

Ainsworth, Diana ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: CleanBC Plastics Action Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Alicia

From: Steeve Azoulay [<mailto:Steeve.Azoulay@walmart.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 10:24 AM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Cc: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX
Subject: CleanBC Plastics Action Plan

Dear Minister Heyman,

I'm writing to congratulate you on initiating the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan and to pledge the support of Walmart Canada as British Columbia explores strategies for reducing plastic waste.

Plastic waste is a global problem that directly affects Canada's future, and we've made addressing it a priority. Walmart is working closely with the Retail Council of Canada to inform the Council's stakeholder submission to the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan consultation. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide input to the development of this important policy.

In January 2019, Walmart Canada announced its Charter on Plastics, a milestone commitment to reduce plastic waste across our operations, by employing a three-pronged strategy: using less plastic, recycling more plastic, and supporting improvements to the plastic waste reduction system. The announcement followed our parent company Walmart Inc.'s 2016 commitment to have 100 per cent recyclable private brand packaging by 2025.

As one of Canada's largest retailers with 46 stores across British Columbia, Walmart wants to use our size and scale to take a leadership role in reducing plastic waste. The key commitments included in our Charter on Plastics include:

- Reducing check-out plastic bags by a further 50 per cent by 2025, taking approximately 1 billion check-out bags out of circulation over that period;
- Eliminating single-use plastic straws and replacing them with paper alternatives by 2020, taking approximately 35 million single-use plastic straws out of circulation annually;
- Achieving 100 per cent recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging for Walmart's private brand products by 2025;
- Eliminating "hard-to-recycle" PVC and expanded polystyrene packaging from all of our own private brand products by 2025;
- Targeting at least 20 per cent post-consumer recycled content in private brand packaging by 2025;
- Providing customers with more environmentally-friendly alternatives to single-use plastic household products, including utensils, plates and cups;
- Becoming the first Canadian retailer to publicly commit to using How2Recycle® labelling on all our own private brand products by 2025;
- Eliminating unnecessary plastic packaging in our own private brand products starting in 2019; and,

- Eliminating single-use plastics from cafeterias at Walmart Canada's corporate offices and distribution centres by the end of 2019.

To support improvements in the plastic waste reduction system, Walmart Canada is partnering with innovators to develop environmentally preferable options to plastics and to promote expanding recycling capabilities across Canada. We have also committed to achieving zero food waste by 2025, building on business and philanthropic initiatives to eliminate waste and relieve hunger that have been underway since 2005. Walmart Canada reduced food waste in its own operations by 23 percent between 2015 and 2017.

We recognize British Columbia's leadership in zero waste, recycling and extended producer responsibility programs, and we look forward to engaging with you and Ministry staff as you move forward with the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan. As you finalize decisions regarding British Columbia's plan to reduce plastic waste, please let us know if you think there are any ways that a retailer like Walmart could help to roll out and amplify your plan.

Leadership in environmental sustainability and reducing the environmental impact play an essential role in the activities of Walmart Canada and we look forward to collaborating with the Government of British Columbia on these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Steeve

Steeve Azoulay

Directeur principal, Affaires publiques / Senior Director, Public Affairs

Tel: (450) 902-1100 ext. 75404

Steeve.azoulay@walmart.com

2075 Boul. Chomedey, Suite 100 Laval, QC H7T 0G5

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