

Preventing Single-Use and Plastic Waste in British Columbia

May 17, 2022



Objectives for Today

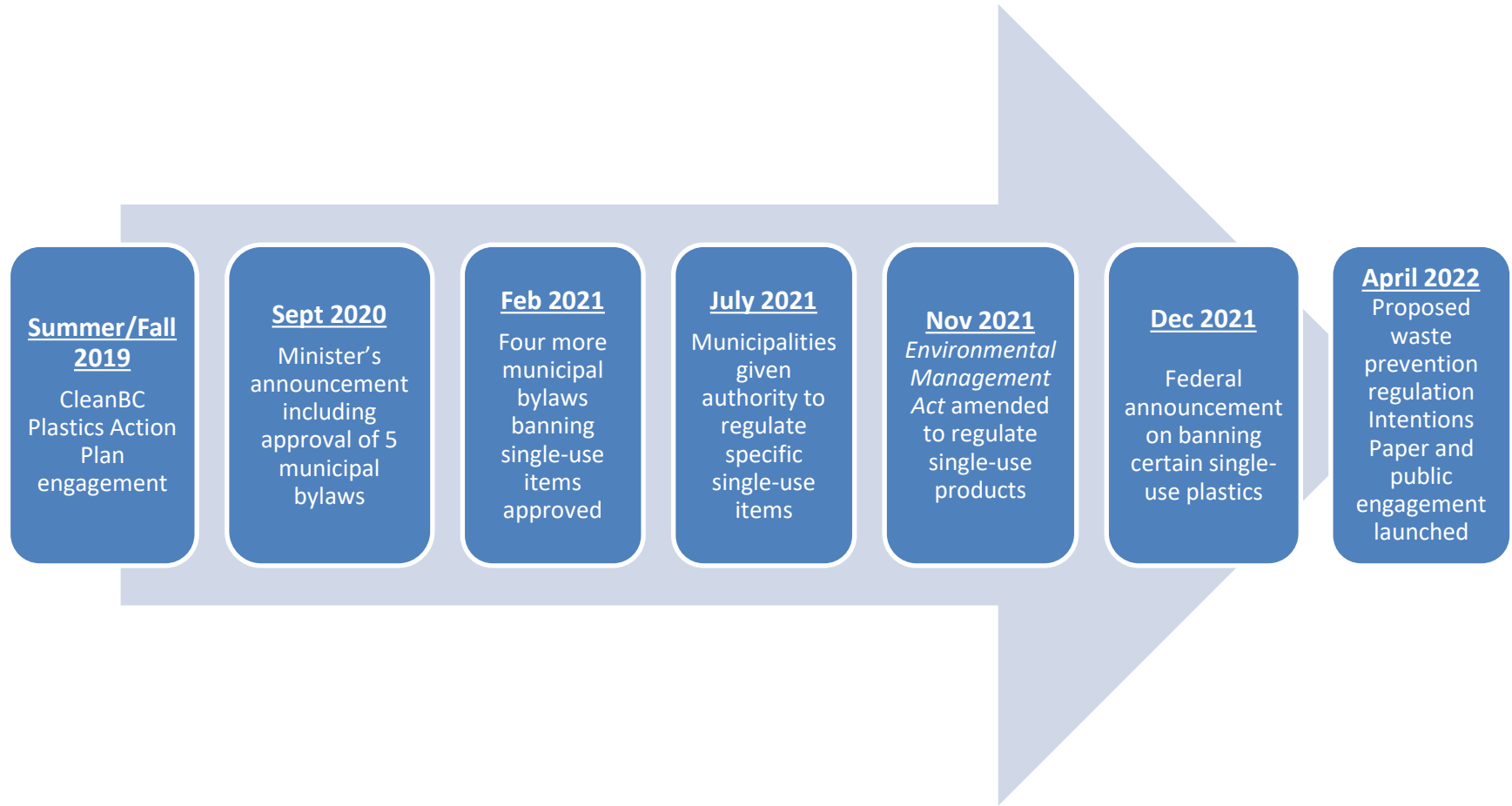
- Review the proposals in the Intentions Paper
- Provide information on highlights of the proposed waste prevention regulation
- Update on cross-government actions and future actions
- Provide information on how to engage

Outline

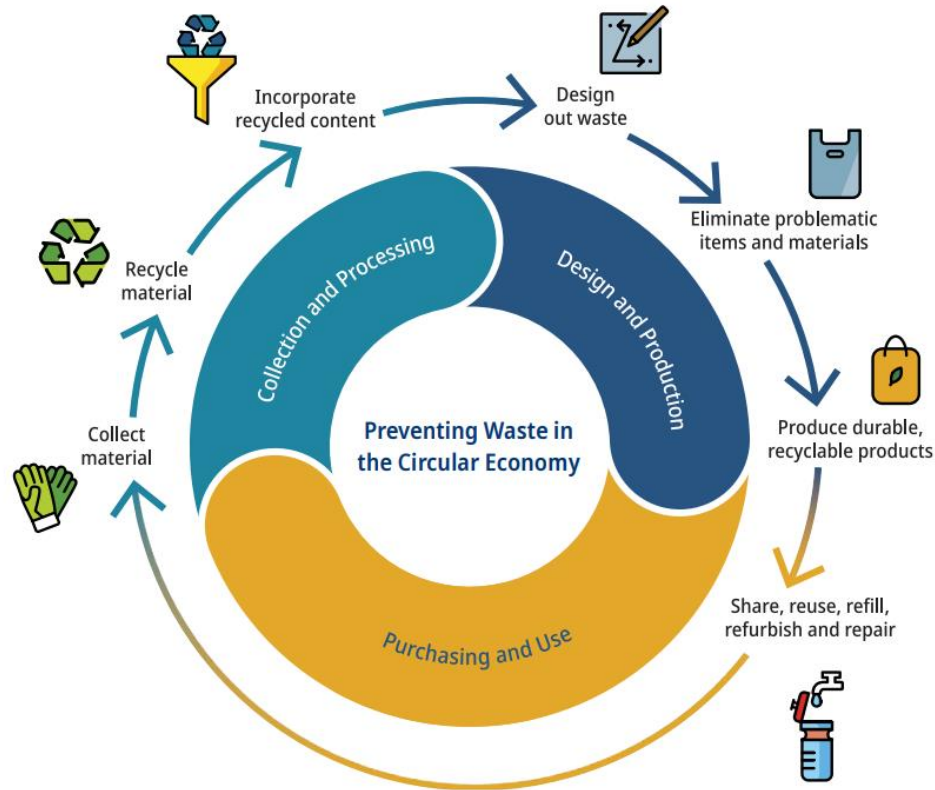
- Background
- Intentions Paper on Single-Use Items and Plastic Waste
 - Scope of items
 - Approaches
 - Co-ordination with other regulations
 - Implementation timeline and future actions
- How to Engage
- Next Steps



Background



Circular Economy



Highlights of Intentions Paper



- Moving plastics into the circular economy
 - Phase out unnecessary single-use and plastic items
 - Promote a shift to durable reusable options
 - Ensure necessary single-use and plastic items are recycled
- Provide a consistent approach to regulating single-use and plastic items

Checkout Bags

Checkout Bags: Single-use plastic checkout bags, where “plastic” includes compostable plastic



Approach:

- Ban on plastic checkout bags
- Minimum \$0.25 fee on recycled paper bags and \$2.00 on reusable bags

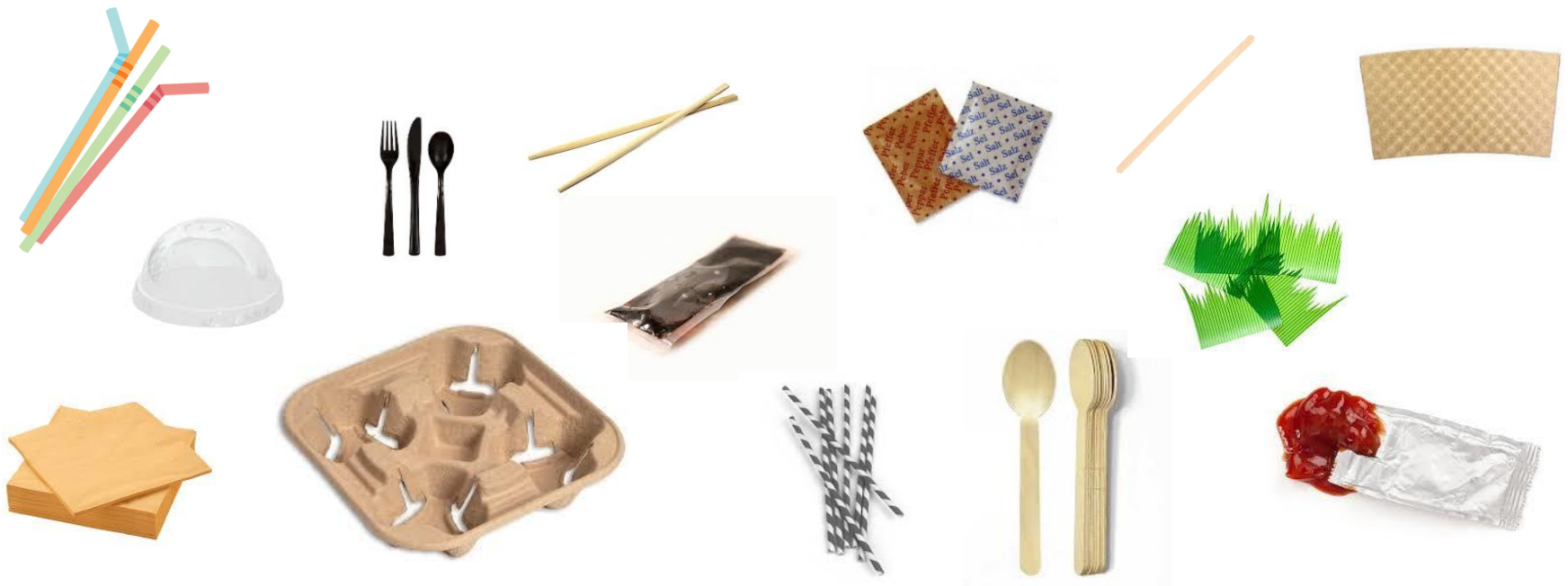
Exemptions: does not include non-checkout bags, such as bakery, bags for prescription drugs or medical devices, produce bags

Alternatives: bring your own bag, take-a-bag, leave-a-bag programs



Disposable Foodservice Accessories

Disposable Foodservice Accessories: All single-use or disposable accessory of food or beverage service or packaging, including but not limited to straws, cutlery, stir sticks, condiment sachets, napkins, cup sleeves, cold cup lids, food or beverage trays.



Disposable Foodservice Accessories

Approach: By-request for all single-use foodservice accessories of any material

Exemptions:

- Hot beverage cup lids
- Straws for accessibility
- Self-service stations are permitted



Problematic Plastic Foodservice Packaging

Plastic foodservice packaging: A container that is provided for sale of food or beverages and includes cups, plates, bowls, trays, cartons or lidded containers. Includes containers used for take-out foods, packaged meat, seafood eggs, bakery products and leftovers from partially consumed meals

Problematic (i.e., hard-to-recycle) plastics: Items primarily made from the following:

- Polystyrene foam
- PVC
- Compostable plastics

Approach: ban on all problematic plastic foodservice packaging

Exemptions:

- Does not include prepackaged foods in containers, for individual sale, that have been filled and sealed prior to delivery to the food service business (grocery store, restaurant, café, convenience store, etc.)
- Does not apply to items sold outside of B.C.
- Does not include products not used for food packaging (e.g., bin liners)

Foodservice Packaging: Takeout Containers

Banned

Polystyrene foam, PVC and compostable plastic cups, take-out and deli containers



Available Alternatives

Durable reusable containers and cups; PET, PP, HDPE LDPE plastic containers and cups; aluminum; glass; and fibre-based containers and cups



Foodservice Packaging: Trays and Cartons

Banned

Polystyrene foam, PVC and compostable plastic trays or cartons, including those used for meat, seafood and eggs



Available Alternatives

Durable reusable containers; PET plastic trays or cartons; fiber (cardboard trays; pulp cartons); paper wrap for meat or seafood



Foodservice Packaging: Film and Wrap

Banned

Compostable plastic produce/bulk bags; PVC film wrap



Available Alternatives

Durable reusable bags or containers; HDPE, LDPE plastic produce/bulk bags; paper produce/bulk bags; PE and other non-PVC flexible plastics and film wraps



Compostable Plastics

- Under the proposed regulation compostable plastics are considered problematic plastics
 - Do not reliably breakdown in B.C.'s composting facilities
 - Not permitted as feedstock under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation
 - Contaminate recycling stream
 - Consumer confusion
- **Approach:** Compostable plastic checkout bags, utensils and food service packaging would be banned
- **Exemptions:** Compostable bin liners would be permitted to facilitate organics diversion

Oxo-degradable Plastic Packaging

Oxo-degradable plastic packaging: plastic material with additives that, through oxidation, lead to the fragmentation of the plastic material into micro-fragments or to chemical decomposition

Approach: Bans on all packaging containing oxo-degradable plastic, including oxo-degradable bin liners, dog waste bags and clothing packaging

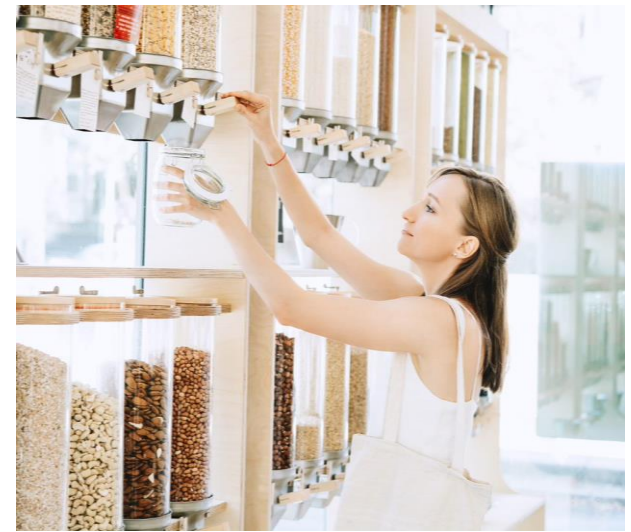
Exemptions: none

Alternatives: Other conventional plastic, non-plastic or reusable alternatives



Co-ordinating Actions Across Governments

- Federal regulations will prohibit the manufacture and import of the following six plastic items:
 - Checkout Bags
 - Straws
 - Flexible Ring Carriers
 - Stir Sticks
 - Cutlery
 - Problematic Plastic Takeout Containers
- The proposed provincial regulation would work in co-ordination with the federal regulation to ensure consistency



Co-ordinating Actions Across Governments

- Continued engagement with Indigenous communities
- Supporting municipal actions
 - Proposed regulations would stand alongside municipal bylaws, where municipal bylaws are equivalent or stricter
 - Municipalities are encouraged to work with the Province on new approaches for any additional items such as beverage cups and reusables for on-site dining

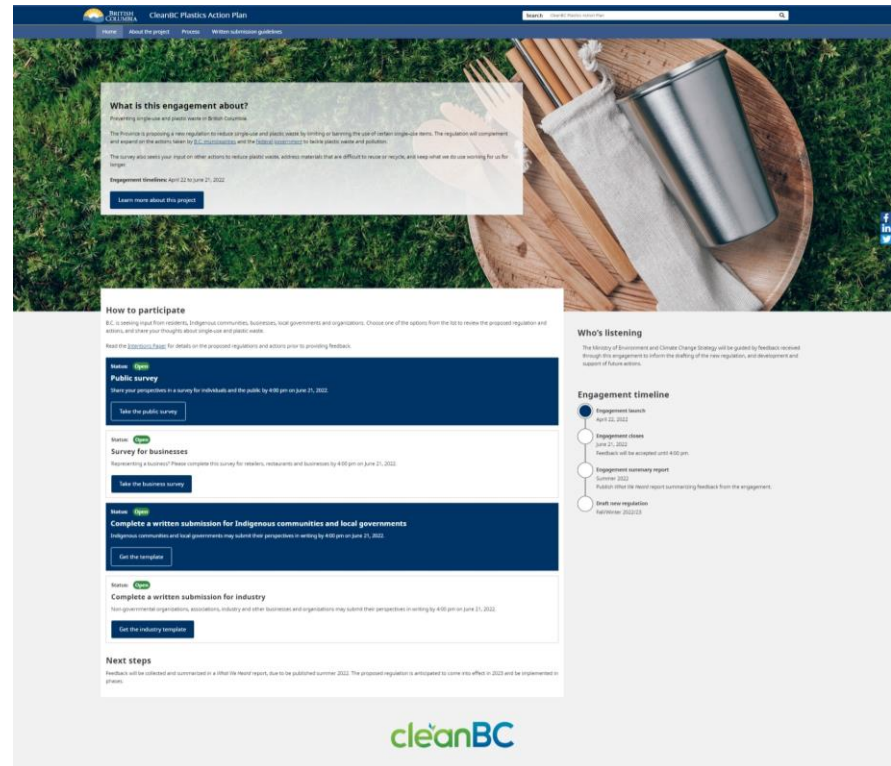


Implementation and Future Actions

- The proposed regulation would coordinate with federal timing, where possible
 - Businesses will be given a minimum of six months for implementation to use stock and prevent stranded assets
 - First phase would begin in 2023, and second phase following in 2024
- Future actions
 - Further regulation may be necessary to address additional problematic plastics beyond food packaging
 - Canada Plastics Pact Golden Design Rules (<https://goldendesignrules.plasticspact.ca>)
 - Moving towards a circular economy
 - Monitoring compliance

How to Engage

- Complete the survey (engage.gov.bc.ca/plastics)
 - Individual
 - Business
- Written submissions
- Share on Social Media



Next Steps

Engagement surveys and written submission open until
June 21st, 2022 at engage.gov.bc.ca/plastics

For any additional questions
please contact plastics@gov.bc.ca

THE GOLDEN DESIGN RULES



Increase Value in
PET Recycling



Remove Problematic
Elements from Packaging



Eliminate
Excess Headspace



Reduce Plastic
Overwraps



Increase Recycling Value
for PET Thermoformed
Trays and Other PET
Thermoformed Packaging



Increase Recycling
Value in Flexible
Consumer Packaging



Increase Recycling
Value in Rigid HDPE
and PP



Reduce Virgin Plastic Use
in Business-to-Business
Plastic Packaging



Use On-Pack
Recycling Instructions

<https://goldendesignrules.plasticspact.ca/>