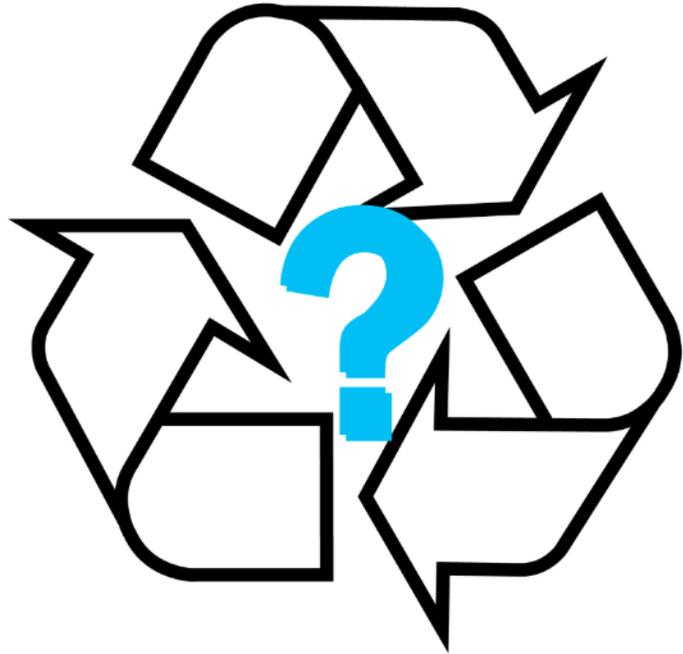


Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

A quick summary, and why it is
important for Colorado

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#breakfreefromplastic

About Us

We are Trash Mob - part of the BFFP movement

Advocating for change— based on our experience

- A small group of recycling professionals and volunteers based in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA
- We constantly get asked the question on plastics... “But why can’t I recycle this?”
- We push for individuals and organizations to move away from single use plastics towards refuse and reuse models, and other sustainable packaging alternatives
- As Trash Mob, we represent BFFP in Fort Collins for their plastic trash audits

TOPICS

- Why plastics recycling is NOT a solution- today
- Plastics and climate change
- BFFPPA Summary
- The importance of BFFPPA to Colorado
- What you can do



Today, plastics recycling is NOT a solution

Very little gets/can be recycled



- Plastic packaging is not designed for recycling
- Many types of packaging cannot be easily recycled
- < 9% of plastics gets recycled (US), and is mostly downcycled

Resource intensive, wasteful



Recycling plastic uses up a lot of resources, and much of it ends up getting thrown away or burned

Can't cope with exponential growth



400M tons produced annually, production is set to quadruple by 2050

THE US GENERATES MORE PLASTIC WASTE IN TOTAL- 42 MILLION TONS IN 2016- AND ALSO HAS THE **LARGEST PER CAPITA PLASTIC WASTE GENERATION,** THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

*Source: [Science Advances](#), October 2020 research article

Plastics and Climate Change

Plastics packaging is the largest segment of plastics, [accounting for more than 40%](#) in 2018

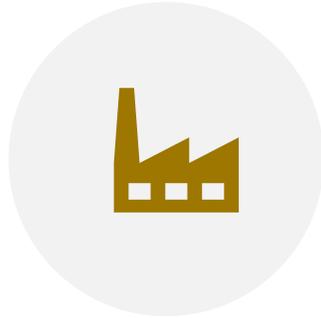
In 2019, global plastic production + industrial incineration added the same GHG emissions as **190 coal power plants** (500 MW)



Extraction and transport

In the US, extraction + transport of natural gas *for plastics production* generates ~13M metric tons/year of CO₂ eq.

Not counting methane leakage and flaring the during extraction



Refining and manufacture

Plastic refining is among the most greenhouse gas-intensive industries in the manufacturing sector — and the fastest growing



Waste Management

For plastic packaging, global emissions from incineration of *plastic packaging waste* =16M metric tons of CO₂e



Renewables cannot solve the problem

Even if renewables powered all plastics production, energy-intensive petrochemical conversion processes still would be a significant source of emissions

Sources:

CIEL report on [Plastics and Climate](#) (2019):

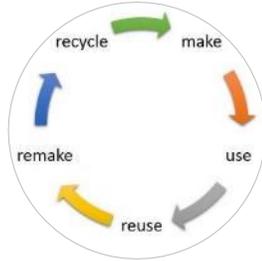
Nature climate change report (2019): [Strategies to reduce the global carbon footprint of plastics](#)

Break Free From Plastics Pollution Act 2021- key highlights



EPR: waste management

Requiring producers of plastic products to design, manage, and finance waste/recycling programs



EPR: design innovation

Incentivizing big corporations to make reusable products and items that can truly be recycled.



EPR: container refund

Creating a nationwide beverage container refund program



Reduction of single use products

Reducing and ban of certain single-use products that are not recyclable (bags, EPS, sachets etc.)



Recycling and composting infrastructure

Generating massive investments in domestic recycling and composting infrastructure



Reducing microplastics pollution

Filtration units on new washing machines by 2025
EPA to pilot new solutions

Sources:

[One page summary](#) of the Act

[Section by Section Summary](#) of the Act



Why this bill is important for Colorado

Sources:

1:2: <https://copirg.org/blogs/blog/cop/2021-year-colorado-act-single-use-plastic-pollution>

3: <https://denver.cbslocal.com/2021/03/03/chemicals-water-denver-colorado-pfas/>

4: <https://denver.cbslocal.com/2020/12/07/colorado-health-water-pfas-agriculture-cdphe-firefighting-foam-irrigation/>

5: <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/08/16/raining-plastic-colorado/>

6: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/olga2630/viz/CompostingFacilitiesintheUnitedStates/CompostingFacilitiesStory>

Some of the related problems in Colorado:

- [In 2018](#), we created a record 9,307,000 tons of waste while our recycling rate flat-lined at just 12%, which puts us *far behind the national average* of 35% *
- [High Styrofoam pollution](#)- 1 million cups *per day*
 - As a headwater state, our polluted water travels into 18 different states and eventually reaches the ocean
- Toxic [PFAS chemicals](#) used by the plastics industry- in our [drinking water](#) and [in our farms](#) by CDPHE
- Microplastics pollution have been found in >90% of [rain water samples](#), from metro Denver to RMNP
- Serious shortage of [industrial composting facilities](#) in CO which accept compostable plastics

*note that this is for all recycled waste materials not just plastic





What you can do



Refuse single use plastics-
choose plastic-free or
reusable alternatives



If you must use plastics

- Reuse, Reduce or Repurpose before Recycling plastics



**Lobby with your elected
members of Congress to
prioritize and support the
Act!**

An aerial photograph of a beach. The top half shows a wide, sandy beach meeting clear, turquoise water. The bottom half shows a rocky shoreline with a mix of light and dark rocks. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid in the center, containing the text 'Thank You' and an email address.

Thank You

focotrashmob@gmail.com ✉