

WASHINGTON STATE

Reducing single use plastics & solid waste



Toolkit

Why reducing plastics matters

Single-use plastics cause environmental harm and significant cleanup costs to our state, Puget Sound, and our oceans worldwide. To assist, Governor Inslee has directed state agencies to work to stop buying plastics. The State Efficiency and Environmental Performance (SEEP) [Executive Order 20-01](#) directs us to reduce solid waste (plastics) in our state. In addition, [SB5022](#) also requires recycling and waste and litter reduction. The new [Washington Green Purchasing Guide](#) provides key tools, information and guidance on reducing plastics and solid waste through purchasing and procurement.

Learn about the harmful impacts of plastics by checking out these informative videos: [Say No to Plastics](#) (1:00, YouTube.com) and [Opening Our Eyes](#) (2:22, YouTube.com – How Plastic Waste is Killing Our Oceans).

Spread the word in your agency by sharing these sample communication tools:

[Plastics reduction email news article](#)



“Every year, about 8 million tons of plastic waste escapes into the oceans from coastal nations. That’s the equivalent of setting five garbage bags full of trash on every foot of coastline around the world.”

www.nationalgeographic.com

[National Geographic, Plastics Pollution Facts & Information](#)

Questions?

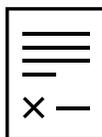
Contact a member of the DES SEEP EPP-Toxics Workgroup:

[Cheral Manke, DES, Chair](#) | [Leatta Dahlhoff, DES, Toxics Reduction Specialist](#)

Sample policy

Consider creating an agency policy to reduce single-use plastics. Below is a sample to help you start drafting your policy.

[Sample plastics policy](#)



“The problem is getting worse. Action is needed to keep plastic out of our environment.” (2:01, CBCNews.ca)

[Ottawa pushing ahead with plan to ban single use plastics by end of 2021](#)

Procedures & alternatives

When communicating plastics reduction directives, help staff understand **how to decide what to buy** and any **related procedures** like documenting and tracking exceptions, and providing them with any available alternative products.

“In our plastic-filled world, avoiding plastic can be pretty challenging. But finding alternatives to common items like plastic bottles and plastic packaging is becoming increasingly easier--and not a moment too soon for our plastic-choked planet.” (learn.eartheasy.com)

[Earth Easy – Best Eco-Friendly Alternatives](#)

[WA Green Purchasing Guide](#)

