

Circular economy for plastics: the sustainable way forward

For Canada to have a thriving environment, strong economy, and a low-carbon future, implementing a circular economy for plastics is essential. A circular economy for plastics is a new economic model where plastics are recovered, reused and recycled so that they can stay in the economy.

CIAC Plastics Division members are committed to:

- **100 per cent** of plastics packaging being recyclable or recoverable **by 2030**
- **100 per cent** of plastics packaging being reused, recycled, or recovered **by 2040**

Environment benefits

- A circular economy for plastics in Canada could result in an annual GHG emissions savings of **1.8 MT of CO₂** according to a 2019 report by Deloitte.
- A circular economy delivers on a variety of federal and provincial policy objectives: **recycling targets, zero plastic waste, clean technology, green economy, low-carbon economy, net-zero by 2050.**
- **By 2050, nearly 60 per cent of the** demand for plastics could be covered by previously used plastics. Currently, recycled plastics only reach six per cent of demand.



Economic benefits

With **87 per cent** of plastics currently going to landfills, there is a massive opportunity to expand markets for post-consumer recycle.

- Achieving a **90 per cent** diversion or reuse of post-consumer plastic by 2030 would save **\$500 million** annually and produce **42,000** direct and indirect jobs in Canada.
- Canada has an opportunity to capture its portion of what is projected to be nearly **US\$55 billion** annual global plastics recycling profit pool by 2030.



The way forward

To implement a circular economy for plastics in Canada, we must focus on a few key areas:

- Investment to accelerate commercialization of advanced **recycling technologies**, mechanical recycling and sortation facilities.
- Ensure **high quality** feedstock exists through a harmonized recycling program throughout the country.
- Improved **product design** by designing with recyclability in mind.



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For more information, read our Advanced Recycling White Paper: Seizing the Circular Plastics Opportunity at CanadianChemistry.ca



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