Note: The views expressed in the presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the U.S. EPA. Mention of commercial enterprises, products, or publications does not mean that U.S. EPA endorses them.

Addressing and Managing Plastic Pollution





Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 2:00pm - 4:00pm Eastern

Speakers:

- Winnie Lau, Senior Manager, Preventing Ocean Plastics, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- · Judith Enck, President, Beyond Plastics
- Nancy Wallace, Director, Marine Debris Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- · Romell Nandi, Trash Free Waters National Program Lead, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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- The slides for today's presentations are posted on the Watershed Academy webpage.
- A recording of the webcast will be posted within the next month.

www.epa.gov/watershedacademy

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Audience Polling

Speakers

- Winnie Lau, Senior Manager, Preventing Ocean Plastics, The Pew Charitable Trusts
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PLASTIC POLLUTION: TOLL ON PEOPLE AND NATURE





PROJECTED GROWTH IN PLASTIC INDUSTRY



å∐ 40%

plastic production growth over the next decade



\$400B

investment into new refineries by 2023 in US, China and Middle East



expected CAGR for ethylene market between 2019 and 2026



UNRECONCILED APPROACHES







BURN OR BURY



CLEAN UP



RECYCLE



BIO-SOLUTIONS

- ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL IMPACTS
- PLASTIC MATERIAL TYPE
- GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES
- COSTS AND INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS



BREAKING THE PLASTIC WAVE









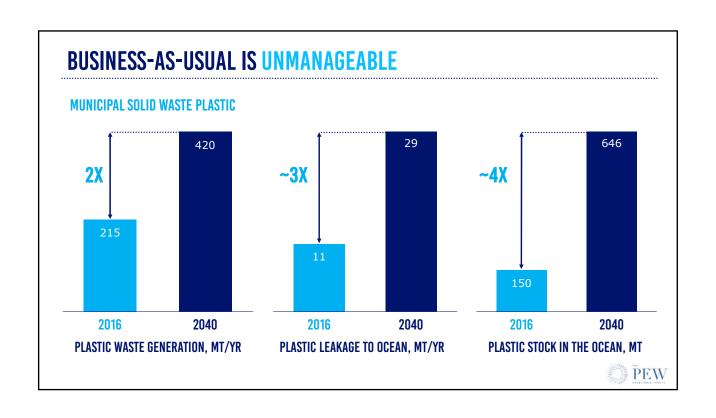


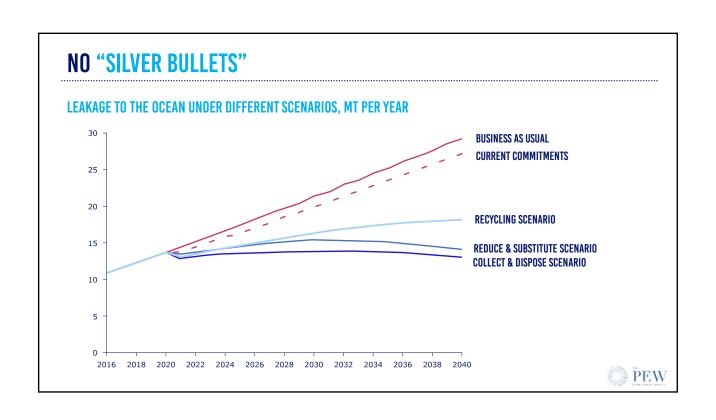


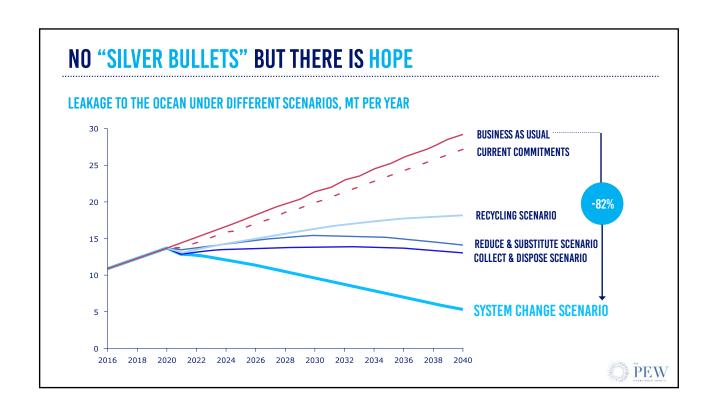


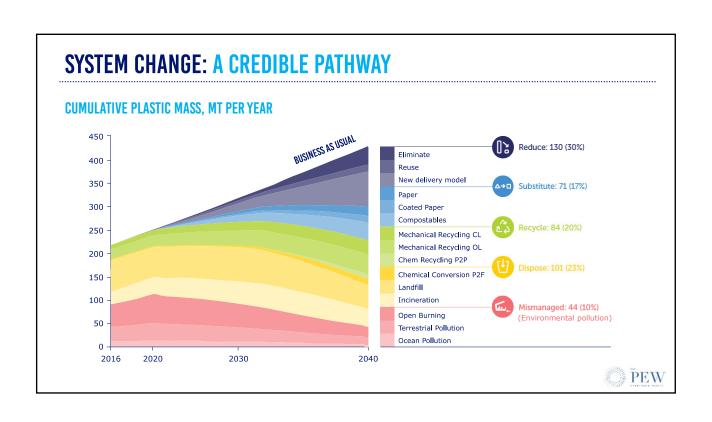


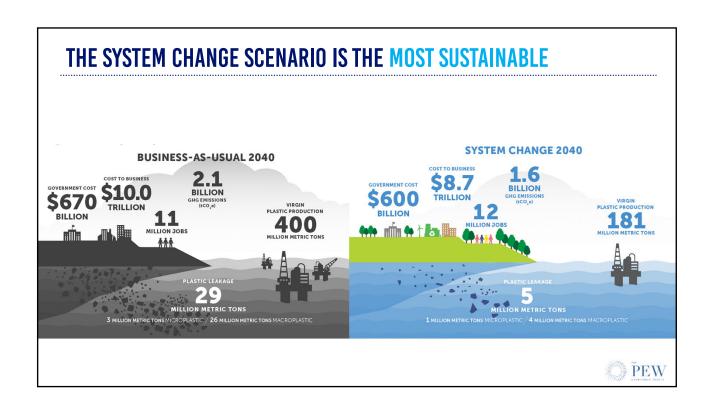
















• Rapid growth in plastic production and waste generation



Growing collection gap in developing countries

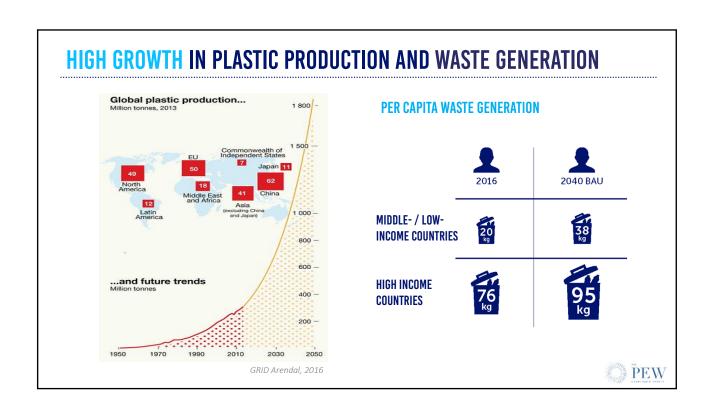


Problematic, high leakage, plastics



Economics



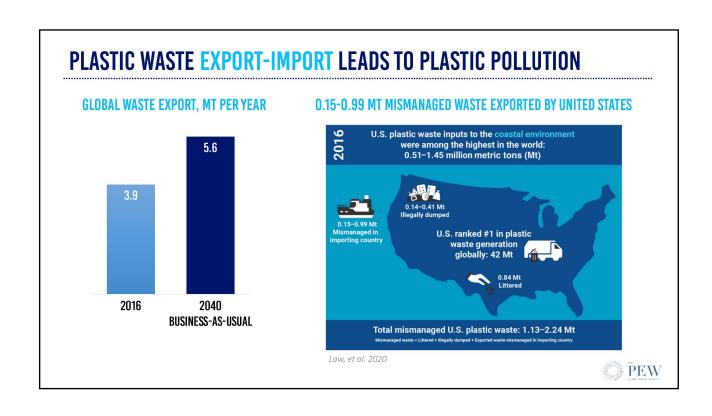


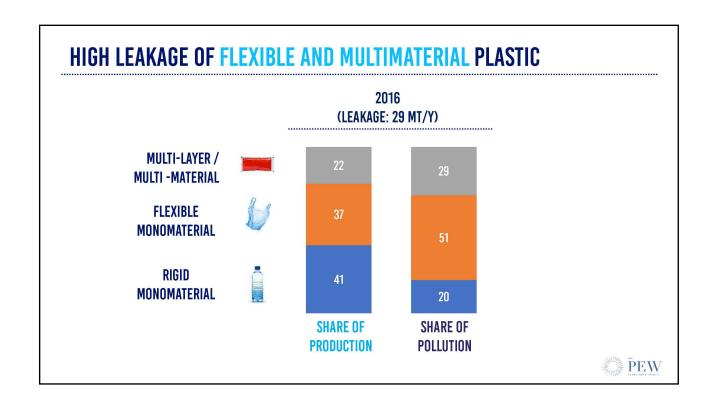
WASTE COLLECTION GAP IN MIDDLE/LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

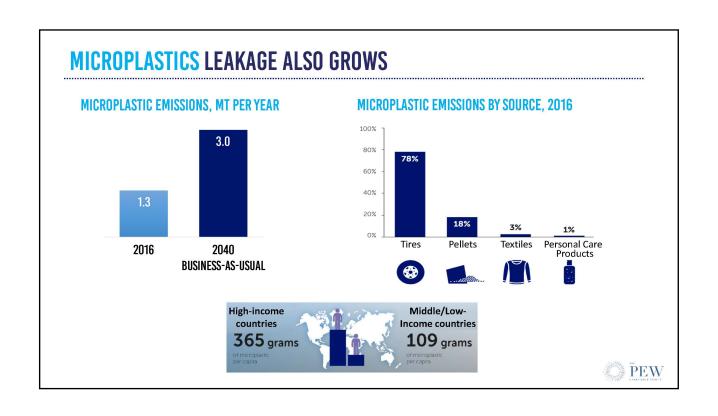
2 BILLION PEOPLE IN 2016 \rightarrow 4 BILLION PEOPLE IN 2040

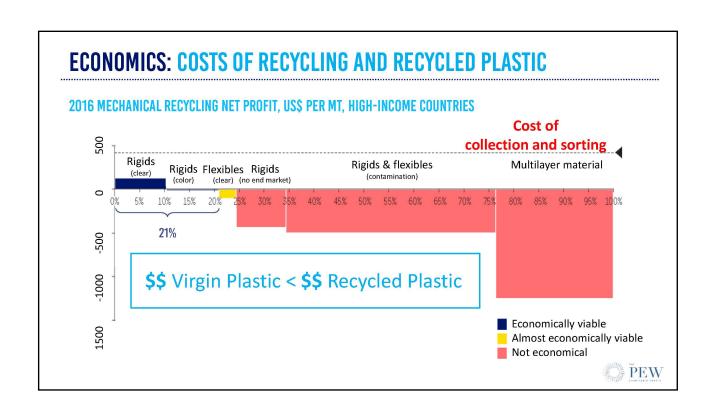


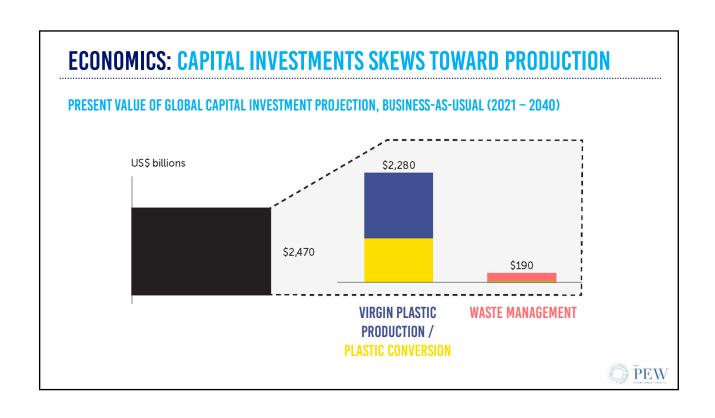


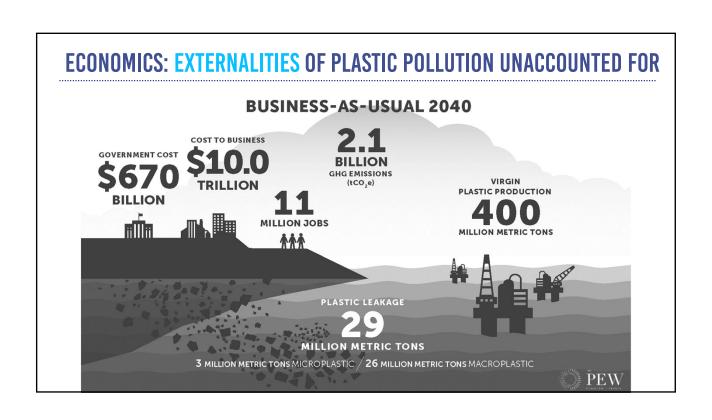












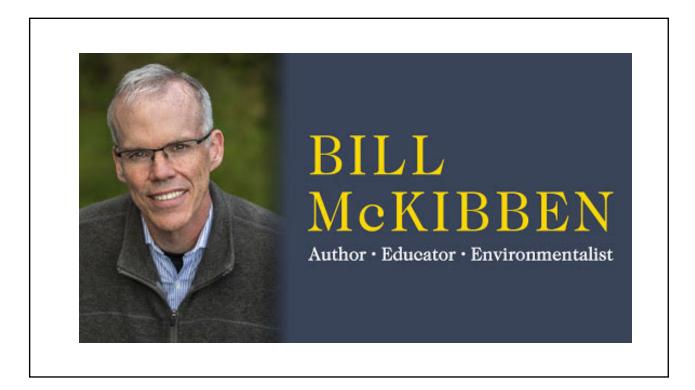




Judith Enck
Beyond Plastics
www.BeyondPlastics.org





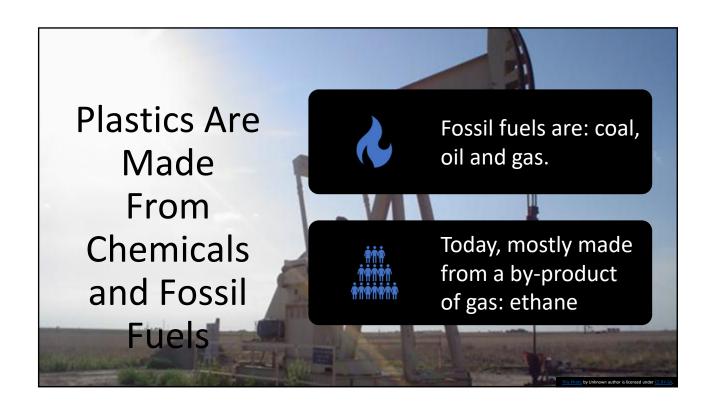


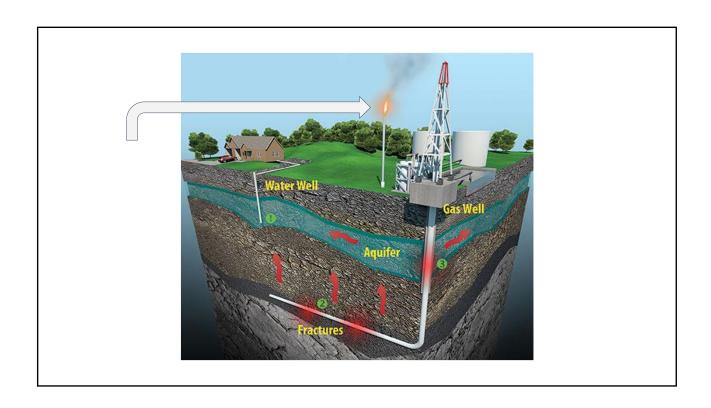
















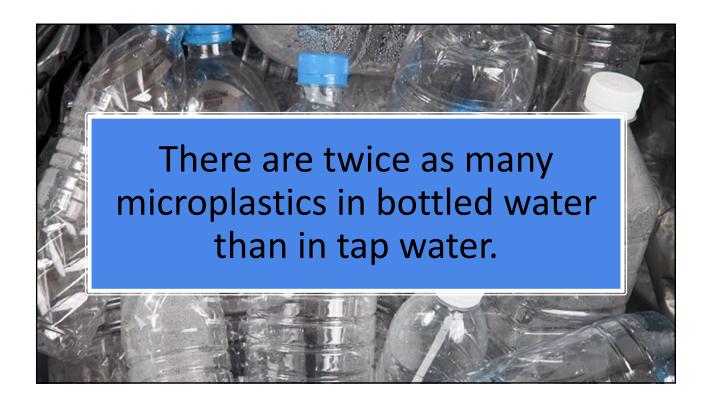














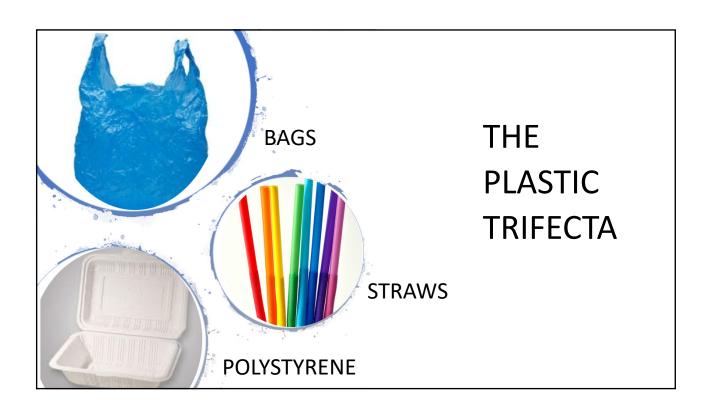






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Moving Beyond Plastic Pollution
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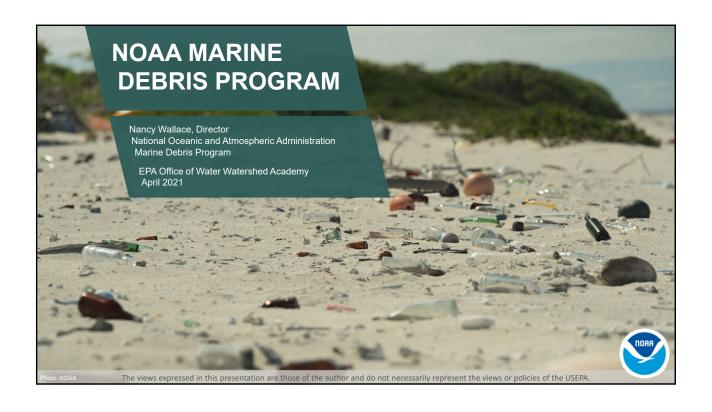
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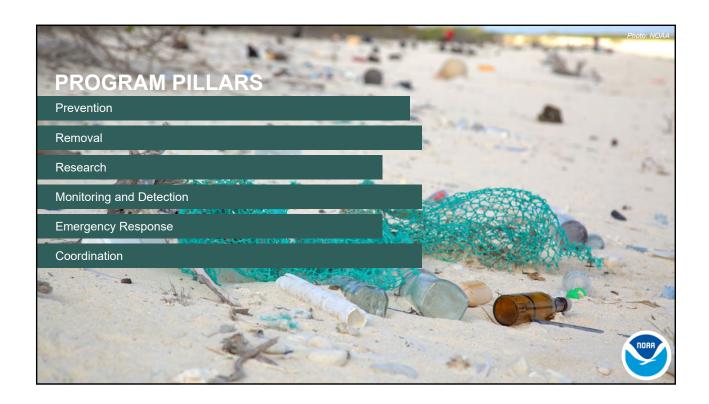
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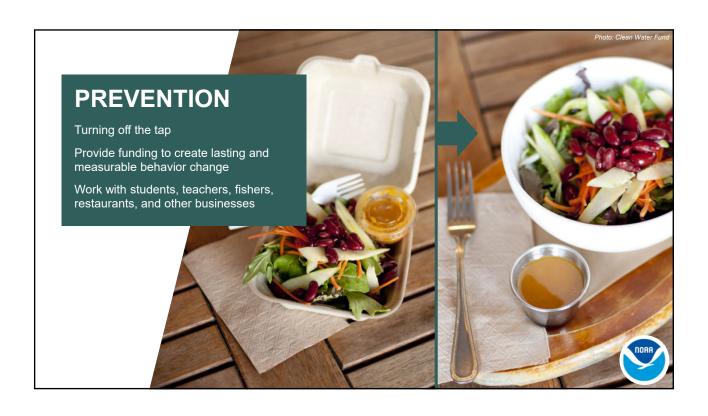
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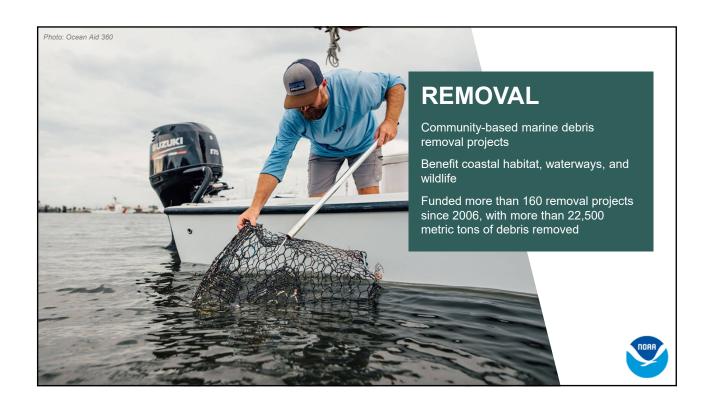




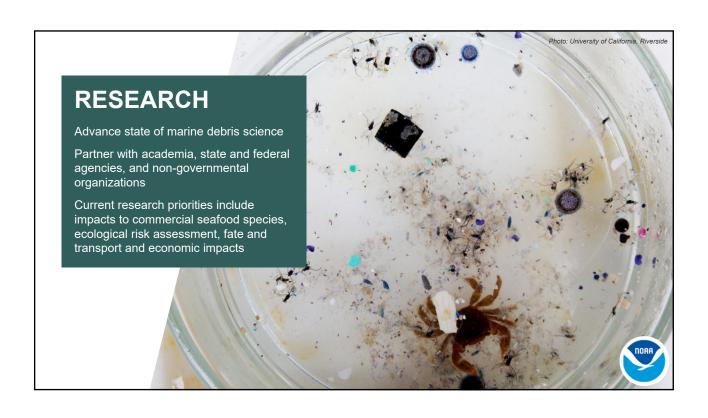






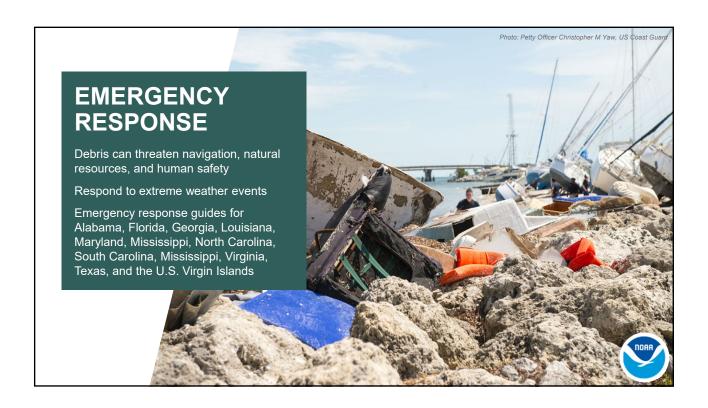






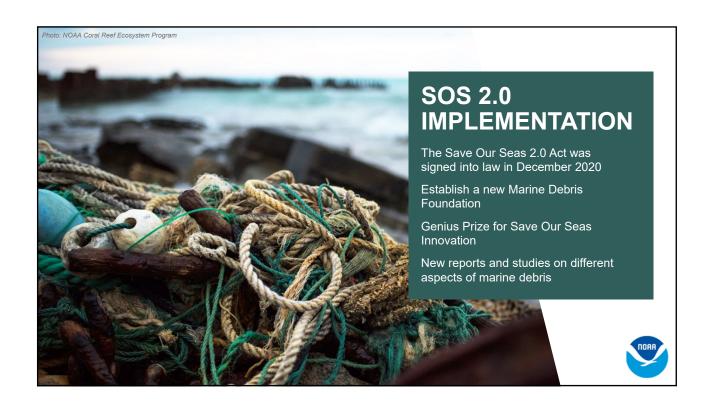




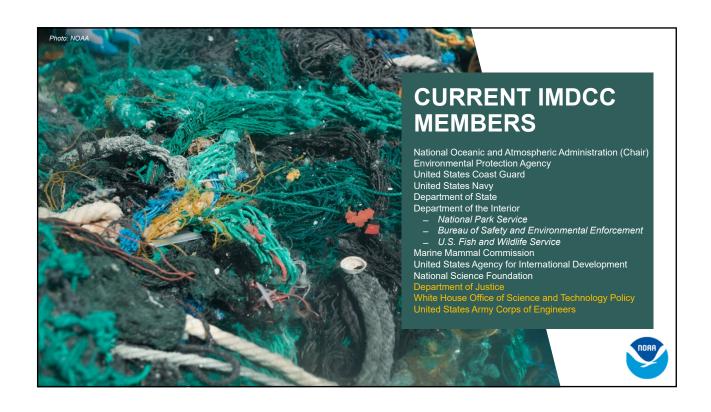




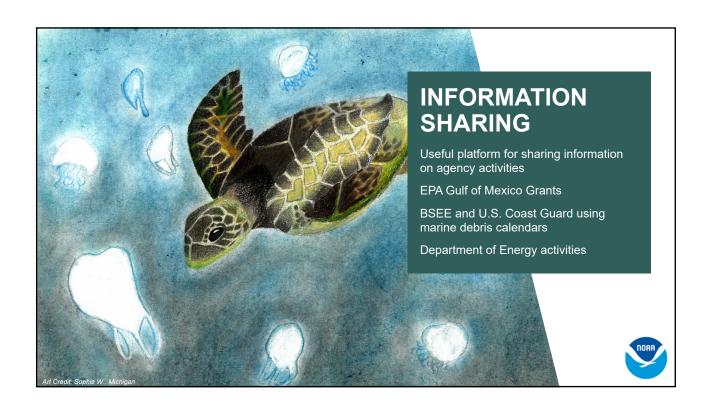


















EXISTING LEGAL AUTHORITIES AND EPA PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS AQUATIC TRASH

Existing **legal authorities** to address aquatic trash include:

- Clean Water Act
- Pollution Prevention Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Marine Debris Act, amended by Save Our Seas Act of 2018
- Save Our Seas Act 2.0

EPA offices that are working on various aspects of the aquatic trash problem include:

- Office of Water
- Office of International and Tribal Affairs
- Office of Land and Emergency Management
- Office of Research and Development
- Regional Offices

TRASH FREE WATERS PROGRAM: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

- The Trash Free Waters (TFW) program is a voluntary, non-statutory program that work through partnerships in locations around the country to prevent or reduce trash loadings into the nation's waterways.
- Our place-based efforts are typically led by our Regional offices.
- In other cases, Headquarters has led place-based projects.
- Headquarters provides funding and technical assistance for select placebased projects.
- · Headquarters also leads national scale projects.

TFW PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- The program has the following priorities:
 - I. Support effective regional, state, and local projects.
 - 2. Leverage public and private partnerships.
 - 3. Support research and education/outreach efforts.
 - Provide tools and resources that support high-impact voluntary trash prevention actions.



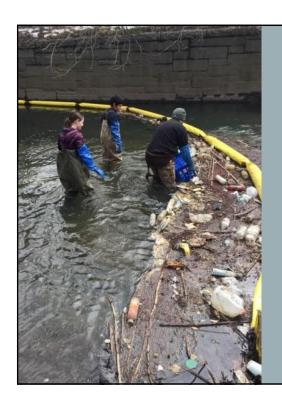


TFW PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

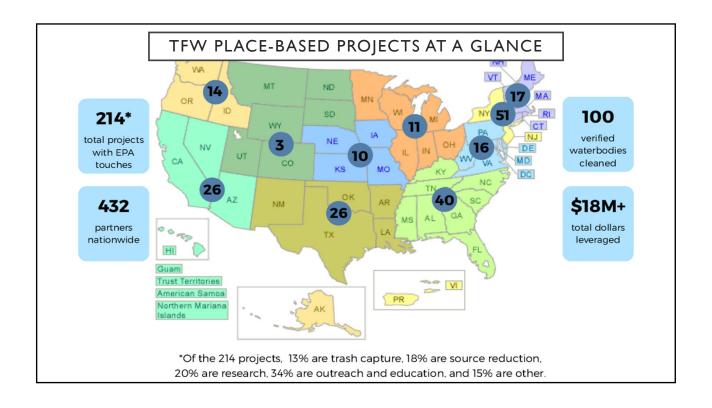
- All ten EPA Regions plus three geographic programs have a TFW Coordinator or TFW team who are responsible for:
 - 1. Developing an annual TFW workplan
 - 2. Developing and implementing TFW projects in partnership with stakeholders
 - 3. Reporting against program metrics to HQ each year
- The TFW team in HQ is responsible for:
 - 1. Defining and guiding TFW program strategy
 - 2. Coordinating with TFW Regional Coordinators and interagency and intra-agency partners
 - 3. Providing technical and financial assistance
 - 4. Maintaining website
 - 5. Leading national TFW projects
 - 6. Developing tools and resources

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- The TFW national program lead sits on the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee (IMDCC), which acts as an informationsharing body for US government activities with respect to marine litter.
- TFW also sits on the federal interagency micro/nanoplastics workgroup, which shares information on federal agency research specific to that topic.
- TFW has worked selectively with other Agencies on particular projects or efforts.



PLACE-BASED EFFORTS



PLACE-BASED PROJECT EXAMPLES



- Trash Free Gulf R4, R6, and Gulf of Mexico Division are working collaboratively to develop a geographically-focused TFW initiative to establish a trash-related event database, create an outreach toolkit resource database, and gather and display data on trash removed during cleanup events in the Gulf region.
- Trash Free St. Louis R7 is partnering with the Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper to install 3 different in-stream trash devices on hotspot urban streams outside of St. Louis, MO.
- **Trash Free Mystic** R1 is working closely with the Mystic River Watershed Association, the Consensus Building Institute, and local stakeholders to develop 2-3 priority trash mitigation projects to inform eventual implementation.
- **Trash Free Texas -** Continued expansion of the "Adopt a Spot" online mapping tool which enables community leaders to identify, promote, and track trash removal activities in their region.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT 1: PROCTOR CREEK TRASH CAPTURE

- EPA Region 4, The Coca-Cola Company, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the City of Atlanta, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Groundwork Atlanta, and Park Pride partnered to install several innovative trash-trap systems along Proctor Creek.
- In 2019, EPA facilitated a Proctor Creek Stakeholder Investment Meeting with leaders from local government, foundations, nonprofits, and businesses to identify resource needs and secure funding for source reduction efforts and trash traps.
- As a result of this meeting, the Coca-Cola Company invested \$350,000 in the project through their World Without Waste Initiative.
- As of March 31, 2020, EPA-supported trash capture devices within the Proctor Creek watershed have collected more than 900 pounds of trash.







PROJECT SPOTLIGHT II: SANTA MONICA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM'S RETHINK DISPOSABLE PROJECT

- With financial support from EPA's Trash Free Waters Program, the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) implemented a one-year pilot project in partnership with Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund to reduce single use disposable packaging at four Los Angeles restaurants.
- After the project's first year, these four restaurants eliminated 247,570 pieces of single-use disposables resulting in an annual waste reduction of 2,637 pounds.
- The project has since been expanded to other area restaurants.









SELECT HEADQUARTERS TFW PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Brought together world-renowned microplastics experts for a Microplastics Expert Workshop leading to a report on remaining key research needs.
- Developed a Great Practices Compendium, an Atlas of litter policies and programs for the Gulf region, and a number of other technical assistance documents.
- 3. Continuing to distribute a newsletter and monthly news round up to a mailing list of over 2,000 people.
- 4. Hosted 13 technical webinars (series ongoing on a quarterly basis).
- 5. Initiated and led a number of place-based projects.

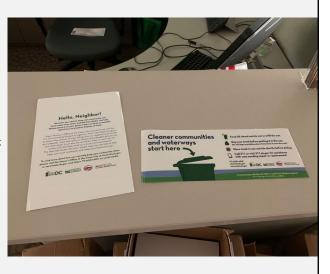
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Regular Communications:
 - The Flow our newsletter, which shares information on TFW projects and relevant news stories.
 - The Rapids a monthly email with information about TFW-related events, funding opportunities, news & announcements, as well as a summary of the latest research on microplastics.
- **TFW Article Series:** An ongoing series of educational articles to teach the public about various dimensions of the aquatic trash problem and what they can do to help.
- **TFW Webinar Series:** Quarterly webinars, in which experts around the country speak about specific topics of interest and a focus on what stakeholders themselves can potentially do.



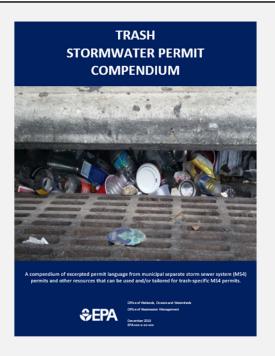
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Curbside Disposal Pilot Project: TFW is working with the Washington DC Mayor's Office of the Clean City and other DC partners to urge residents to take steps to ensure that trash does not spill from their bins on collection day.
- Transportation Hub Project: TFW will be creating a toolbox on its website of the best messaging campaigns put out by State Departments of Transportation and Municipal Transit Authorities on mitigating trash pollution from and on roads and transportation hubs.
- Project Highlights: The TFW website contains a growing list of project descriptions and accomplishments.



TRASH COMPENDIUM

- TFW has compiled select excerpted permit language from stormwater permits, best management practice effectiveness information, and case studies into a Trash Stormwater Permit Compendium document that was just published on April 13.
- The Compendium is a very helpful resource for stormwater permit writers, municipal stormwater planners, and other audiences.



PROTOCOL (ETAP)

- The ETAP tool was designed to help communities characterize and quantify trash pollution and identify tailored management practices to mitigate trash loadings into waterways.
- ETAP should be published before the end of April.
- ETAP has been incorporated into the California Trash Monitoring Methods and Assessments Playbook.
- Future plans include creation of an app version of ETAP.

STORMWATER-SOLID WASTE DIALOGUES

- Stakeholders in the municipal solid waste and stormwater sectors are participating in a series of discussions in order to identify challenges and opportunities related to addressing aquatic trash through solid waste and stormwater management.
- Through a remote stakeholder engagement process, participants are transferring knowledge and identifying product needs.
- Partners include American Chemistry Council, the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance, and KCI Technologies.

MICROPLASTICS RESEARCH

- TFW is coordinating with EPA's microplastics researchers to amplify EPA's work in this area, and to develop projects to further the understanding of microplastics pollution and its impacts.
- The program is currently developing a progress report on based on the 2017 Microplastics Expert Workshop.
- Our Office of Research and Development is working on developing, validating and standardizing extraction, identification and quantification methods for microplastics in sediment and surface waters.

REPORT ON MICROFIBER POLLUTION

- In coordination with the IMDCC, EPATFW is developing a Report to Congress on microfiber pollution, which is a requirement under Section 132 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act.
- In addition to an assessment of the existing knowledge about the microfiber pollution problem, the report will include a 5-year plan for how Federal agencies can work to reduce microfiber pollution.



FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

Tire Particles

- Various studies have shown that tire particles are very common in waterways and may have significant impacts on aquatic life.
- TFW is in the early stage of scoping a project to help address this issue.

Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice is a big focus area for the new Administration.
- Lower income and minority communities are often disproportionately impacted by trash issues.
- TFW is looking at both increasing focus in these areas, but also at how we can use
 environmental justice as a lens on the various efforts we undertake.

NEW TFW LEGISLATIVE DRIVER

Save Our Seas 2.0 Implementation

- Stand up a new Trash Free Waters national grant program.
 - Legislation says that EPA may create a new national TFW grants program.
 - Authorization is for \$10 million/year from FY21-25.
 - No appropriation for this grant program in FY21.
 - Grants will be support source reduction projects, enforce local materials management ordinances, implement solid waste state or local policies, install trash capture devices, provide education and outreach, and monitor or model reductions in waste flows due to BMPs for the reduction of plastic waste and other post-consumer materials in sources of drinking water.
- Lead office for EPA public strategy on post-consumer materials management and water management.
 - Strategy is to be completed "in consultation with stakeholders."
 - Strategy is to be distributed to states and made publicly available for use by for-profit entities and NGOs
 - > Strategy due by December 2021.



Romell Nandi

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Participation Certificate

• If you would like to obtain a participation certificate you can access the PDF in the **Handouts** section of your control panel.

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Thank You!