



Addressing Marine Plastics: A Roadmap to a Circular Economy

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Background



- Gaps in addressing plastic pollution exist in various aspects: knowledge, policy, technology and action, financing and awareness, etc.
- Plastic pollution needs to be addressed along the entire value chain in a systemic way

Purpose of the Roadmap

- To provide an action-oriented strategy aiming to reduce plastic leakage into marine environment as well as its associated impacts, and improve the circularity of the value chain
- Can be used as a reference by funding agencies, governments and civil society organizations
- ✓ Vision
- ✓ Outcome and output indicators
- ✓ Short-term, mid-term to long-term actions
- ✓ Stakeholders and roles
- ✓ Geographical scales



http://gefmarineplastics.org/publications

Vision



We envision: a world without negative impacts from plastics, where plastics retain their highest value along the value chain, no plastics leak into and damage the environment, and maximal circularity for plastic materials is reached at scale and around the globe.



Benefits of a circular economy for plastics

Environmental benefits

- Increased resource efficiency
- Decrease in greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduction in toxicity risks to human and ecosystem health
- Protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Socio-economic benefits

- Reduction in ocean plastics-induced loss of marine natural capital
- Increased efficiency in the informal waste recycling sector
- Development of novel livelihoods in circular plastics economy

Outcome indicators

- Improved circularity (reduction in production of virgin materials and consumption of plastics, increase in reuse rate, recycling rate, recycled content in new products etc.)
- Reduced plastic leakage
- Reduced impacts on ecosystem, human, climate change and resource scarcity



Create cross-cutting enabling conditions

Output indicators

- No. of baseline analysis developed
- No. of methods or tools developed
- No. of governments and/or businesses supported ...

Key actions

- Set up global consensus on methodology to allow for harmonized analysis on plastic material flows
- Set up country baseline and support governments measuring progress
- Develop and improve methodologies to evaluate the impacts of plastics and their alternatives (such as LCA)
- Develop policy and financial mechanism to reduce plastic waste generated, promote reuse and remanufacturing, increase demand for recycled content
- Develop and implement EPR policy
- Provide better consumer information ...



Innovate

Circulate

Output indicators

No. of countries banning or restricting problematic and unnecessary plastic products...

Output indicators

- No. of new polymers/ alternative materials identified and applied
- No. of new business models identified and applied

Output indicators

- % of plastics being reusable, recyclable or compostable
- Reduction in waste generation
- Increase in reuse/collection/recyclin

Key actions

- Define a list of problematic materials or additives
- Ban or restrict problematic plastics, and provide alternative solutions based on full LCA
- Eliminate COC in plastic products

Key actions

- Innovate on new polymers and alternatives with lower impacts on environment
- Scale up the most viable new product/packaging designs
- Develop/improve technologies to sort, recycle, process plastics after use into high quality raw materials
- Develop new business models

Key actions

- Promote sustainable purchasing, reuse and responsible disposal of plastic products, through education, training and campaigns
- Improve municipal solid waste management and wastewater and effluent treatment
- Develop public-private partnerships to recycle plastics
- Incentivize the engagement with informal waste collectors and sorters



Annex 21 List of detailed recommended actions

Action domain

- Advocacy/ capacity building
- Knowledge creation
- Policy/ regulatory/ voluntary agreements
- Technical product/ service innovation
- Financing

Time frame and scale

Time frame

- Short-term (2020-2025)
- Medium to long term
- Scale: Global, regional, national and/or sub-national

Leading/supporting stakeholder

- Intergovernmental organizations/ National and/or local governments
- Brands, producers
- Collectors, recyclers
- Civil society organizations
- Researchers/ academia

Main life cycle stage

- cross-cutting
- raw material
- production
- consumption and reuse
- collection, sorting, processing and disposal









Thank you for your attention!