CONGRESSIONAL STIMULUS AND FUNDING BILLS: Recommendations to Reduce Plastic Pollution

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.
- 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.
- The petrochemical industry and its waste disproportionately affect communities of color, low-income communities and Indigenous communities by polluting their air, water and soil.
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.

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<td>1. $150 Million for Government Facilities, Educational Institutions, and Public Lands To Shift To Reusable Products</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>4. $50 Million to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Improve Data Collection and Better Regulate the Plastics Industry</td>
<td>The EPA should accurately report waste reduction, recycling and composting rates from local and state governments and from the private sector. 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. 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. 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).</td>
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<td>5. $150 Million for Research on the Health Impacts of Plastics</td>
<td>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 Food and Drug Administration ($5 million) should do a nationwide study on the presence of microplastics in food products, beverages, fish, fruits, and vegetables. 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.</td>
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# Key Recommendations to Reduce Plastic Pollution

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<td>6. $500 Million to the EPA for Recycling Programs and Materials Recovery Facilities for Non-Plastic Recyclables</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>7. $250 Million for Composting</td>
<td>The EPA should provide funding to local governments and public colleges to upgrade and expand commercial-scale composting and other infrastructure for organic waste.</td>
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<td>8. $50 Million to Develop Waste Reduction, Reuse and Refill Systems</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>9. $1 Million for the Architect of the Capitol to Reduce Single-Use Plastic in the Capitol and Legislative Offices</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>10. $25 Million for Green Chemistry</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>11. $50 Million for AmeriCorps</td>
<td>AmeriCorps should establish a new program creating intensive waste reduction, recycling, and composting zones around the country.</td>
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<td>12. $20 Million to the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for Stormwater, Trash, and Debris Capture Systems and Green Infrastructure Design</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>13. $25 Million for Reducing and Mitigating Plastic in the Ocean</td>
<td>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.</td>
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## WHAT SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN FEDERAL ACTIONS

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<td>1. The production, distribution, and export of plastic must be reduced.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>2. Chemical or “Advanced” Recycling is costly, polluting, and ineffective, and should not receive direct funding or loan guarantees.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>3. Plastic Carbon Sequestration is not a good policy.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>4. Downcycling is not the solution.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>5. Incineration under the guise of “waste to energy” or “waste to fuel” or gasification or pyrolysis is harmful and ineffective.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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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

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 fenceline 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.
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.

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.

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.**

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.

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

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

   Funding or tax incentives for the landilling 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 landilling 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, hydropyrolysis, 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
Advocates for Clean & Clear Waterways, Inc.
Algalita
Alliance for Mission-Based Recyclers (AMBR)
Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
American Sustainable Business Council
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Animas Valley Institute
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Battle Creek Alliance
Bay Area - System Change not Climate Change
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle
Beyond Plastics
Big Reuse
Breathe Project
BRINGIT
Bronx Climate Justice North
Bucks County Audubon Society
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Bureau Inc
Cafeteria Culture
Cahaba Riverkeeper
California Resource Recovery Association
Californians Against Waste
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition
El Monte, CA
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Long Beach, CA
National
Parsippany, NJ
Washington, DC
Watertown, MA
Durango, CO
New York, NY
Manton, CA
Oakland, CA
Ambridge, PA
Albany, NY
National
Brooklyn, NY
Pittsburgh, PA
Palo Alto, CA
Bronx, NY
New Hope, PA
Buffalo, NY
Ventura, CA
New York, NY
Birmingham, AL
Sacramento, CA
Sacramento, CA
Cape Coral, FL
Albany, NY
Center for Biological Diversity
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
CERBAT
ChicoBag Company / To-Go Ware
Church Women United in New York State
Clean Economy Coalition
Clean Energy Now Texas
Climate Reality Project: Bay Area Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Capital Region, NY Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Greater Cincinnati Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Lehigh Valley PA Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles Chapter
Climate Reality Project: New Orleans Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Philadelphia and Southeastern PA Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Pittsburgh & Southwestern PA Chapter
Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA Chapter
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Compressor Free Franklin
Concerned Ohio River Residents
Concerned Residents of Oxford
Concord on Tap
ConcordCAN! - the Concord Climate Action Network
Conservation Law Foundation
Cooperative Energy Futures
Cup Zero
National
Delfield, Wisconsin and Franklin, Arkansas, AR
Los Angeles CA and Kingman, AZ
Chico, CA
Rochester, NY
Corpus Christi, TX
Driftwood, TX
San Francisco Bay Area, CA
Capital Region, NY
Lehigh Valley, PA
Los Angeles, CA
New Orleans, LA
Philadelphia, PA
Pittsburgh, PA
Central PA
Northern NJ
Franklin, NY
Bridgeport, OH
Oxford, NY
Concord, MA
Concord, MA
Boston, MA
Minneapolis, MN
Ridgewood, NY
ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

DC Environmental Network  |  Washington, DC
Don’t Gas the Meadowlands Coalition  |  North Eastern NJ
Don’t Waste Arizona  |  Phoenix, AZ
Drawdown East End  |  Long Island, NY
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (DRAC)  |  Dryden, NY
Earth Care Committee at Sixth Presbyterian Church  |  Pittsburgh, PA
Earth Ethics, Inc.  |  Pensacola, FL
Earth Island Institute  |  Berkeley, CA
Earth Rights Defenders  |  Ponca City, OK
Earth Uprising  |  International
Elders Climate Action (ECA) NorCal Chapter  |  Northern CA
Endangered Habitats League  |  CA
Environment New Jersey  |  Trenton, NJ
Environment Texas  |  Austin, TX
Environmental Advocates NY  |  Albany, NY
Environmental Justice Taskforce  |  Buffalo, NY
Extinction Rebellion Kentucky  |  Louisville, KY
Feminists in Action Los Angeles  |  Los Angeles, CA
Fenceline Watch  |  Houston, TX
Fluoride Action Network  |  National
Food & Water Watch  |  Albany, NY
Foodscrap360  |  Traverse City, MI
For Love of Water (FLOW)  |  Camp Hill, PA
FracTracker Alliance  |  Grand Rapids, OH
FreshWater Accountability Project  |  Hamilton, MT
Friends of the Bitterroot  |  Berkeley, CA
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives  |  Watkins Glen, NY
Gas Free Seneca  |  Ashland, OR
Geos Institute  |  Glendale, CA
Glendale Environmental Coalition  |  Sacramento, CA
Global Recycling Council of the California Resource Recovery Association  |  Port Washington, NY
Grassroots Environmental Education  |  Pittsburgh, PA
Green Deeds LLC  |  Poestenkill, NY
Green Education and Legal Fund  |  Brooklyn, NY
Green Party of Brooklyn  |  Jacksonville, FL
Green Party of Duval County  |  Long Beach, NY
Green Party of Nassau County  |  National
GreenLatinos  |  Washington, DC
Greenpeace USA  |  Atlanta, GA
Hannah4Change  |  Santa Monica, CA
Health Care 4 All PA, Isaak Walton League  |  Pittsburgh, PA
Health Promotion Consultants  |  Roanoke, VA
Hispanic Access Foundation  |  Washington, DC
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.  |  Beacon, NY
Hyde Consulting  |  San Francisco, CA
In the Shadow of the Wolf  |  Greenwich, CT
Indivisible Bainbridge Island  |  Bainbridge Island, WA
Inland Ocean Coalition  |  Boulder, CO
Inspiration of Sedona  |  Phoenix, AZ
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  |  Washington, DC | Minneapolis, MN | Portland, ME
Interfaith Earthkeepers  |  Eugene, OR
Interfaith Oceans  |  Hudson, WI
Interfaith Power & Light  |  Oakland, CA
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute  |  Berkeley, CA
Izaak Walton league of America, Allegheny County  |  Pittsburgh, PA
Kickapoo Peace Circle  |  Viroqua, WI
Lonely Whale  |  Austin, TX
Long Island Progressive Coalition  |  Massapequa, NY
Louisiana Bucket Brigade  |  New Orleans, LA
Louisiana League of Conscious Voters  |  New Orleans, LA
Lower East Side Ecology Center  |  New York City, NY
M-W & Associates Environmental Policy Consultants  |  New Orleans, LA
Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board  |  New York, NY
Marin Sanitary Service  |  San Rafael, CA
Massachusetts Climate Action Network  |  Waltham, MA
Mercy Focus on Haiti  |  Cedar Rapids, IA
Metro N.Y. Catholic Climate Movement  |  NY
MOM’S Organic Market  |  Rockville, MD
Monterey Bay Aquarium  |  Monterey, CA
MountainTrue  |  Asheville, NC
Muuse  |  San Francisco, CA
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club  |  Nassau County, NY
National Aquarium  |  Baltimore, MD
National Recycling Coalition  |  Syracuse, NY
Natural Resources Council of Maine  |  Augusta, ME
Nevada County Elders in Action  |  Grass Valley, CA
New York Interfaith Power & Light  |  Lincolndale, NY
New York Public Interest Research Group  |  Albany, NY
New York Youth Climate Leaders  |  Rochester, NY

#breakfreefromplastic
ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

| New Yorkers for Clean Power                     | Kingston, NY  |
| News from the Neighborhood                      | Delmar, NY    |
| North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE) | Roosevelt, NY |
| North Carolina Council of Churches               | Raleigh, NC   |
| North Country Earth Action                       | Greater Glens Falls, NY |
| NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition            | New York City, NY |
| NYC H2O                                          | Athens, NY    |
| NYPAN Environmental Committee                   | Sonoma County, CA |
| NYPAN Greene                                     | San Francisco, CA |
| Occidental Arts and Ecology Center               | Pittsburg PA  |
| Ocean Futures Society                            | Olympia, WA   |
| Oceanaa                                          | San Francisco, CA |
| Oceanic Global Foundation                        | Pittsburgh, PA |
| Oceanic Preservation Society                     | Albany, NY    |
| OFA                                              | Savannah, GA  |
| Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth | San Francisco Bay Area, CA |
| Orange County Coastkeeper                        | Milwaukee, WI |
| PASUP (Pittsburghers Against Single Use Plastics) | Berkeley, CA and Washington, DC |
| Peak Plastic Foundation                          | Ponca City, OK |
| Pelican Media                                    | Dover, NH     |
| PennFuture                                       | Washington D.C and Austin, TX |
| People of Albany United for Safe Energy - PAUSE  | Seattle, WA   |
| Pipeline Safety Coalition                        | NY            |
| Plastic Free Future                              | Portland, OR  |
| Plastic Free MKJE                                | Hilo, HI      |
| Plastic Pollution Coalition                      | Key West, FL  |
| Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma                          | Mill Valley, CA |
| Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN)              | Benicia, CA   |
| Public Citizen                                   | Laredo, TX    |
| Puget Soundkeeper Alliance                       | St. James, LA |
| Putnam Progressives                              | Raleigh, NC   |
| Re:Solve NW                                      | East Liverpool, Portsmouth, Steubenville, OH |
| Recycle Hawaii                                   | Bronx, NY     |
| Reef Relief, Inc.                                 | National      |
| Resource Renewal Institute                       | Portland, OR  |
| Reyes Wine Group LLC                             | San Bernardino, CA |
| Rio Grande International Study Center            | New York, NY  |
| RISE St. James                                   | Deposit, NY   |
| River Guardian Foundation                        | Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC) |
| River Valley Organizing                          | New York, NY  |
| Riverdale Jewish Earth Alliance                  | Raleigh, NC   |
| RootsAction                                      | Greensboro, NC |
| Safer States                                     | North Carolina County, CA |
| San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society            | New York, NY  |
| Sane Energy Project                              | Deposit, NY   |
| Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)  | Orange County, CA |
| Save Our Shores                                  | Santa Cruz, CA |
| SAVE THE FROGS!                                  | Laguna Beach, CA |
| Science Policy Initiative                        | Charlottesville, VI |
| Sea Hugger                                       | Half Moon Bay, CA |
| Seaside Sustainability                           | Gloucester, MA |
| Seatuck Environmental Association                | Islip, NY     |
| Seneca Lake Guardian                             | Watkins Glen, NY |
| Seventh Generation                               | Burlington, VT |
| Shark Stewards                                   | San Francisco, CA |
| Sierra Club                                      | Washington, DC |
| Sister of Mercy                                  | Washington, DC |
| Sisters of Charity Federation                    | NY            |
| Sisters of Mercy                                 | Louisville, KY |
| Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership | Louisville, KY |
| Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership | Bronx, NY |
| Sisters of Charity of New York Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation | Charleston, SC |
| Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy          | Buffalo, NY   |
| Sisters of Mercy                                 | Rochester, NY |
| Sisters of Mercy of the Americas                 | Rome, Italy   |
| Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur                   | Blauvelt, NY  |
| Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York     | Albany, NY    |
| Social Justice Center of Albany                  | San Antonio, TX |
| Society of Native Nations                        | Albany, NY    |
| Solarize Albany                                  | NY            |
| South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc | Freeport, NY |
| South Shore Audubon Society                      | Saint Helena, CA |
| Spottiswoode Winery, Inc.                        | Austin, TX    |
| St. Andrew's Presbyterian                       | Austin, TX    |
| St. Andrews Earth Care Committee                 | San Francisco, CA |
| Stand.earth                                      | Saratoga Springs, NY |
| Stanley and Phyllis Corwin Foundation            | Bronx, NY     |
ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING 257 ORGANIZATIONS

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