

Do not go where the path may lead - go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

from Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Society to

Canada's voice: towards an ambitious UN legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution.

Canada must first see the folly in “Canada is moving toward a circular economy for plastics by pursuing zero plastic waste. The vision is to keep all plastics in the economy and out of the environment.”

Plastic is pollution the day it is made and there is no technology to manage plastic that also reduces pollution.

In the best of recycling worlds, there is no Circular Economy for plastic.

Recycling plastic is a false solution

- Recycled plastic doesn't replace virgin plastic production. It never will because it's a downgraded, yet more expensive product.
- Fossil fuel industry depends on plastic production as energy profits transition away from gas and oil.
- Recycled plastic has low value, low application for re-manufacturing, and low demand.
- Most plastic isn't recyclable.

Plastic is persistent and toxic and recycling creates more plastic and more pollution.

Extended Producer Responsibility recycling enables increased plastic production.

Regulating non-recyclable plastic into Extended Producer Responsibility programs does not magically make it recyclable. It simply provides appearance that plastic is being managed. BC's Extended Producer Responsibility, RecycleBC, program recycles less plastic now than in 2018. More and more non-recyclable plastic will be put on the market.

Plastic isn't mismanaged: plastic can't be managed.

Example: RecycleBC, now a mature program, collects 28% of flexible plastic put on the market each year. So far this non-recyclable plastic has been sold for use as alternative fuel in cement kilns. The latest “new” technology will blend this non-recyclable plastic with high grade film and rigid plastic into one downgraded, non-recyclable protected trade secret “Proprietors Blend” with no traceability. This is 2023's best technology that simply hides non recyclable plastic while downgrading other plastic. End market products have to be invented for this new blend. Success will create demand for more waste plastic.

Meanwhile, during use and after use, this plastic will degrade into micro and nano particles and find a way into soil and water.

Do not go where the path may lead - go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Keeping plastic in the economy does not keep plastic out of the environment.

Please watch the attached 14 second video.

(Click on image below to watch video)

Is this plastic in the economy or the environment?



Plastic in the economy **IS** plastic in the environment.

Bans and Regulations are the only solution. Regulating production with bans is the only way to prevent pollution.

Globally: label plastic as a toxic substance. Criminalize pollution.

- Set target reduction levels to limit industry production.
- Require tracking/reporting of production and sale by industry rather than by country.
- Incentivize compliance by country. (Nope, I'm not sure how because I haven't thought this through but it's important that countries can benefit from complying.)
- Regulate production, sale, export and import to comply with global reduction measures.
- Implement punitive measures for non-compliance across plastic/chemical production, sale, purchase, brand owners...
- Fine the originators (the plastic manufacturer and/or the brand owner) for pollution everywhere.

Stop unfettered production of plastic.

Jan Hastings, Executive Director
Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Society
jan@recycling.bc.ca