



Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution

U.S. EPA Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

October 2023

Purpose

The LGAC is an independent, policy-oriented advisory committee of locally elected and appointed officials that provides advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator. The LGAC is tasked with assisting the agency by ensuring that EPA's regulations, policies, guidance, and technical assistance supports and improves the capacity of local governments that implements and carries out these programs.

Client Office

EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR), within the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

Background

The *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*, which is part of EPA's Series of Strategies on Building a Circular Economy for All, was released for public comment in April 2023. The Strategy provides voluntary actions that can be implemented in the United States aimed at eliminating the release of plastic waste from land-based sources into the environment by 2040. EPA endeavors to provide an innovative, equitable approach to reduce and recover plastic and other waste, as well as prevent plastic pollution from harming human health and the environment, particularly for communities already overburdened by pollution. Plastic pollution has accumulated over time and will continue to grow as plastic production increases. Therefore, the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*, together with EPA's *National Recycling Strategy*, identifies how EPA can work collaboratively with the interested parties to prevent plastic pollution and reduce, reuse, recycle, collect, and capture plastic and other waste from land-based sources.

With input from the public, EPA identified three draft objectives for the strategy:

- Reduce pollution during plastic production
- Improve post-use materials management
- Prevent trash and micro/nanoplastics from entering waterways and remove escaped trash from the environment

The proposed actions under each objective support United States' shift to a circular approach that is restorative or regenerative by design, enables resources to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and aims to eliminate waste in the management of plastic products.



The draft strategy comment period ended on July 31, 2023. As EPA reviews the 91,000+ comments received and works to finalize the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*, we welcome feedback on how the final strategy and its implementation can be most useful to local governments.

Potential Charge Questions

1. How can the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* better address local government concerns?
2. How can local governments partner with EPA and states in addressing environmental and social impacts of plastic pollution through better coordination, planning, working with communities, and other actions?
3. Are there specific plastic pollution impacts and/or interventions that local governments need federal support and engagement to address?
4. Are there specific actions within the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* that appeal to individual states or regions of the country?
5. How are local governments measuring (e.g. through litter clean-up costs, etc.) the impacts of plastic pollution on their communities?

Details of LGAC Action

EPA and LGAC will discuss the charge questions and the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* at the October 23, 2023 LGAC meeting. A workgroup will be developed to further discuss the issue.

Deliverables

Meeting notes from LGAC's discussion with EPA on the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.