Support HB20-1163: Management of Single-Use Products

VOTE TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN COLORADO

Support HB20-1163: Management of Single-Use Products

Sponsors: Representative Alex Valdez, Representative Emily Sirota, and Senator Julie Gonzales

THE PROBLEM

Single-use disposable plastics are a waste of resources and a major source of pollution in our streets, waterways and oceans.

Plastic pollution is a threat to human health.

A report released in 2019 by the Center for International Environmental Law, titled Plastics and Health: the Hidden Cost of Plastic, highlighted that the use of plastic consumer products and packaging “leads to human ingestion and/or inhalation of large amounts of plastic particles and hundreds of toxic substances with carcinogenic, developmental, and endocrine disrupting impacts.”

Plastic vinyl chloride #3 and polystyrene #6 are also two of the most harmful plastics to human health.

Plastics are impacting wildlife and ecosystems.

Some 690 species of marine life are affected by plastic pollution. Since the 1950s, plastic production worldwide has exploded from about 2 million tons annually to a whopping 440 million tons in 2015 – and is expected to nearly quadruple in the next 30 years! If we do not break from this trend, it is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by weight.

Humans have created 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic, of which an estimated 6.3 billion metric tons is now plastic waste that is in our oceans, littering landscapes, floating in our rivers or sitting in our landfills. Plastic never goes away, it only breaks down into smaller and smaller micro-plastics and gets into our water, our soils, and ultimately into the food we eat.

We can’t recycle our way out of the problem.

Only 9% of the plastic that has ever been produced has been recycled. Many of the plastics in our waste stream have either very limited recycling markets or none at all. For example, there are VERY limited end-markets for many plastic resins (#3, 6 & 7), and no recycling markets for single-use disposable plastics like straws and stirrers.

FORECAST OF PLASTICS VOLUME GROWTH. EXTERNALITIES AND OIL CONSUMPTION IN A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL SCENARIO (MT=Million tons).

PLEASE SUPPORT HB20-1163: MANAGEMENT OF SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS

This bill would:

• Prohibit stores and retail food establishments from providing single-use plastic carry-out bags and stirrers to customers.

• Limit stores and retail food establishments to provide plastic straws only when requested by the customer.

• Charge customers for paper bags at 10 cents each so that paper bags do not become the disposable alternative to plastic bags, as they too have a negative environmental impact.

• Restrict local governments from enacting ordinances, resolutions or rules regarding the use of single-use products that are less stringent.

• Take effect July 1, 2021.

THE SOLUTION

Reduce unnecessary plastic products.

Prohibit single-use plastic carry-out bags, single-use plastic stirrers, and require straws upon request. Disposable bags, straws and stirrers are used for only a few minutes but can last in our environment for centuries. There are many more sustainable alternatives available, and most of us can go without using them at all.

For more information, contact:

Randy Moorman,
Eco-Cycle Community Campaigns Director,
Recycle Colorado Policy Chair
303-720-5255
randy@ecocycle.org

Hannah Collazo,
Environment Colorado State Director
832-752-7270
hcollazo@environmentcolorado.org

Danny Katz,
Colorado Public Interest Group (COPIRG) Director
608-215-0929
danny@copirg.org