

Surfrider Foundation Canada Stakeholder Submission: CleanBC Survey Answers for Provincial Action on Plastic Pollution

1. **How concerned are you about plastic pollution?** 5
2. **What are some barriers you face when it comes to recycling?**
 - many items appear to be recyclable but are not
 - people do not receive residential recycling at their house/townhouse/condominium or there is no recycling depot in their area
 - some plastic items are not recycled by local depots because there isn't a buyer for that type of plastic. I.E. plastic clamshells for fresh fruits are being sent to the landfill on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
3. **What would help you to recycle more?** All options provided will help individuals to recycle more: a) clear information about what is recyclable and what isn't, b) knowing what happens to recycled products, c) if it was more convenient and d)
 - expanding the scope of EPR so more products and packaging are captured and producers are made responsible for the end-of-life of these products and packaging
 - knowing that the items sent for recycling are actually being recycled in accordance with set federal and provincial recycling standards (and not simply being exported)
 - knowing that recycling efforts are contributing to a provincial recycling target of 77%
 - increasing beverage container deposit rates to 15 cents and including all beverages types
 - having a caps on policy for all beverage containers, and having producers collect and report on the recycling of bottle caps
4. **How important is it to you that the provincial government considers bans - with appropriate safety, medical, and accessibility exemptions in place - for single-use plastic packaging?**

Single-use plastic packaging: 5
Styrofoam packaging such as foam takeout containers: 5
5. **Please rate your support for increasing the beverage container refundable deposit fee to 10 cents?** 5 - Very Supportive
6. **Do you think milk jugs and other similar containers should have a refundable deposit, even if it means paying 10 cents more at check-out?** 5 - Strongly agree
7. **If you had the choice, how important for you is it to purchase products made with recycled content, even if they might cost you more?** 5 - Very important
8. **What change would make the biggest difference for you when it comes to reducing plastic waste?**

- In the home, ensuring more plastic products and packaging can be recycled. This also includes having manufacturers streamline designs and eliminate unnecessary plastics from their products and packaging, which often cannot be recycled. This can be achieved by expanding EPR. Additionally, in the home, having access to a wider array of products and packaging made from sustainably-made backyard-compostable products. Lastly, installing a government-subsidized microfibre filter on washing machines and/or having government retrofit local waste management treatment facilities to have the capability to filter microfibres as well as requiring garment manufacturers to use non-shedding textiles would also make a significant difference in reducing plastic waste.
- In the workplace, having all single-use plastics eliminated: straws, bags, bottles, takeaway containers, all single-use styrofoam, coffee cups and lids, espresso pods, plastic-packaged food, and refreshments. Staff could be better supported in the workplace by having free access to reusable food and beverage containers. Additionally, in the workplace, having a comprehensive waste management system in place that is clear and easy to use.
- In stores and restaurants eliminating the use of single-use plastics, which can be ensured through a provincial sales ban on a comprehensive list of single-use plastics. Ideally, businesses would allow use of reusable bags, reusable containers for takeaway food, reusable cups and bottles for refreshments, and reusable vessels for bulk and refill products. Businesses who sell alternatives to single-use plastic products and who provide alternative packaging and/or allow personal individual vessels are also helpful in avoiding plastic products and packaging. There should be additional government support for these types of businesses. All restaurants and businesses should also be required to recycle and compost as much as their waste as possible, and this should be monitored by the government or a third-party auditor.
- Government regulating the industrial commercial and institutional sectors is also essential when it comes to reducing waste, which includes holding these sectors accountable for the plastic waste they generate. Additionally, EPR needs to be expanded to include the producers of fishing and aquaculture gear. Two ways this can be achieved is by requiring these producers to provide a comprehensive free collection coverage to all marinas, wharves and jetties from where fishing is conducted including an offer to provide free collection of fishing gear from first nation communities and requiring producers to use economic instruments (such as deposit-refund) to create incentives for fishermen to return nets, traps, buoys and clam trays;
- Having the provincial government petition the federal government on addressing plastic pollution and waste is also essential, as our plastic problem knows no borders.

9. **What best describes how you responded to this survey? I am responding as a:**
environmental nonprofit organization.
10. **In what region of B.C. or area do you live?** Vancouver & Vancouver Island
11. **What is your gender?** N/A
12. **What is your age?** N/A
13. **Do you identify as an Indigenous person, that is First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit?** N/A