



Re-envisioning our Relationship with Waste: Grassroots Efforts in Edmonton

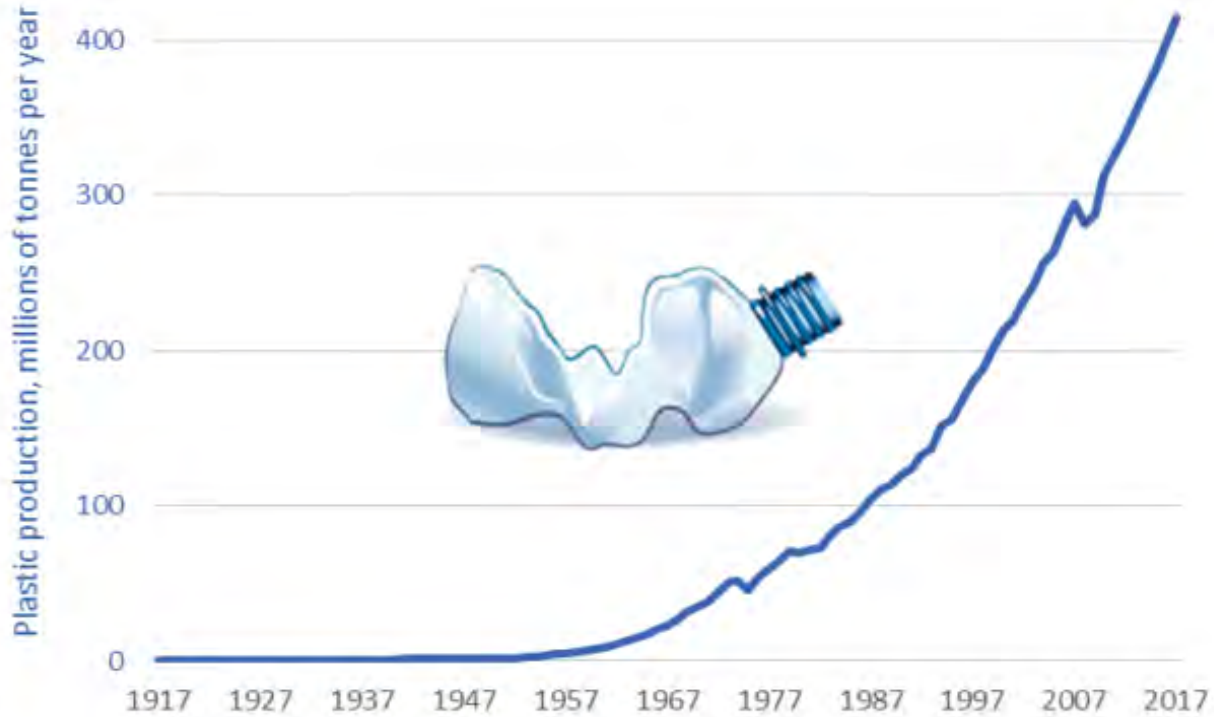
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Co-Founder, Waste Free Edmonton

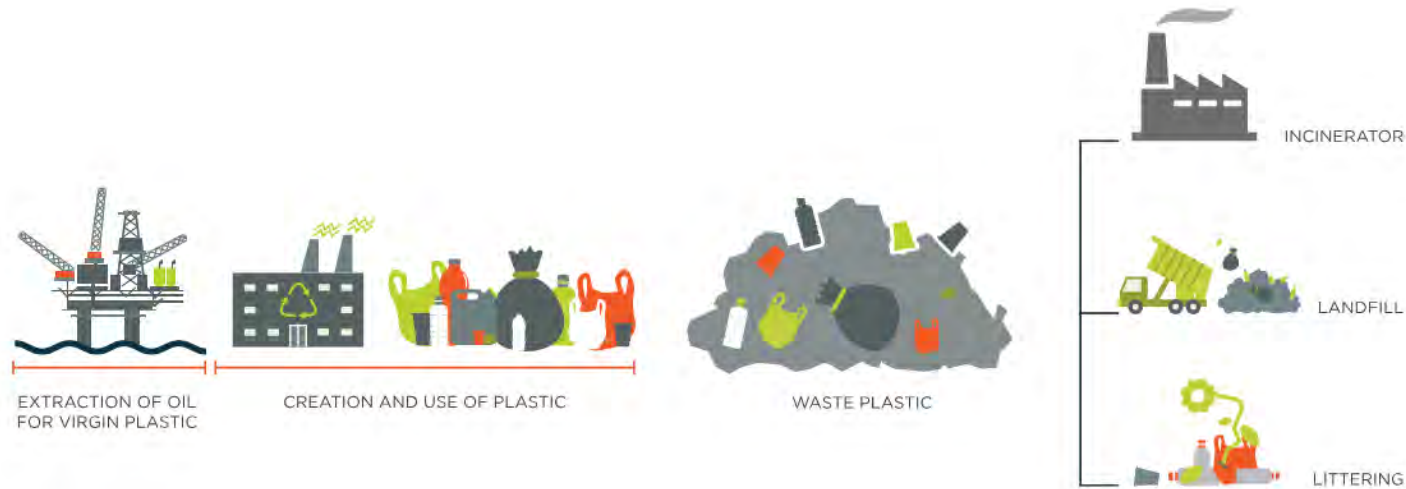
Waste Free Edmonton Team



The Plastic Problem



Life Cycle of Single-Use Plastics



Source: plasticenergy.net (edited)



Plastic Recycling?

- Most single-use plastics are NOT recyclable
- Downcycling NOT recycling
- **We can't recycle our way out of this problem!**





“Green” Substitutes

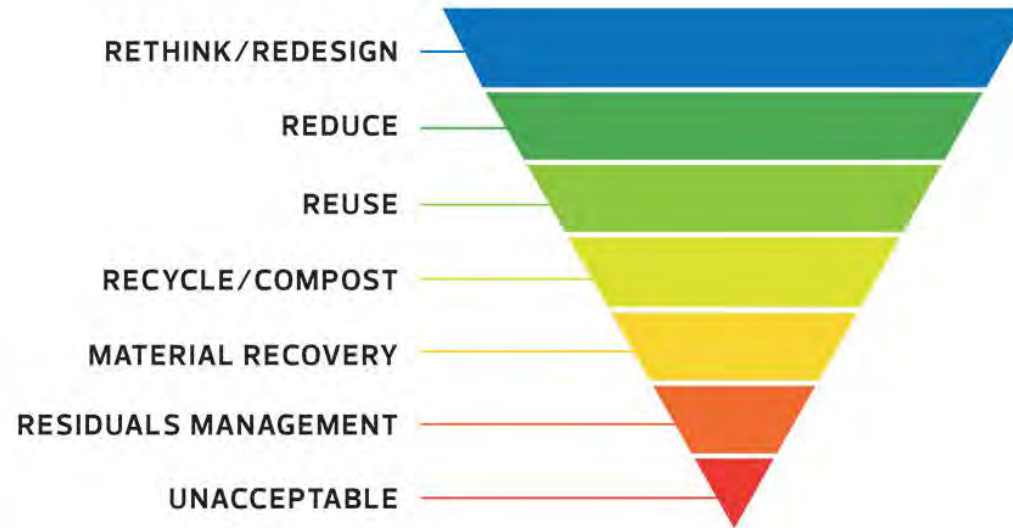
- “Plant-based” and “biodegradable”
- “Compostable”



What are the solutions?

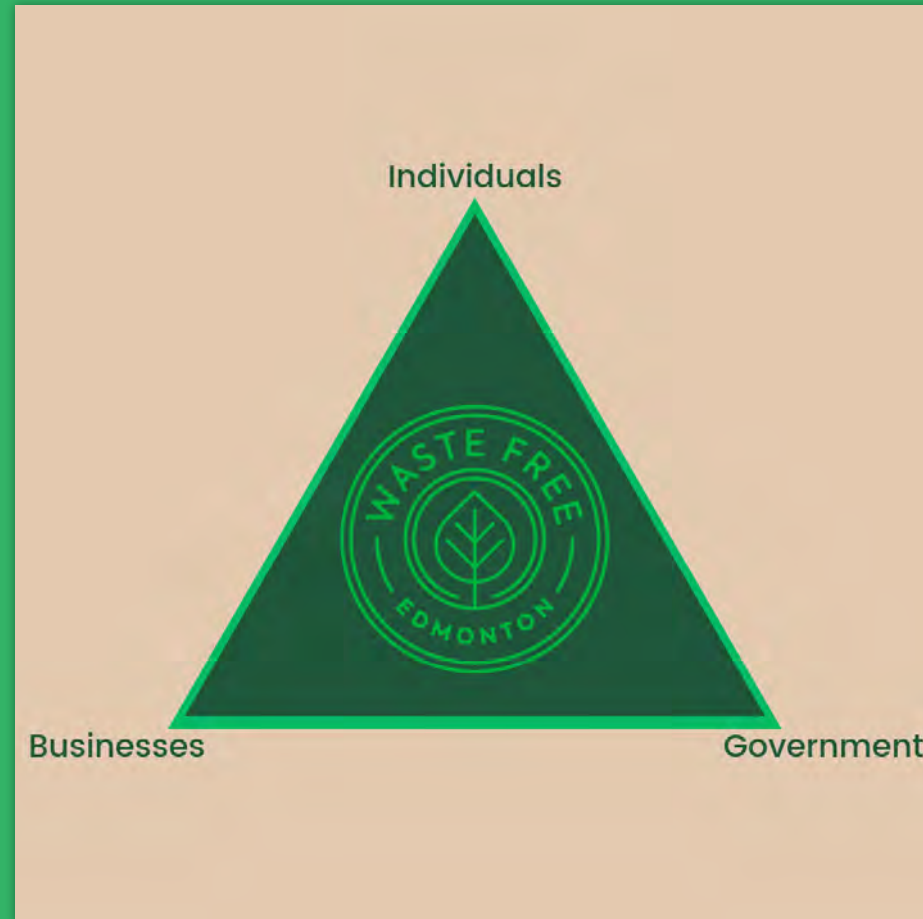


Zero Waste Hierarchy



Source: Zero Waste Canada

WFE 3-Pronged Approach



Businesses



10 Steps To a Waste Free Business

Check the waste reduction steps your business would be willing to implement

1. ☐ Take Action on Single-Use Items

- Implement an "ask first" policy for single-use items. For example:
 - ask if beverages are "to stay" or "to go"; and
 - for take-out orders, ask the customer if they need a bag or other disposable items (e.g. cutlery, condiment packs) instead of automatically giving them.
- Implement a "straws on request" policy and provide non-single-use plastic straw options for those that need them (metal, paper, or silicon).
- Provide reusable dishware, cutlery and cups/glasses for all "to stay" customers.
- Sign-on to the letter from local businesses asking Edmonton City Council to take action to address Single-use Plastics.

2. ☐ Encourage Customers to Bring Reusable Containers for To Go Orders

- You can encourage customers to bring their own containers for bulk and ready-made items by:
 - a) advertising in-store that you allow customers to bring their own coffee cups, containers, etc.;
 - b) charging a fee for each disposable item; and
 - c) providing a discount or "points" to customers for bringing their own containers.

3. ☐ Re-think Packaging

- Choose suppliers who provide items with no or reduced packaging.
- Request that suppliers reduce the amount of packaging they use, and let them know that you are basing your purchasing decision, in-part, on the amount of packaging they use.





Solutions - Individuals



Solutions – Community Action

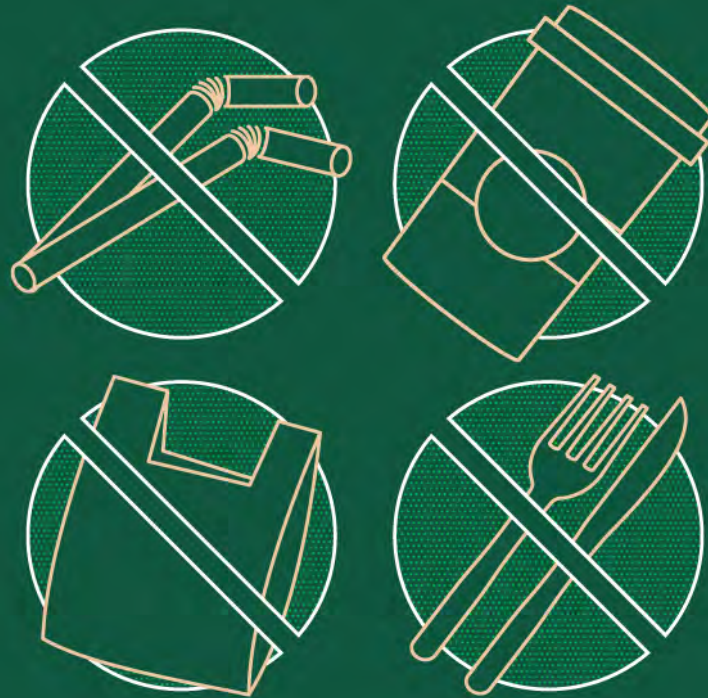


Government

Say No to Single-Use Plastics

Show your support for a single-use plastics bylaw in Edmonton by visiting wastefree.ca/take-action

#wastefreeyeg



Petition: City of Edmonton Take Action on Single-Use Plastics

Single-use plastic items (such as bags, straws, and coffee cups) are used for mere seconds to minutes but are made out of material that will last forever. Globally, we produce more than 150 million tonnes of single-use plastics annually. These items are polluting the land and waterways, killing wildlife, and making their way into our food chain. They also cost taxpayers money. We need to reduce the number of single-use plastic items ending up in the waste stream, the environment, and on our dinner plate!

As such, we, the undersigned eligible voters of the City of Edmonton, call on Mayor Don Iveson and City Council to take action to significantly reduce the amount of single-use plastic items used in Edmonton. More specifically, we request that City Council implement a comprehensive single-use plastic strategy that includes a bylaw banning or putting a surcharge on plastic bags, straws, coffee cups, utensils, and take-out containers.

Name (printed)	Address	Date	Signature
Janet Kuperes	11445 64 St NW	Apr. 27/19	<i>Janet Kuperes</i>
Maria Miranda	9109-1105 NW	Apr 24, 2019	<i>Maria Miranda</i>
Susan Parker	1135 111A St	April 27	<i>S Parker</i>
Maddie	54029 RR 362 ^{Sturgeon} _{County}	April 27	<i>Maddie</i>
Hogan Wasmann	11304 136 St	April 27/19	<i>Hogan Wasmann</i>
Timothy Gann	1124 126 St	April 27/19	<i>Timothy Gann</i>
Steve Pelich	9907-110 St NW	April 27/19	<i>Steve Pelich</i>
Lauren Thorne	15227 83 Ave NW	April 27/19	<i>Lauren Thorne</i>
Terence Duvon	241 Orange Ave ^{7601 105}	Apr 27/19	<i>Terence Duvon</i>
Alison Murphy	10847 79th Ave	Apr 27	<i>Alison Murphy</i>
Luke Wonneke	9674 35th Ave	Apr 27/19	<i>Luke Wonneke</i>
Joanne Pinches	322 221 70th N ^{Levin Ave}	Apr 27	<i>Joanne Pinches</i>
Lori Reid	51 Kinross Cir NE	Apr 27/19	<i>Lori Reid</i>

Government



← → ↺ <https://wastefree.ca/resources-for-policy-law-makers/>



TAKE ACTION

Resources for Policy/Law Makers

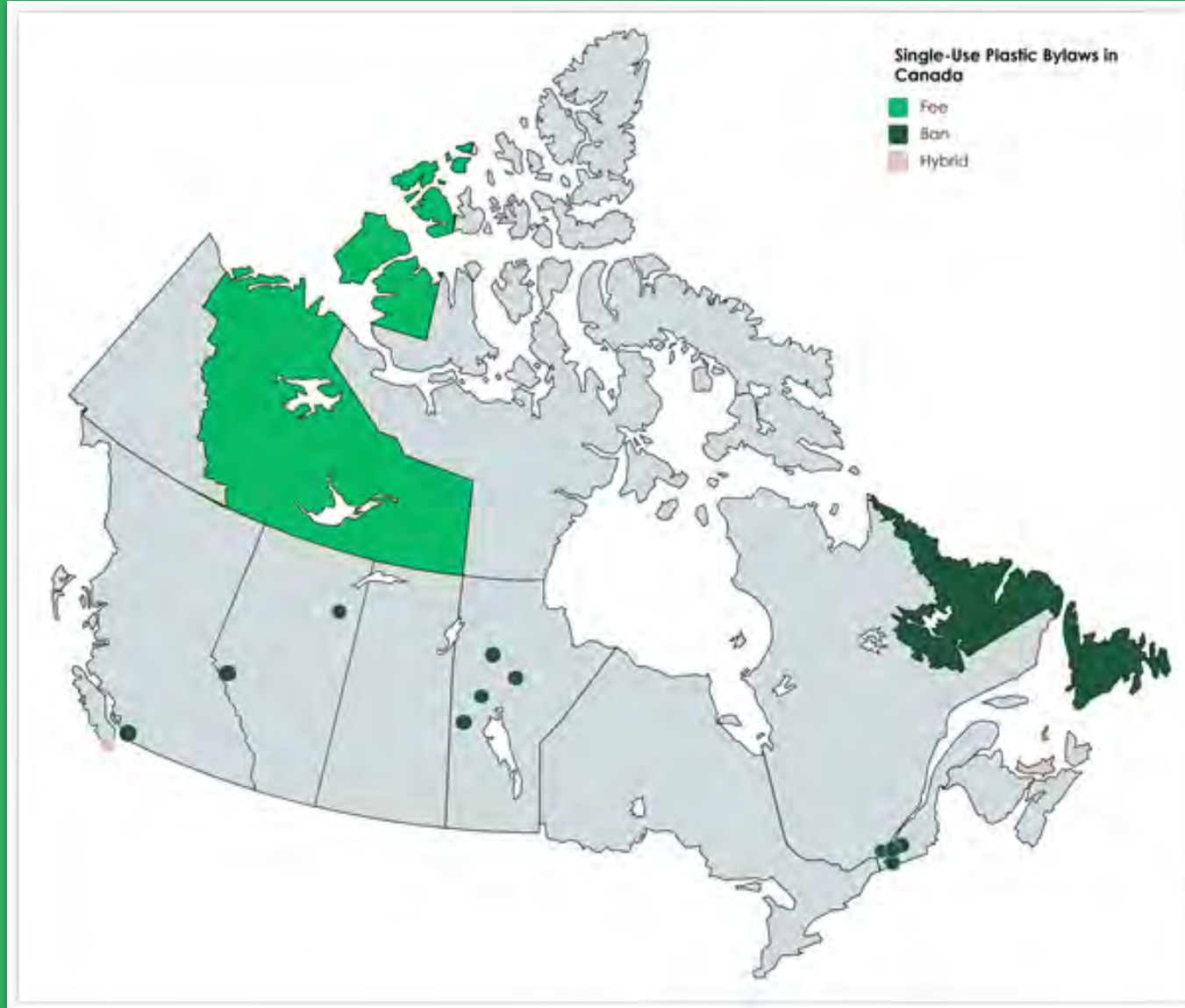
WFE Research Report: Impact of Single-Use Plastics Laws Around the World

Plastic Bag Websites

Government Reports

Academic Articles

Plastic Laws in Canada



Corporate Responsibility and Right to Repair Legislation



Waste Free Edmonton



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- E-mail: melissa@wastefree.ca
- Social media: @wastefreeyeg



Thank you!

