>NY</i>
Gas Free Seneca	<i>Watkins Glen, NY</i>	MOM's Organic Market	<i>Rockville, MD</i>
Geos Institute	<i>Ashland, OR</i>	Monterey Bay Aquarium	<i>Monterey, CA</i>
Glendale Environmental Coalition	<i>Glendale, CA</i>	MountainTrue	<i>Asheville, NC</i>
Global Recycling Council of the California Resource Recovery Association	<i>Sacramento, CA</i>	Muuse	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
Grassroots Environmental Education	<i>Port Washington, NY</i>	Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club	<i>Nassau County, NY</i>
Green Deeds LLC	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	National Aquarium	<i>Baltimore, MD</i>
Green Education and Legal Fund	<i>Poestenkill, NY</i>	National Recycling Coalition	<i>Syracuse, NY</i>
Green Party of Brooklyn	<i>Brooklyn, NY</i>	Natural Resources Council of Maine	<i>Augusta, ME</i>
Green Party of Duval County	<i>Jacksonville, FL</i>	Nevada County Elders in Action	<i>Grass Valley, CA</i>
Green Party of Nassau County	<i>Long Beach, NY</i>	New York Interfaith Power & Light	<i>Lincolndale, NY</i>
GreenLatinos	<i>National</i>	New York Public Interest Research Group	<i>Albany, NY</i>
Greenpeace USA	<i>Washington, DC</i>	New York Youth Climate Leaders	<i>Rochester, NY</i>
Hannah4Change	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>		
Heal the Bay	<i>Santa Monica, CA</i>		

## ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

New Yorkers for Clean Power	<i>Kingston, NY</i>	Riverdale Jewish Earth Alliance	<i>Bronx, NY</i>
News from the Neighborhood	<i>Delmar, NY</i>	RootsAction	<i>National</i>
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)	<i>Roosevelt, NY</i>	Safer States	<i>Portland, OR</i>
North Carolina Council of Churches	<i>Raleigh, NC</i>	San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society	<i>San Bernardino County, CA</i>
North Country Earth Action	<i>Greater Glens Falls, NY</i>	Sane Energy Project	<i>New York, NY</i>
NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition	<i>NY</i>	Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)	<i>Deposit, NY</i>
NYC H2O	<i>New York City, NY</i>	Saratoga Sites Against Norlite Emissions	<i>Cohoes, NY</i>
NYPAN Environmental Committee	<i>Athens, NY</i>	Save Our Shores	<i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>
NYPAN Greene	<i>Athens, NY</i>	SAVE THE FROGS!	<i>Laguna Beach, CA</i>
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center	<i>Sonoma County, CA</i>	Science Policy Initiative	<i>Charlottesville, VI</i>
Ocean Futures Society	<i>Santa Barbara, CA</i>	Sea Hugger	<i>Half Moon Bay, CA</i>
Oceana	<i>Washington, DC</i>	Seaside Sustainability	<i>Gloucester, MA</i>
Oceanic Global Foundation	<i>NY</i>	Seatuck Environmental Association	<i>Islip, NY</i>
Oceanic Preservation Society	<i>Greenbrae, CA</i>	Seneca Lake Guardian	<i>Watkins Glen, NY</i>
OFA	<i>San Rafael, CA</i>	Seventh Generation	<i>Burlington, VT</i>
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth	<i>Convent Station, NJ</i>	Shark Stewards	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
Orange County Coastkeeper	<i>Costa Mesa, CA</i>	Sierra Club	<i>Washington, DC</i>
PASUP (Pittsburghers Against Single Use Plastics)	<i>Pittsburgh PA</i>	Sister of Mercy	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Peak Plastic Foundation	<i>Olympia, WA</i>	Sisters of Charity Federation	<i>NY</i>
Pelican Media	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership	<i>Louisville, KY</i>
PennFuture	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership	<i>Louisville, KY</i>
People of Albany United for Safe Energy - PAUSE	<i>Albany, NY</i>	Sisters of Charity of New York Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation	<i>Bronx, NY</i>
Pipeline Safety Coalition	<i>Savannah, GA</i>	Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy	<i>Charleston, SC</i>
Plastic Free Future	<i>San Francisco Bay Area, CA</i>	Sisters of Mercy	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>
Plastic Free MKE	<i>Milwaukee, WI</i>	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas	<i>Rochester, NY</i>
Plastic Pollution Coalition	<i>Berkeley, CA and Washington, DC</i>	Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur	<i>Rome, Italy</i>
Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma	<i>Ponca City, OK</i>	Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York	<i>Blauvelt, NY</i>
Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN)	<i>Dover, NH</i>	Social Justice Center of Albany	<i>Albany, NY</i>
Public Citizen	<i>Washington D.C and Austin, TX</i>	Society of Native Nations	<i>San Antonio, TX</i>
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance	<i>Seattle, WA</i>	Solarize Albany	<i>Albany, NY</i>
Putnam Progressives	<i>NY</i>	South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc	<i>NY</i>
Re:Solve NW	<i>Portland, OR</i>	South Shore Audubon Society	<i>Freeport, NY</i>
Recycle Hawaii	<i>Hilo, HI</i>	Spottswode Winery, Inc.	<i>Saint Helena, CA</i>
Reef Relief, Inc.	<i>Key West, FL</i>	St. Andrew's Presbyterian	<i>Austin, TX</i>
Resource Renewal Institute	<i>Mill Valley, CA</i>	St. Andrews Earth Care Committee	<i>Austin, TX</i>
Reyes Wine Group LLC	<i>Benicia, CA</i>	Stand.earth	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
Rio Grande International Study Center	<i>Laredo, TX</i>	Stanley and Phyllis Corwin Foundation	<i>Saratoga Springs, NY</i>
RISE St. James	<i>St. James, LA</i>		
River Guardian Foundation	<i>Raleigh, NC</i>		
River Valley Organizing	<i>East Liverpool, Portsmouth, Steubenville, OH</i>		



## ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)	<i>NY</i>	Valley Improvement Projects	<i>Modesto, CA</i>
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development	<i>Narrowsburg, NY</i>	Vermont Public Interest Research Group	<i>Montpelier, VT</i>
Surfrider Foundation	<i>San Clemente, CA</i>	Vote-Climate	<i>MN</i>
Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii	<i>HI</i>	Washington Life Magazine	<i>Washington, D.C.</i>
Sustainable Mill Valley	<i>Mill Valley, CA</i>	Waterkeeper Alliance	<i>New York, NY</i>
Sustainable Sudbury	<i>Sudbury, MA</i>	Waterkeepers Chesapeake	<i>Takoma Park, MD</i>
Sustainable Upton	<i>Upton, MA</i>	Watervliet Huddle	<i>Watervliet, NY</i>
Syracuse Cultural Workers	<i>Syracuse, NY</i>	WESPAC Foundation, Inc.	<i>White Plains, NY</i>
Texas Campaign for the Environment	<i>Austin, Dallas, Houston, TX</i>	West 80s Neighborhood Association	<i>New York, NY</i>
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services	<i>Houston, TX</i>	West Virginia University Plastic Free Task Force	<i>Morgantown, WV</i>
The 5 Gyres Institute	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>	Westchester for Change	<i>Rye, NY</i>
The Lands Council	<i>Spokane, WA</i>	Winyah Rivers Alliance	<i>Conway, SC</i>
The Last Plastic Straw	<i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>	Zero Waste Capital District	<i>Albany, NY</i>
The Ocean Project	<i>Providence, RI</i>	Zero Waste Humboldt	<i>Arcata, CA</i>
The Plastic Ocean Project, Inc.	<i>Wilmington, NC</i>	Zero Waste Planning Committee of Warren and Washington Counties	<i>Glens Falls, NY</i>
The Repurpose Project	<i>Gainesville, FL</i>	Zero Waste USA	<i>Sebastopol, CA</i>
The Story of Stuff Project	<i>Berkeley, CA</i>	Zero Waste Washington	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
Think Zero LLC	<i>NY</i>	2000 Spays and Neuters	<i>New York, NY</i>
Tompkins County Progressives	<i>Tompkins County, NY</i>	350 Bay Area Action	<i>Oakland, CA</i>
Toxics Information Project (TIP)	<i>Providence, RI</i>	350 Berkshires	<i>Pittsfield, MA</i>
Turtle Island Restoration Network	<i>Galveston, TX</i>	350 Brooklyn	<i>Brooklyn, NY</i>
U.S. Public Interest Research Group	<i>Washington, D.C.</i>	350 Massachusetts for a Better Future	<i>Cambridge, MA</i>
Unexpected Wildlife Refuge	<i>Newfield, NJ</i>	350 New Orleans	<i>New Orleans, LA</i>
UPSTREAM	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>		
USEFULL	<i>Boston, MA</i>		