

A dark, blue-tinted photograph of several women in a market setting, some wearing face masks and carrying items on their heads. The image is overlaid with a grid pattern.

# Plastics x Gender POLICY TOOLKIT

This toolkit aims to guide policy makers about gender and how this should be integrated into their plastic - related policies. Inputs from this toolkit have been based on research conducted by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Philippines, University of the Philippines Center for Women and Gender Studies**, and **Angat Bayi**, supported by **The Incubation Network**.

What should we know about gender?

Children are often strictly raised as either “girls” or “boys”, and these labels often pertain to a set of gendered behaviors, characteristics, roles, and norms. Filipino girls are trained early on in care work and household chores, while boys are often encouraged to study and explore the world. Both of their growth and potential can be stifled by strict gender rules and roles.

Gender pertains to the “characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed” and it “varies from society to society and can change over time” (World Health Organization, n.d.). **People are caged into gender binary boxes called “woman” and “man”, and they are filled with endless assigned expectations, roles, behaviors, roles, and rules.**

The concept of “sex” also interacts with gender but is quite different as it refers to the biological and physiological differences that distinguish people as manifested by a combination of “anatomical, genetic, hormonal, as well as other characteristics” (Africa-Verceles, 2022). Attached to gender is social inequalities that deprive women and the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and other genders) living a decent life and opportunities.



The gender hierarchy refers to how society views men and women, and how women and gender diverse people are viewed as the “lesser sex.” They often experience discrimination, exploitation, marginalization, oppression, and subordination politically, socially, and economically. **Gender influences how people are affected by environmental disasters and hazards, such as typhoons, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and many more.**

Women and gender diverse individuals experience disproportionate harms and burdens during times of natural disasters, as their gender differentiated needs are often overlooked or discounted. The Philippines is reported to be the ninth amongst 172 countries as one of the most risk-prone countries due to its level of vulnerability and exposure to multiple hazards (World Risk Index, 2020, as cited in the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department House of Representatives, 2021).

In coping with such disasters, women would commonly take up the responsibility of caring for the environment. In their care work, they are tasked to ensure the health and safety of their families. **As a result, their reproductive work increases as they now manage, not only the cleanliness of the households and communities, but also waste segregation and plastic reduction. People are “intrinsically linked with plastic in many ways due to our assigned gender roles”** (Lynn et. al., 2017).

Reducing plastic often falls under the responsibility of women as they are viewed to use more plastics compared with men, which can be a result of gender roles and norms. For example, since they are responsible for household chores, they would often need products (which often use plastics) to cook and clean. In other instances, societal pressure to wear makeup, follow the latest fashion trends, and other products targeted to women often meant the additional purchase of single-use plastics or products with microplastics. A considerable number of women also work as individual waste collectors or junk shop operators as these jobs have little to no entry barriers, such as specialized knowledge or skills and a large capital.

In finding ways to help women involved in the plastic value chain, it is not only important to capacitate them with knowledge and skills, but it is also essential that the environment surrounding them helps in lessening the burden of segregating waste and also increase the valuation of plastic work done by informal workers and individual waste pickers.

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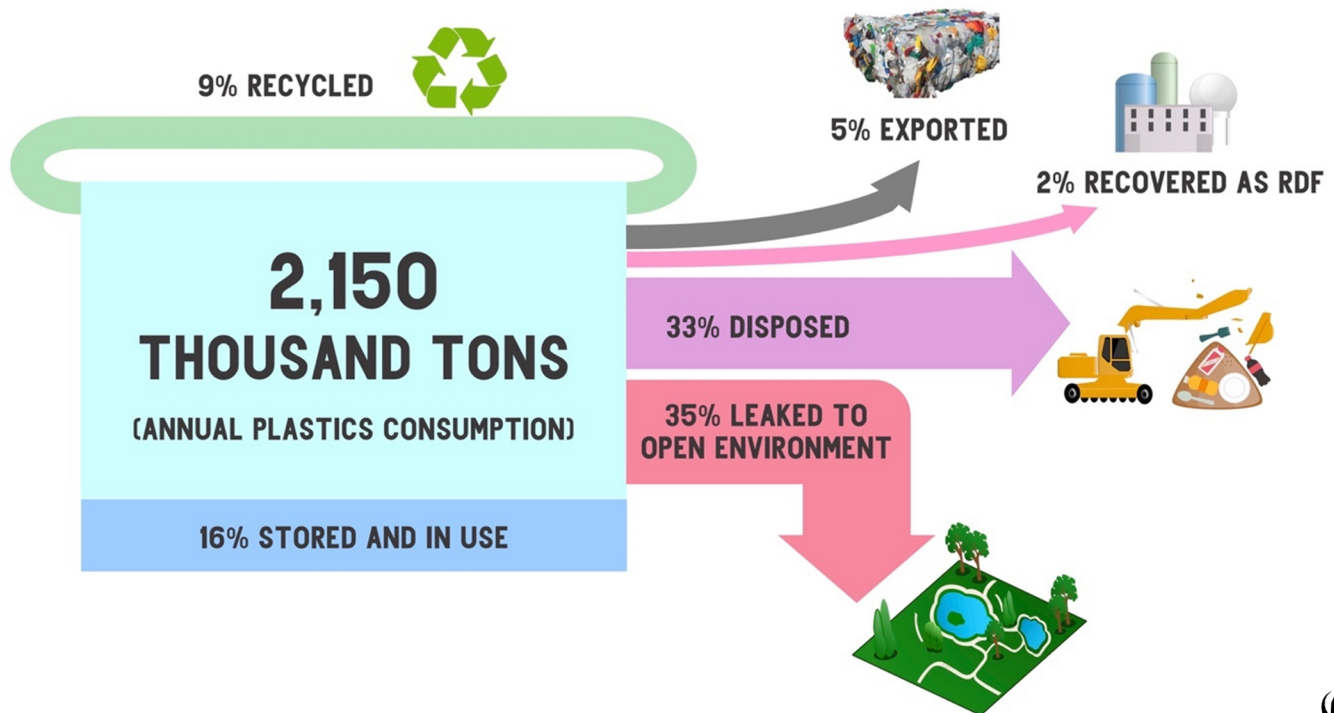


## WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION?

Plastic is a global transboundary problem which requires a systematic and holistic response for all stages of the life cycle of plastics.

Plastic pollution has reached gigantic dimensions worldwide. Approximately 4.8 to 12.7 million tonnes of plastics are entering the ocean yearly. This has been attributed to continuous plastic production and the lack of sound waste management, especially in low- and middle-income countries, such as the Philippines - the top 3rd country in the world for plastic leakage. [Jambeck et al., 2015]

### The Philippines' Situation



AMH Philippines – Manila Water Total Solutions (2020)

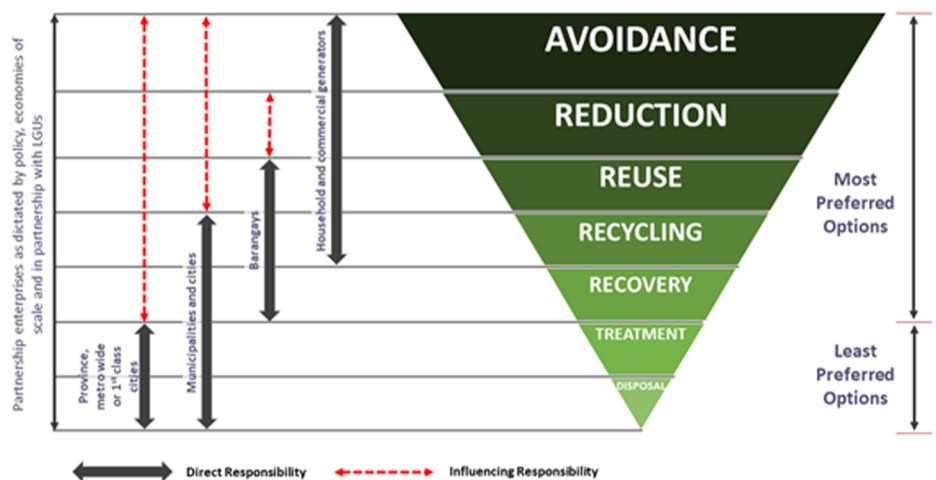
Plastic holds the third largest share in the overall generated waste in the Philippines at 2,150,000 tonnes p.a. in 2019. (WWF, 2020) This estimate might have increased during the pandemic with the rise of e-commerce and deliveries.

Country's plastic recycling rate is low at 9%, with 35% leaking into the open environment and 33% disposed of in sanitary and unsanitary landfills (WWF, 2020). Significant to the recycling rate is the contribution of waste workers with helping in plastic waste recovery and diversion. Efforts should be made to fully recover the high - value plastics constituting about 37% of the plastics consumed by Filipinos for selling.

## National Policies and Action Plans

The country has been implementing the **Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000** which mandates the practice of waste minimization through 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) from households and commercial generators, as shown in the figure below. Under this law, local government units (LGUs) should submit a 10-year solid waste management plan that includes the cities'/municipalities' current waste generation, and their plan on how they can divert at least 25% of their wastes from sanitary landfills. The plan typically does not include gender perspectives as LGUs treat it differently as they also are mandated to submit a Gender and Development plan.

The Philippine government led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has passed the **National Plan of Action on Marine Litter** - a national framework for the country's overall direction, indicators, and targets to manage and minimize marine litter, including plastics. Among the strategies being planned are the following: a) national



marine litter baselining, b) circular economy and sustainable consumption and production mainstreaming, c) recovery and recycling enhancement, d) collection and disposal safeguards, e) shipping and fisheries waste control, f) cleanup of riverine and marine environments, g) policy and enforcement, h) social marketing and communication, i) sustainable financing and resource allocation, and j) strengthening local actions. The approval of this plan signifies the need for the assigned lead agencies and stakeholders to develop the specific activities for achieving set targets indicated in the plan. LGUs are also being pushed to adopt the national plan by creating a City Plan of Action on Marine Litter as a complementary plan to the mandated 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan under RA 9003.

Recently, the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law** has lapsed into law. This means that obligated companies are required to achieve recovery targets, while also implementing reduction of unnecessary plastics, through EPR programs that they need to submit to DENR. Its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) are currently being drafted and should be completed, as per law states, by November 2022.

In addition to these laws and plans, some LGUs are also implementing bans or regulations of single-use plastics. For example, Batangas City regulates plastic packaging wherein thin plastics are not allowed to be used as primary packaging for dry goods while as secondary packaging for wet goods. However, this ban might not be applied to its nearby city or municipality which makes implementation difficult and fragmented.

## WHAT SHOULD WE ADVOCATE FOR?

### Gender fairness

There has been no mention of gender roles in the abovementioned Philippine laws and plans, but have been instituted by societal expectations. RA 9003 emphasizes waste segregation at source but it did not specify that this should be carried out by women alone. The law calls for everyone's participation, regardless of gender, in practicing waste minimization activities in their households, communities, and workplaces.

The project has also created a communications toolkit to help bring awareness on the importance of everyone's participation, regardless of gender, in waste management activities. Concept focuses on using **#lahatdapat** (translates, everyone must) to communicate the need for everyone to participate in waste reduction, segregation, reuse, recycling. This project hopes to create awareness on the need to break free from the societal norms on waste management roles and eventually push LGUs to adopt these messages in their policies. It has been observed in the study that policies are important in changing behaviors related to plastic use.

### Support for our waste workers

Waste workers have been vital in the country's recycling rate - currently at 9%. They have been helping households in recovering recyclable wastes for selling to junk shops, which households are mandated as per RA 9003. However, waste workers experience challenges including discrimination, health risks, and low wages especially for women.

Findings show that waste workers feel discriminated against with the low regard of community members to them and their work. They have shared that community members often tell them to get all the wastes even if they only need those that can be sold. Moreover, they shared that they are often not included in government programs that can incentivize them or provide an alternative livelihood. The pandemic has also placed the waste workers at risk of contracting COVID - 19 during work, especially those that more often do not have protective equipment or any medical assistance program.

Our hope is for the inclusion of these waste workers in the EPR programs that the businesses will submit for the implementation of the EPR law.



**The goal is to communicate gender fairness in practicing waste management and facilitate support for our waste workers.**





## PROPOSED POLICY ORDINANCE

Policy is an important approach in advocating for behavioral changes in the community. The project drafted this policy based on the needs of our waste workers as documented in the conducted study. We urge our partners to review and adopt (parts or all) this ordinance that aims to uplift the morale and of our waste workers who have been vital in our solid waste management system.

Republic of the Philippines  
\_\_\_\_ [CITY/MUNICIPAL] COUNCIL  
\_\_\_\_ City/Municipality  
\_\_\_\_ [City/Municipality] Council  
PO-\_\_\_\_  
\_th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-\_\_\_\_,  
SERIES OF 202\_

***AN ORDINANCE SUPPORTING A GENDER INCLUSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
IN THE \_\_[CITY/ PROVINCE]\_\_ OF \_\_[PROVINCE/REGION]\_\_  
DECLARING INCENTIVE SYSTEMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS, AND  
FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES***

**WHEREAS**, Plastic pollution has created a global environmental crisis, the Philippines as an archipelagic country is severely at risk from the social, economic, and political effects of plastic pollution.

**WHEREAS**, Human rights is integral in addressing plastic pollution which includes taking a gender lens to ensure inclusivity in waste segregation, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_ [City/Municipality], recognizes the need to institute mechanisms to prevent plastic pollution and promote a healthier environment through appropriate policies to protect \_\_\_\_ [something special about your [City/Municipality]]

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_ [City/Municipality], understands the need to promote gender inclusive policies for addressing plastic pollution and to support waste workers who are important in the solid waste management system.

**WHEREAS**, [insert existing law and policies in the [/City/Municipality]]

**WHEREAS**, [insert progress on implementation of law and policies in the [City/Municipality]]

**WHEREAS**, despite the existing framework, plastic pollution remains the top contributor to waste in the [City/Municipality]. [add effects to the [City/Municipality] here]

**WHEREAS**, the [City/Municipality] Government recognizes the dangers of plastic pollution and deems it necessary to enact measures for prevention and repair of damage already done.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of \_\_\_\_\_  
[CITY/MUNICIPALITY], in session, that:

## ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1. Title** This Ordinance shall be known as the “[TITLE]” Human rights based approach ordinance for plastic pollution

**Section 2. Declaration of Policies** The [City/Municipality] recognizes that it is the policy of the State, as stated in the 1987 Constitution, to protect and advance the right of people to a balanced and healthful ecology by providing resources to implement this policy for the benefit of all people. In upholding this right, the [City/Municipality] declares as its policy that –

1. The plastic pollution crisis is a global problem that has a wide range of public health, social, political, and economic repercussions. Responding to the country's current plastic pollution crisis is imbued with public interest and should adopt a human rights based approach.
2. The [City/Municipality]'s response to the environmental crisis shall be anchored on the principles of protecting the rights of people to a balanced and healthful ecology and instilling health consciousness. The [City/Municipality] shall respect, protect, and promote human rights as the foundation of an effective response to this environmental crisis.
3. The [City/Municipality] recognizes that the right to a balanced and healthful ecology includes the implementation of laws for the protection of all citizens under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

**Section 3. Definition of Terms**

1. **Consumer** - A consumer is anyone who buys goods or services. This shall also refer to anyone disposing of their generated wastes.
2. **Disposal** - Disposal shall refer to the discharge, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking or placing of any solid waste into any land. This does not include waste to energy process and technology.

3. **Gender** – This refers to a range of identities that do not correspond to the two sexes (male and female).
4. **Human rights** – The United Nations define this as rights inherent to all human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. This includes the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to work and education, among others.
5. **Human rights based approach** - Taking into consideration the rights of all human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status in identifying and implementing solutions.
6. **Material recovery facility (MRF)** – Facility used for separating different materials from the waste stream.
7. **Plastic** - Plastic means a material consisting of a polymer as defined in point (5) of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified.
8. **Plastic pollution** - Plastic pollution is when plastic has gathered in an area and has begun to negatively impact the natural environment and create problems for plants, wildlife, and even the human population.
9. **Reusable bag** - Reusable material shall refer to any washable canvas, native bag “canvas”, or shopping bag used for carrying and transporting goods. These bags are made of organic and non-organic materials that are made to be used for several times for an extended time
  1. May be capable of composting and is biodegradable;
  2. Is accepted for recycling
  3. It does not contain any toxic or harmful substances or chemicals such as but not limited to lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal as provided for by existing rules and regulations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).
10. **Solid Waste Management (SWM)** – The control of generation, storage, collection, transport or transfer, processing, and disposal of solid waste to address health, conservation, aesthetics, economics and other environmental considerations.
11. **Waste** – Any discarded material such as household or municipal garbage, trash or refuse, food wastes, or yard wastes that no longer has value in its present form but may or may not be recyclable or otherwise able to be repurposed.
12. **Waste workers** – person/s involved in the collection and recovery of recyclable wastes for exchange in junk shops, as their main source of household income.
13. **Zero-Waste Programs** - Zero waste programs include all of the following strategies: reducing cons and options and discards, reusing discards, the principle of producer accountability, comprehensive recycling, comprehensive composting or bio-digestion of organic materials, citizen participation and worker rights, ban on waste incineration and illegal dumping, systematic reduction of landfilling over time, and effective policies, regulations, incentives, and financing structures to support these systems.



## ARTICLE II. POLICIES

### **Section 1.** *Supporting and protecting our waste workers*

All waste workers, regardless of informal and formal, shall be encouraged to be part of a local registry – a document to be used for providing support to our partners in implementing the local solid waste management system. Upon registering, waste workers shall be provided with the following:

1. Protective gears and uniform;
2. Health insurance (subject to availability); and
3. Access to training programs on safety and livelihood

All waste workers shall be encouraged to be part of a local cooperative to facilitate more opportunities. The local cooperative shall also be registered and has responsibility for representing waste workers in local discussions related to solid waste management. Being part of a cooperative is voluntary and shall not be forced upon to waste workers.

Local programs shall be implemented, in partnership with businesses, academe, and non-government organizations including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Recognition of partners for implementing a human rights based approach for solid waste management
2. Assistance for waste workers who want to implement a business

### **Section 2.** *Education*

All schools in the [City/Province] shall include in their core curriculum, courses on environmental awareness and plastic pollution which may include, among others, education on the sources and effects of plastic pollution, solutions to the problem, and practical exercises.

Programs on educating people about the importance of waste segregation, re-use, reduction, and recycling shall be implemented. These programs shall ensure that consumers abide with the local ordinances related to plastic waste reduction and management, and that everyone regardless of age and gender should be integrated in practicing these acts. Appropriate system such as materials recovery facility, environmentally friendly plastic alternatives, and incentives shall be in place to accompany the educational programs.

Consumers shall be educated about the important role of waste workers in the solid waste management system. They shall be recognized and described as allies for recycling. However, programs shall not assign waste segregation and collection to waste workers, as these are the responsibilities of consumers and businesses pursuant to the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

### **Section 3. Research and Development**

An inter-agency task force shall be made including relevant agencies and civil society representatives to create a Research and Development Agenda, and consequently, fund research on single-use plastic packaging, disposable materials alternatives, and social perspectives of addressing plastic pollution, among others.

The [City/Province] together with the Solid Waste Management Board created under RA 9003, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall create and facilitate capacity-building programs to relevant stakeholders.

## **ARTICLE IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES**

**Section 1. Jurisdiction.** The [City/Municipality], [shall create a [LOCAL AGENCY] (optional if there is already one in place) which shall act] in coordination with all stakeholders and relevant agencies such as DENR, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and Climate Change Commission (CCC) shall have the ultimate authority to enforce this Act, subject to existing laws and regulations.

**Section 2. Funding and allocation; Price ceiling.** The Agency shall receive its funding from [SOURCE]. All funds appropriated shall be accounted for and reported to the [City/Municipality] on a monthly basis for auditing purposes. In no case shall the spending exceed the limit of [PRICE CEILING]

**Section 3. Timeline.** All policies and programs for this human rights based ordinance on solid waste management shall be drafted and approved within the one (1) year interim period before the effective date of this Act.

**Section 4. Evaluation and Monitoring.** The evaluation of programs and monitoring of all activities shall be conducted by the [Agency] on a quarterly basis to analyze waste flow, collection, social impact, and diversion rates.

All information from these monitoring activities shall be available to the public. The [City/Province] shall also be responsible to review the effectivity of this act per annum.

**Section 5. Accessibility of information.** All information obtained and collected in the process of implementation of this Act shall be available to the public upon request through [Agency] in accordance with the procedures set out by the [Agency] in the Implementing Rules and Regulations for this Act.



## ARTICLE VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1. *Financial Transparency.*** All funds shall be accounted for and shall submit [frequency] an accounting of their actions, with proper receipts and documentation, in the implementation of this Ordinance.

**Section 2. *Authority to seek External Support*** The Office of the [City/Municipality] is hereby authorized to seek logistical support from any sources to augment the technical, financial, material, and other requirements in the implementation of this Ordinance.

**Section 3. *Repealing Clause.*** All ordinances, local issuances, or rules inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 4. *Separability Clause.*** If for any reason, any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full legal force and effect.

**Section 5. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Ordinance shall take effect on the day following publication for two (2) weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall be promulgated by [AGENCY] within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Ordinance. Such IRR shall be formulated together with industry stakeholders, relevant government agencies, and other stakeholders such as obliged companies, industry organizations, and environment civil society organizations, with full participation of said stakeholders in the process of creation.



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## **ADDITIONAL KEY POINTS FOR POLICY MAKERS ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION**

1. Goals should focus on the following:
  - a. Reduce the production and use of unnecessary plastics;
  - b. Shift to sustainable sourcing for the remaining plastic and plastic alternatives;
  - c. Increase reuse, recycling, and recovery; and
  - d. Ensure that there is no plastic leakage into the environment

2. Policy options

Policies are important in addressing plastic pollution. Here are some recommendations on what to focus on your ordinances:

- a. **Gradual ban of single-use plastics:** We recommend that implementation is gradual and that necessary public consultations have been conducted to integrate how to address the challenges for implementation. It is necessary to determine alternative delivery methods, increase public awareness and participation, and implement strictly to be successful.
  - b. **Uplifting lives of waste workers:** It is important to protect and support our waste workers through providing them uniforms, protective equipment, medical assistance, and alternative livelihood.
  - c. **Supporting local innovation:** Talent capital is great in the Philippines and it is important that we nurture the ideas so that this can be piloted and eventually adopted in the city/ municipality as a solution to address plastic pollution, among other environmental issues.
3. Terms should be aligned with the globally accepted definitions. You can go to UNEP toolkit here for these definitions: <https://leap.unep.org/knowledge/toolkits/plastic/glossary>

### **Single Use Plastic**

A product that is made wholly or partly from fossil-fuel based plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or reused for the same purpose for which it was conceived

### **Unnecessary Plastic**

Plastic not required for product integrity.

### **Circular Economy**

A circular economy is one that is restorative and regenerative by design. It looks beyond the take-make-waste extractive industrial model, and aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It is based on three principles: design out waste and pollution; keep products and materials in use; and regenerate natural systems. Know more at <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>

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## **Prevention**

Measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste, which reduces quantities of waste and includes re-use of products and the extension of the lifespan of products. Also reduces amounts of hazardous substances being used and the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health.

## **Recovery**

Describes any operation in which waste serves a useful purpose by replacing other materials or using its material properties (includes preparation for reuse, recycling as material or feedstock recycling and energy recovery).

## **Diversion**

Any combination of waste prevention (source reduction), recycling, reuse and composting activities that reduces waste disposed.

## **Mismanaged waste**

Plastic left uncollected, openly dumped into nature, littered, or managed through uncontrolled landfills.

## **Biodegradable Plastics**

Plastics which can be degraded or composted by microorganisms under specific, environmental conditions. Biodegradable plastics can be made both of bio-based as well as fossil-based plastics.

## **Bio-based plastics**

Plastics which are manufactured from renewable sources; for instance, sugar cane (as opposed to fossil-based plastics, which are derived from fossil fuels). The term bio-base doesn't necessarily imply biodegradability.

## **Compostable plastic**

Plastic that undergoes degradation by biological processes during composting to yield carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), water, inorganic compounds, and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials and that leaves no visible, distinguishable, or toxic residue.

## **Oxo-degradable plastic**

Oxo-degradable additives are substances added to conventional plastics to promote oxidation. Oxidation brittles and fragments the material with the intention to be digestible by microorganisms, but evidence shows that this desired effect is not achieved.

Plastics which quickly fragment into micro-particles in the presence of warmth, light and oxygen but do not degrade in the environment, thereby becoming a source of environmental pollution in the form of microplastic.

#### 4. **Cautionary notes on other types of plastic:**

- Single-use packaging can never be sustainable due to its frequent use and disposable nature. We highly encourage businesses to prioritize reusable packaging where possible, and only use single-use packaging where absolutely necessary.
- Before shifting to alternatives for single-use products, the full product life cycle of such alternatives must be analyzed to determine if the alternative truly has a lesser impact. The life cycle assessment for environmental impact must cover extraction, manufacturing, and waste treatment in the country where the alternative packaging material will be used.
- Biodegradable plastics are still materials that should not end up in nature. Even coupled with proper infrastructure, biodegradable plastics are just as harmful if they enter natural ecosystems.
- Bio-based plastics are only potential solutions if sourced and managed properly. However, without such systems or infrastructure, they face the same end-of-life challenges as regular fossil-fuel based plastics.
- Compostable plastic may be appropriate for specific uses, but it will only be advantageous if collection and processing is sufficient to recover the material.
- Oxo-degradable plastics should be prohibited. They result in worse environmental outcomes and contribute to microplastic pollution when they degrade.

#### 5. **Multi-stakeholder involvement and engagement**, especially from minority groups such as the informal waste sector, women, and other groups with unique social, religious, ethnic, racial beliefs or practices.

There is no one silver bullet for the fight against plastic pollution. All sectors, no matter how small, have a role to play in the fight against plastic pollution. It is important to consider the effects of policies on all stakeholders, especially the minorities.

Women, for example, are seen as the main plastic consumer and are expected to lead waste minimization strategies in their household, community, and workplace. The study showed the reproductive, productive, and community extension roles of women in the solid waste management system. This means that women are expected to perform household duties including waste reduction and segregation, mostly involved in informal work for additional household income, and are commonly present for community extension projects on waste management like street cleaning. All these expected roles are accepted by women which disproportionately burden them on plastic use and wastes.

These responsibilities do not also mean that they are paid properly, protected from any health risk, and are treated fairly by their customers. The study further identified how women waste workers are discriminated against by households, receive low wages, and are not provided with protective equipment even during the pandemic. It is important then to involve them in policy discussions to identify how they can be better supported and protected, given that they are vital in the solid waste management system.



6. **Targets** for the reduction, prevention, control, and removal of unnecessary plastics which should be adjustable every few years based on waste data and existing progress.

Setting adjustable targets is essential to ensuring that circular economy models function correctly. Waste flow and characterization changes over time, so there may be a need to set targets that can be reexamined and readjusted because of changes in policy, global emergencies, natural calamities and the like.

7. **Incentives** rather than penalties for reaching the targets or complying with the laws. Positive reinforcement through incentives is more likely to lead to long lasting behavioral change.

It is proven that positive reinforcement through measures like incentives work better at creating long lasting change rather than penalties. Reducing the use of penalties and focusing more on incentives will not only encourage business growth, thereby stimulating the local economy, but it will also streamline the continued enforcement and implementation mechanisms of the policies.

Here are some examples:

- a. Discounts for using your reusable bags in groceries;
- b. Discounts from businesses when you bring your reusable tumblers, utensils, and containers;
- c. Buy back schemes (in exchange of cash or goods) for recyclable wastes;
- d. Reduction on business renewal fee for those implementing proper waste segregation

8. Coordination **framework for reporting and review** on all levels

It is important to create a system for reporting and review for all levels of local government under your jurisdiction. This system should be a simple streamlined process with timelines for reporting and at the very least annually.

9. Dedicated multidisciplinary team made up of multiple stakeholders (government, private individuals, NGOs, scientists, experts, and businesses) for **monitoring and evaluation** of efficacy of solutions and policies.

In order to ensure that the policies remain relevant with current circumstances, it is important to have a dedicated team that you can lean on for assistance on these matters to ensure that future legislation matches the spirit of the original policies and the current circumstances at that point in time.

10. **Standards and regulations** on all types of plastic materials, and the exemptions for such.

It is essential that your future policy is broad enough to cover all plastics but not so specific as to exclude any other types. It is essential that your policies are always based on data and science to ensure that you are regulating the right types of plastic and makes room for new technology that is potentially harmful.



11. **Implementation support mechanism** for waste management infrastructure and systems including **financial support** for local government units under your jurisdiction.

In a circular economy, investment in waste management is crucial. This guarantees that the plastic materials or alternative products remaining are dealt with in a proper manner and there is no leakage into the environment.

This also gives you an opportunity to call for innovations for waste management practices, systems, etc. As an example, in our project site in Donsol, to reach more isolated areas in their municipality, a motorbike collects the waste and brings it to the closest collection point - the non-recyclable plastic waste is then used to make whale shark stuffed toys.

12. Focus on **use of existing infrastructure and scaling up** until capacity increases.

All policies formulated must be based on a waste analysis and characterization study (WACS) for the following reasons:

- a. For policies focusing on regulating or banning plastic, you must ensure that any alternatives that come into the market can be recycled with your existing waste management infrastructure/capabilities.
- b. For policies focused on waste management, you must take into account the existing infrastructure, its gaps, where you can improve, and a schedule to address these gaps. The WACS study will also tell you which areas need the most capacity compared to those who might not need such complex systems.

13. All actions must be done in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and shall be conducted in an **environmentally sustainable manner**.

There are many different aspects to the fight against plastic pollution - we must make sure to always consider the environment as a whole in our policies. For example, for regulatory measures, alternatives must be studied, taking into account everything from source to end of life treatment before being considered as a viable alternative to plastic. For waste management, we want to ensure that we are using best practices for recyclable materials, and not increasing our carbon footprint by shifting to methods such as waste to energy or incineration.

14. Plastic crediting activities should only be an **additional approach** to waste reduction strategies and not the end strategy. **Extended Producer Responsibility** is a more long-term solution which can work alongside plastic crediting and creates systemic and behavioral change.

*(14.1) It is important to ensure credibility of the plastic crediting systems to be pursued. Plastic crediting activities may serve as an ADDITIONAL approach to robust plastic waste reduction strategies if a strong and credible standard for crediting exists and is adhered to, prerequisites are defined and met, and strong social and environmental safeguards are upheld.*

*(14.2) Plastic credits, if a credible standard is developed, may provide a temporary method of communicating a company's involvement in plastic recovery activities but they should not serve as a way for companies to buy a clean image, free of environmental damage.*