

B.C. Provincial Plastics Policy

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Ministry of
Environment
and Parks

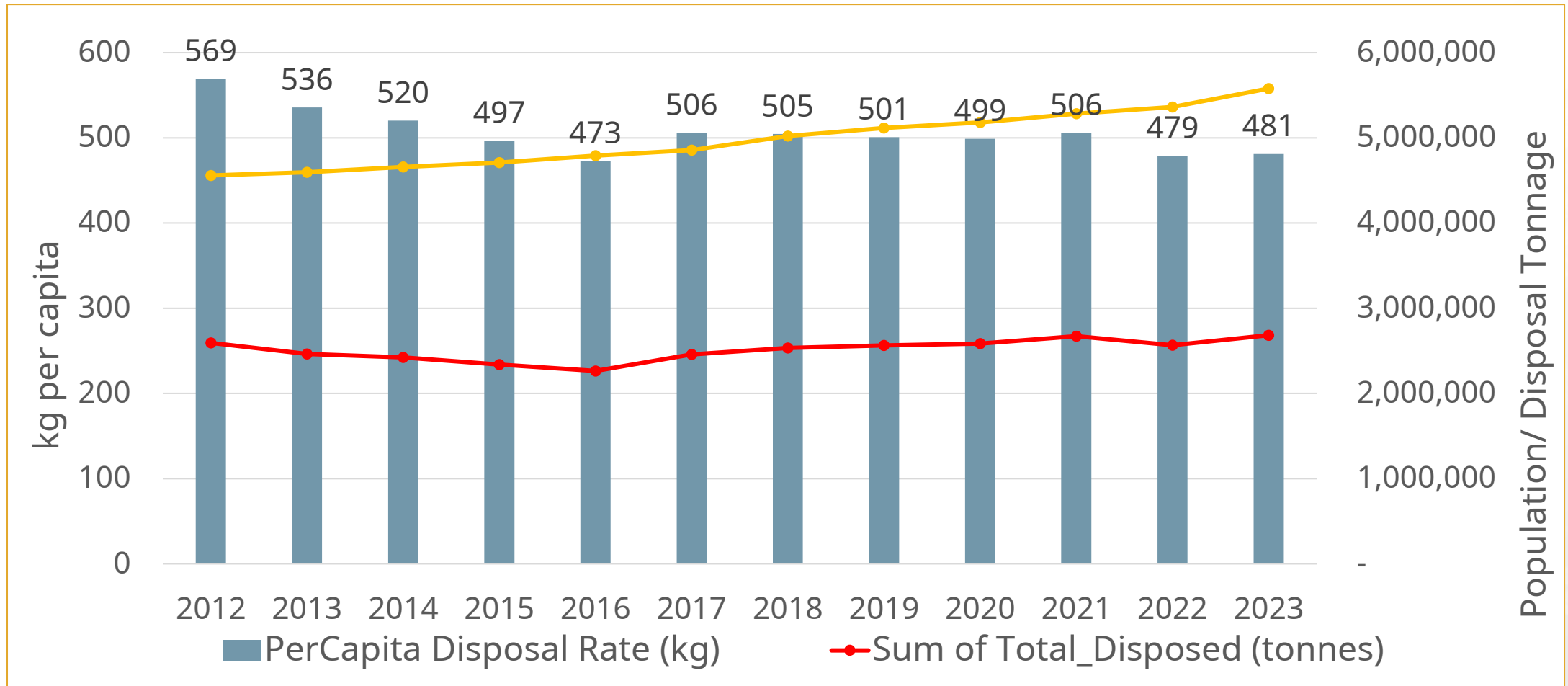


Overview

- **Principles of Waste Policy in B.C.**
 - Circular Economy and Pollution Prevention Hierarchy
- **Plastics Policy in B.C.**
 - Reduce
 - Reuse
 - Recycle

Waste Policy

B.C. MSW Disposal Rate (2012-2023)



Principles of Waste Management in B.C.

The Pollution Prevention Hierarchy



Reduce Reduce by as much as possible the amount or toxicity of material that enters the solid waste stream and also the impact on the environment of producing it in the first place.



Reuse Ensure that materials or products are reused as many times as possible before entering the solid waste stream.



Recycle Recycle as much material as possible.



Recovery Recover material and/or energy from the solid waste stream through the use of technology.



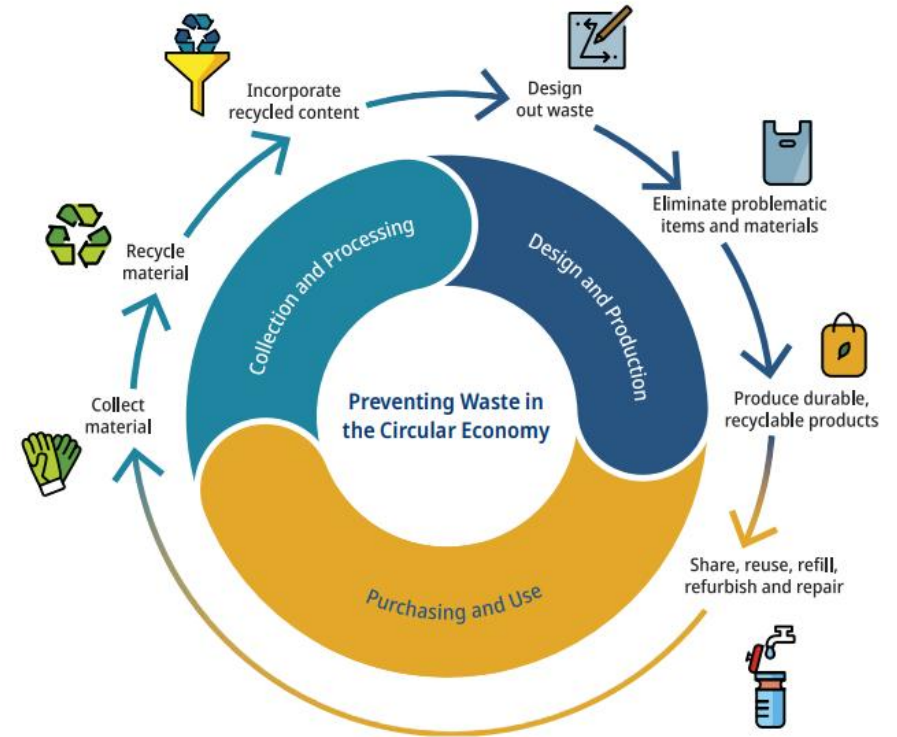
Residuals Management

Provide safe and effective residual management, once the solid waste stream has been reduced.

The 5R PPH supports the transition to a circular economy for B.C. by shifting the focus from recycling and residuals management to reduction and reuse.

This prevents unnecessary resource use and pollution and reduces the costs of managing waste.

The Circular Economy



Plastics Policy

The Challenge: Plastics in B.C.

- Increasingly found in our environment; negative impacts on the ecosystem, livelihoods and potentially human health
- Many plastics designed to be used once and thrown away
- Certain plastics are challenging for our recycling (and compost) systems
- Only 16% of plastics recycled in Canada annually (2024 report)
 - In B.C., 45% residential packaging recovery rate for residential plastics in 2024; 98% of this was sent to recycling end markets in B.C.



Recycle

Extended Producer Responsibility in B.C.

EPR Programs Operating in B.C.

Industry runs 14 non-profit agencies



Beverage containers



Beer and cider containers



Residential packaging and paper



Paint, flammables, pesticides, lights and smoke alarms



Electronics, small appliances & tools



Batteries



Large appliances



Electrical outdoor power equipment



Thermostats



Vending machines



Tires



Lead acid batteries



Used oil and antifreeze



Medications



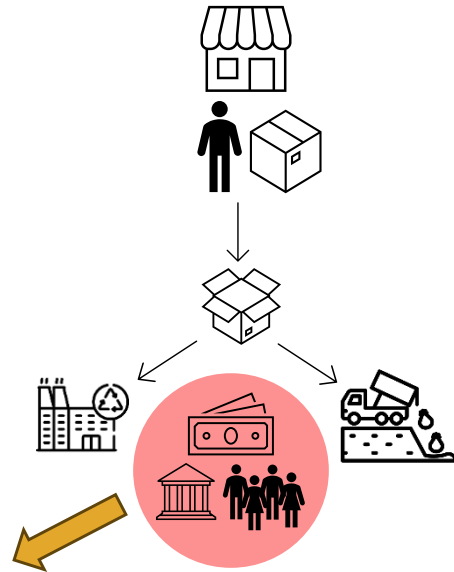
Stewardship Agencies of BC:
collaborative organization dedicated to managing obligated products



First Nations Recycling Initiative
formed by the majority of the EPR agencies to collaborate directly with communities across B.C.

Shifting Recycling Costs Under EPR

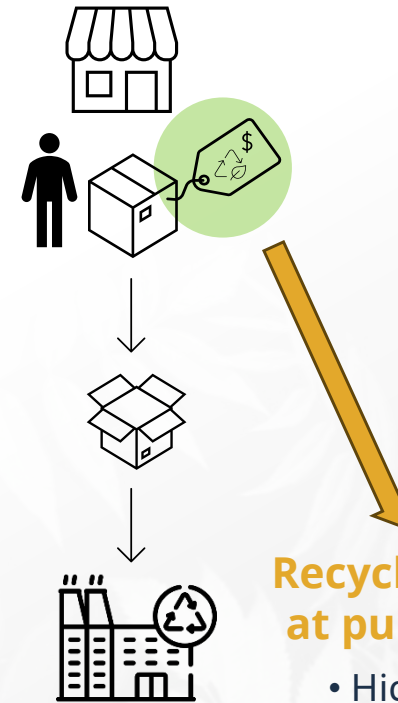
Traditional Waste Management



Paid for by local governments, taxpayers and First Nations at disposal

- Higher costs and logistical barriers
- Reduced access to recycling services
- Smaller portion of products recycled

Extended Producer Responsibility



Recycling costs linked to the item at purchase and to the producer

- Higher recycling rates
- Economic benefits and job creation
- Better access to recycling provincially

B.C. EPR Recovery Rates: 2024

14 EPR programs with thousands of companies operating under B.C.'s EPR model
B.C. is considered one of the leading jurisdictions in the world in EPR and serves as a model for other jurisdictions

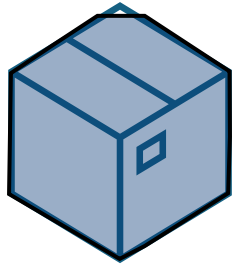
Beverage containers



84%

reused and recycled

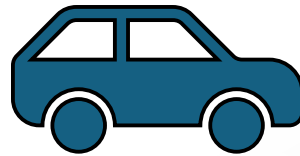
Packaging and paper



99%

of plastic packaging
managed through
recycling end markets
in B.C.

Tires



4.1 Million

tires recovered

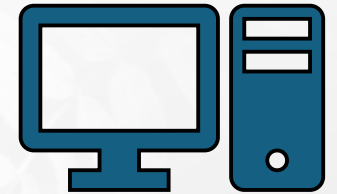
Used Oil



48 Million

litres recovered

Electronics



12.8 Million

kilograms recovered

Plastics Initiatives and the Pollution Prevention Hierarchy

The Pollution Prevention Hierarchy



Reduce Reduce by as much as possible the amount or toxicity of material that enters the solid waste stream and also the impact on the environment of producing it in the first place.



Reuse Ensure that materials or products are reused as many times as possible before entering the solid waste stream.



Recycle Recycle as much material as possible.

111 Recovery Recover

All Levels:

Solid Waste Management Plans + Bylaws
BC Solid Waste disposal rate tracker

Reduce:

Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation

Reuse:

Plastics Action Fund

Recycle:

Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative
EPR expansion and Recycling Regulation Review

Reduce

Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation;
Municipal Single-Use Bylaws

Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation

Announced on July 14, 2023, the regulation supports the prevention of waste and promoting a circular economy by:

- Phasing out unnecessary single-use and plastic items
- Shifting to durable, reusable items and systems
- Encouraging higher levels of recycling and waste management

The regulation provides a consistent regulatory approach across the province:

- Building on local government action on plastics in B.C.
- Expanding on the Government of Canada's Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulation



SUPWPR Overview

Who:

Business operators

Food service providers

What:



Food service accessories



Shopping bags



Food service ware



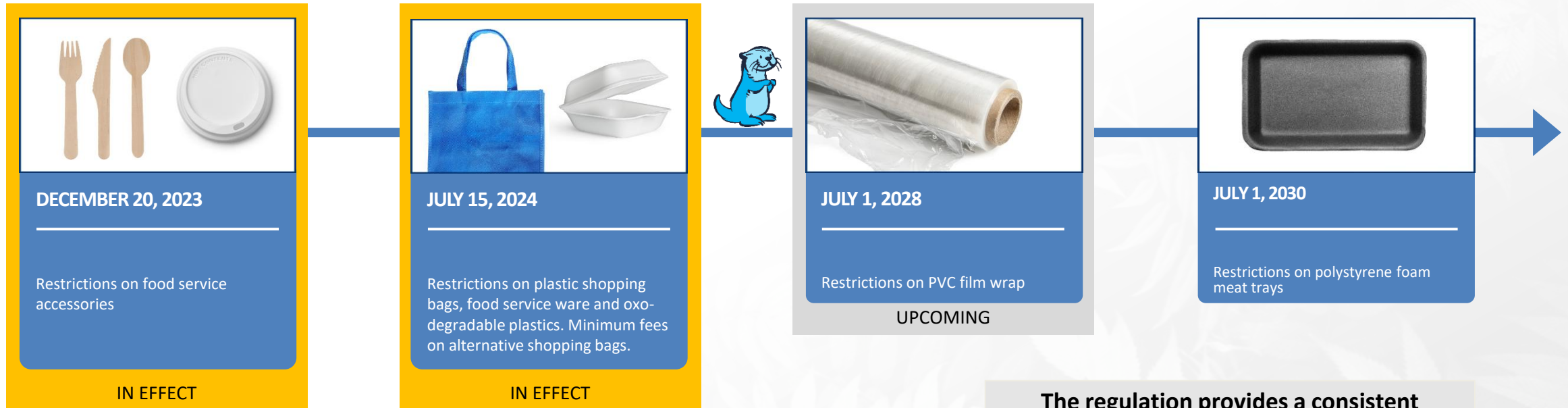
Oxo-degradable plastics

How:

- ✗ Ban on single-use plastic utensils
 - By-request” requirements
- ✗ Ban on single-use plastic shopping bags
 - Fee requirements for alternatives if customers choose to not bring a reusable bag
- ✗ Restrictions on hard-to-recycle plastics
- ✗ Ban on all oxo-degradable packaging & single-use products

Timeline

Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation



The regulation provides a consistent approach across the province

Municipal Single-Use Bylaws

The Province also supports municipal action on single-use plastic waste and pollution.

- Amendment of the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation to align with the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation
- Municipalities may enforce and create bylaws restricting the same items included under the SUPWPR Regulation
- Municipalities may adopt single-use bylaws that extend beyond the Spheres Regulation with Minister's approval
 - City of Victoria – *reusables for dine-in*
 - District of Tofino – *ban on single-use water bottles ≤1 litre*



Reuse

CleanBC Plastics Action Fund (PAF)

CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

The CleanBC Plastics Action Fund provides support to innovative projects to reduce plastic waste and develop B.C.'s circular economy.

- Announced in 2020 to support innovative plastic waste reduction projects
- Invested nearly \$40M in 97 projects across the province
- Phase 3 (final phase) of the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund was announced in April 2023.
 - \$20M supported 66 projects (ongoing to 2026)
 - 4 funding categories (Post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastics, Circular economy innovation, Regional plastics innovation, and Indigenous projects)



Photo: Plastics Action Fund Recipient, FreshPrep. Zero Waste Kit

Indigenous-led Projects



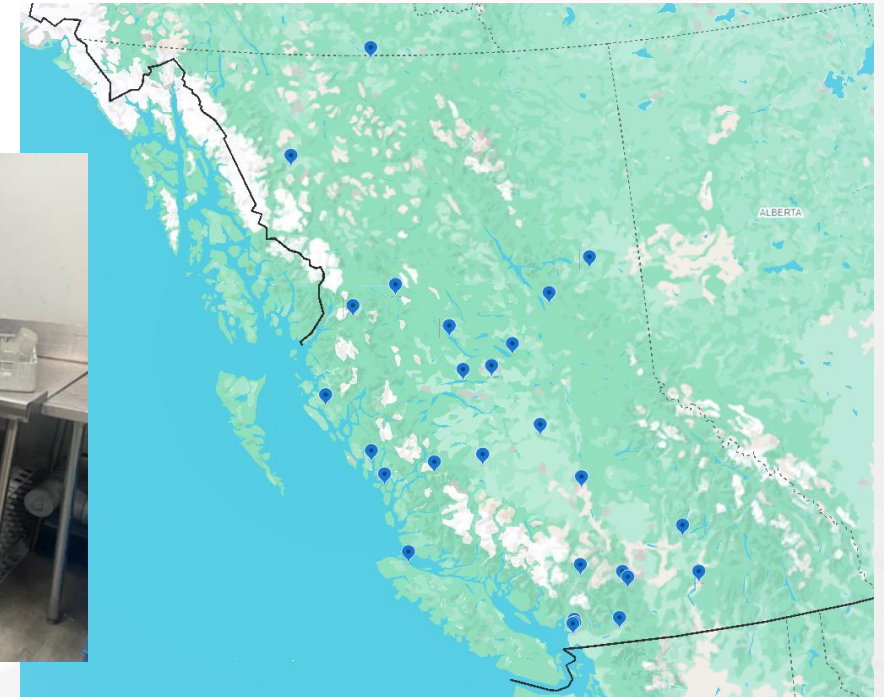
IZWTAG
INDIGENOUS ZERO WASTE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Supported by the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (<https://izwtag.com/>), 30 Indigenous-led projects received funding.

- Projects include:
 - reusable dinnerware for community events;
 - installation of commercial dishwashers;
 - mobile washing facilities for camps;
 - refillable water stations



Installation of commercial dishwasher



Locations of Indigenous-led projects

Circular Economy Innovation: Reusable Container programs



Support for businesses
innovating reusable cups and
containers

- Reusables.com
- Sharewares



Pilot projects to introduce
reusable cups and containers in
stadiums, universities,
community coffee shops



Prevention of single-use plastic
cups and containers, with
economic benefits for
businesses

BC Reuse Communications Toolkit

A communications and outreach toolkit that regional & local governments (RLGs) can 'plug and play' to advance reuse within the food services industry, especially among rural and remote communities.

Primary Goal

- **Businesses** – Increased awareness & active consideration or pursuit of reuse systems
- **General public** – Increased awareness, appreciation, and acceptance of reuse systems

Secondary Goal

- Validating barriers and drivers for incorporation into future solutions





Recycle

Clean Coast Clean Waters

Clean Coast Clean Waters

Clean Coast Clean Waters has invested \$49.83M in removing and collecting plastics and marine debris from B.C.'s coast since 2020

Goals:

- Create jobs and support coastal communities following COVID-19.
- Address issues around marine debris.

Funding for:

- Marine coastal Indigenous nations.
- Indigenous organizations and local governments.
- Non-profit organizations.



Clean Coast Clean Waters

Clean Coast Clean Waters has made a significant impact on the B.C. coast. Between 2020 and 2023:

- Over 6,400 km of shoreline cleaned.
- Over 2,100 tonnes of debris removed.
- 215 derelict vessels removed.
- 65% recycling/upcycling rate for shoreline clean-up projects.
- Nearly 2,400 jobs created and or maintained.

Projects in three categories:

- 1) Derelict vessel
- 2) Shoreline clean-up
- 3) Derelict aquaculture
(new in 2024)



Ongoing linkages and partnerships

Clean Coast Clean Waters continues to make an impact on the B.C. coast through ongoing partnerships and new initiatives. For example:

- Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative
- Ocean Legacy Foundation
- Expanded polystyrene reduction initiatives – Coastal Marine Strategy



Thank you

Connect: plastics@gov.bc.ca

www.gov.bc.ca/reuse

