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Solutions to a Global Issue

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Solutions to a Global Issue

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Solutions to a Global Issue



Science: The Environmental Club

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Abstract

How the problem of plastic can be solved on a State, Federal and Global level.

Solutions to a Global Issue

Science: The Environmental Club

State Level

New York State Bag Ban

Counties and cities will have the option to charge customers five cents for paper bags. Two cents would then go to a fund to help low-income customers buy reusable bags and three cents would go to the state's Environmental Protection Fund. The ban goes into effect March 1, 2020 and is the second state to ban plastic bags. California passed a similar ban in 2016.

Plastic microbeads on a human fingertip.



Federal level

Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015

Prohibits the manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of rinse-off cosmetics containing plastic microbeads. This law also applies to products that are both cosmetics and non-prescription (also called "over-the-counter" or "OTC") drugs, such as toothpastes.

For rinse-off cosmetics

- The deadline is July 1, 2017 to stop the manufacturing of the products described in the law.
- The deadline is July 1, 2018 to stop the introduction or delivery for introduction of these products into interstate commerce.

For rinse-off cosmetics that are also non-prescription drugs

- The deadline is July 1, 2018 to stop manufacturing the products described in the law.
- The deadline is July 1, 2019 to stop the introduction or delivery for introduction of these products into interstate commerce.

Around the World

Norway passed two policies

1. The more a company recycles, the less they are taxed
2. Bottle return deposit was increased to 10p (~14 cents US)

Now, 97% of drinking containers are made from recycled material and less than 1% of plastic water bottles end up in the environment

The Ocean Cleanup

The Ocean Cleanup develops advanced technologies to rid the world's oceans of plastic. A full-scale deployment of our systems is estimated to clean up 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch every 5 years. Research shows the majority of plastic by mass is currently in the larger debris. By removing the plastic while most of it is still large, we prevent it from breaking down into dangerous microplastics.

The Ocean Cleanup Project successfully deployed its System 001 for testing in September 2018.



Plastic pollution is a global issue that we are all contributing to, and it will take a unified effort to clean up our waterways. At the end of the day, it all comes down to every individual using their power to make change.

Combining the cleanup with source reduction on land paves the road towards a plastic free ocean by 2050.

