



National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution

Part Three of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All

Office of Land and Emergency Management

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

November 20, 2024

Building A Circular Economy For All



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)



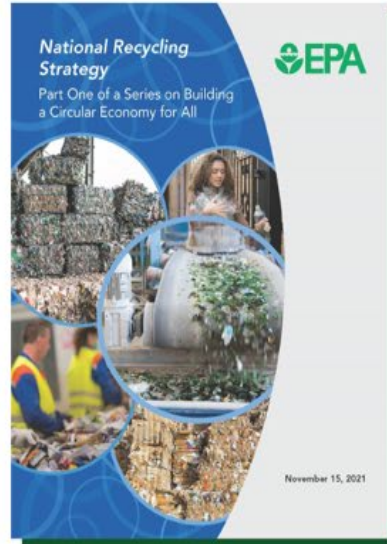
\$275M Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants



\$75M Recycling Education and Outreach Grants



\$10M Battery Collection Best Practices and **\$15M** Labeling Guidelines



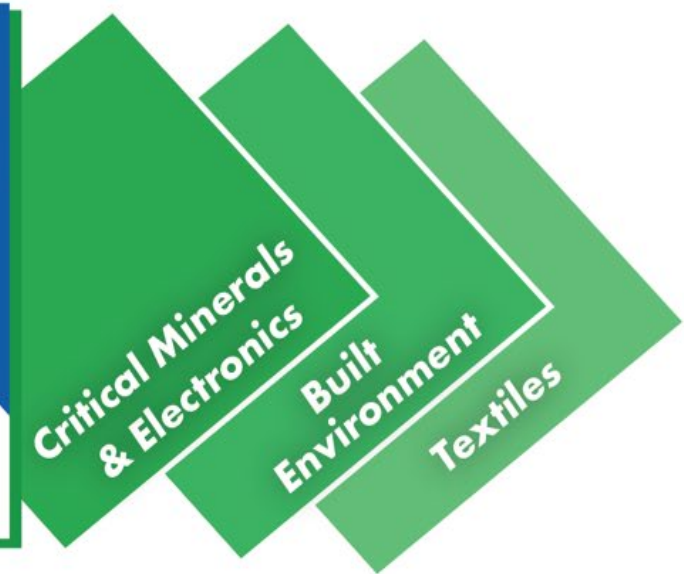
National Recycling Strategy



National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics



National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution



In Place

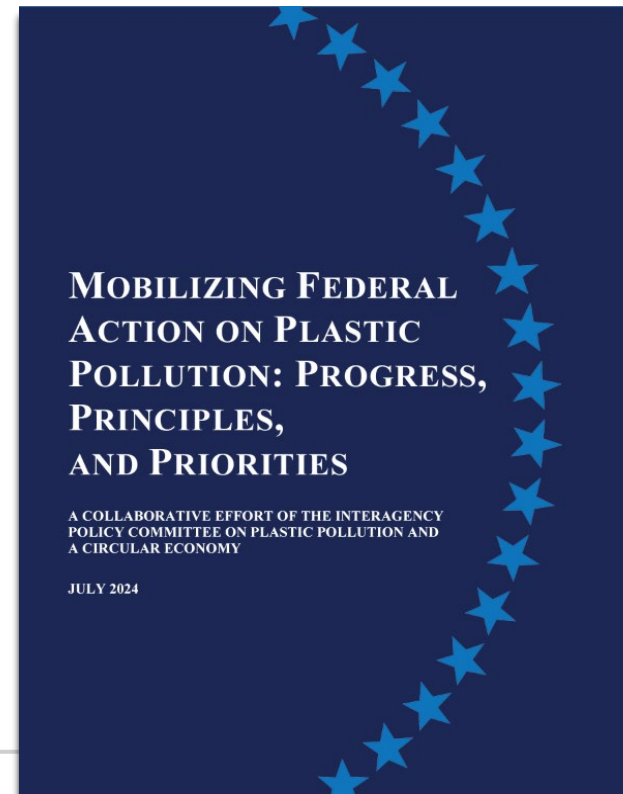
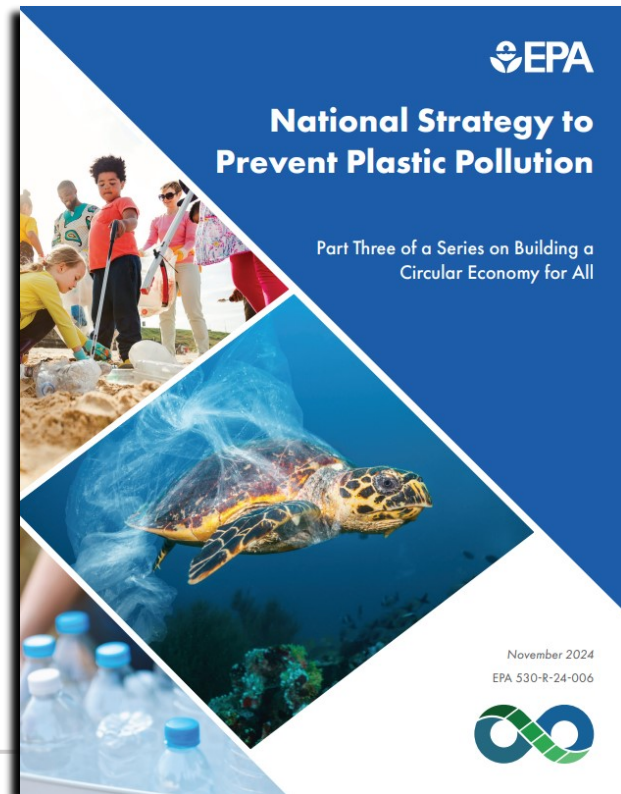
To Come

Source: U.S. EPA



National Strategy Goals

- Voluntary and regulatory actions that can be taken by a wide range of U.S. entities aimed at eliminating the release of plastic waste from land and sea-based sources into the environment by 2040.
- The Strategy also aligns with the White House’s [Mobilizing Federal Action on Plastic Pollution: Progress, Principles, and Priorities](#), a government-wide strategy to target plastic pollution.



Common Themes Addressed in Public Comments

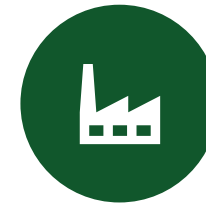
In April 2023, EPA released the draft *National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*. These are some common themes from commenters that EPA addressed in the final Strategy.



**Mandatory v.
Voluntary Actions**



**Extended Producer
Responsibility (EPR) and
Deposit Return (DRS)**



**Chemical and
Thermal Processing
of Plastic Waste**



Single-Use Plastics



**Chemicals of
Concern**



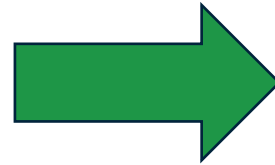
**Human Health/
Environmental
Justice**



Change of Strategy Objectives

OLD

- **Objective A.** Reduce Pollution During Plastic Production
- **Objective B.** Improve Post-Use Materials Management
- **Objective C.** Prevent Trash and Micro/Nanoplastics from Entering Waterways and Remove Escaped Trash from the Environment



NEW

- **Objective A:** Reduce Pollution from Plastic Production
- **Objective B:** Innovate Material and Product Design
- **Objective C:** Decrease Waste Generation
- **Objective D:** Improve Waste Management
- **Objective E:** Improve Capture and Removal of Plastic Pollution
- **Objective F:** Minimize Loadings and Impacts to Waterways and the Ocean



OBJECTIVE A

Reduce Pollution During Plastic Production

A1. Conduct evaluations to ensure that fossil fuel extraction, petrochemical and plastic production facilities comply with regulatory requirements.

A2. Continue to make progress reviewing and, where appropriate, updating regulations for fossil fuel extraction, petrochemical and plastic production facilities and transporters of plastic pellets and plastic additives.

A3. Explore creating a voluntary certification to recognize plastic products that are manufactured under rigorous environmental standards.

A4. Identify and reduce environmental injustice and public health impacts from fossil fuel extraction, petrochemical and plastic production facilities.



OBJECTIVE B

Innovate Material and Product Design

B1. Identify alternative materials, products or systems that can minimize impacts on human health and the environment.

B2. Review, develop, update and use sustainability standards, ecolabels, certifications and design guidelines that can minimize the negative impacts to human health and the environment from plastic products across their lifecycle.



OBJECTIVE C

Decrease Waste Generation

C1. Reduce the production and consumption of single use plastic products.

C2. Enhance the effectiveness of existing public policies and incentives for decreasing waste generation.

C3. Develop and/or expand the capacity to reuse materials.

C4. Increase public understanding about the impacts of plastic pollution (including on waterways and the ocean) and how to appropriately manage plastics and other materials.



OBJECTIVE D

Improve Waste Management

D1. Explore potential ratification of the Basel Convention and encourage environmentally sound management of scrap and recyclables traded with other countries.

D2. Support state, local, Tribal and territorial governments in their efforts to improve waste management to avoid adverse human health and environmental impacts, especially for communities with environmental justice concerns.

D3. Develop a national extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework.

D4. Facilitate more effective composting of certified compostable products.



OBJECTIVE E

Improve Capture and Removal of Plastic Pollution

E1. Identify and implement policies and programs that effectively remove plastics and other materials from the environment, including waterways and the ocean.

E2. Improve water management to increase the capture and removal of plastics and other materials from waterways, the ocean and stormwater/wastewater systems.



OBJECTIVE F

Minimize Loadings and Impacts to Waterways and the Ocean

F1. Increase and improve measurement of plastic and other material loadings into waterways and the ocean to inform management interventions.

F2. Increase and coordinate research on micro/nanoplastic methods to determine prevalence, impacts and mitigation.

F3. Increase and coordinate research on macroplastic transport, degradation and impacts in waterways and the ocean.



Implementation through the SWIFR and REO



- **The SWIFR Grants and Funding Opportunities are:**
 - The largest EPA investment in recycling infrastructure in over 30 years
 - The most significant investments in support of a circular economy
- **56** State and Territory funding opportunities
- **25** SWIFR Political Subdivision awards
- **25** REO awards
- **59** SWIFR Tribal awards



Activities Funded by SWIFR and REO

6

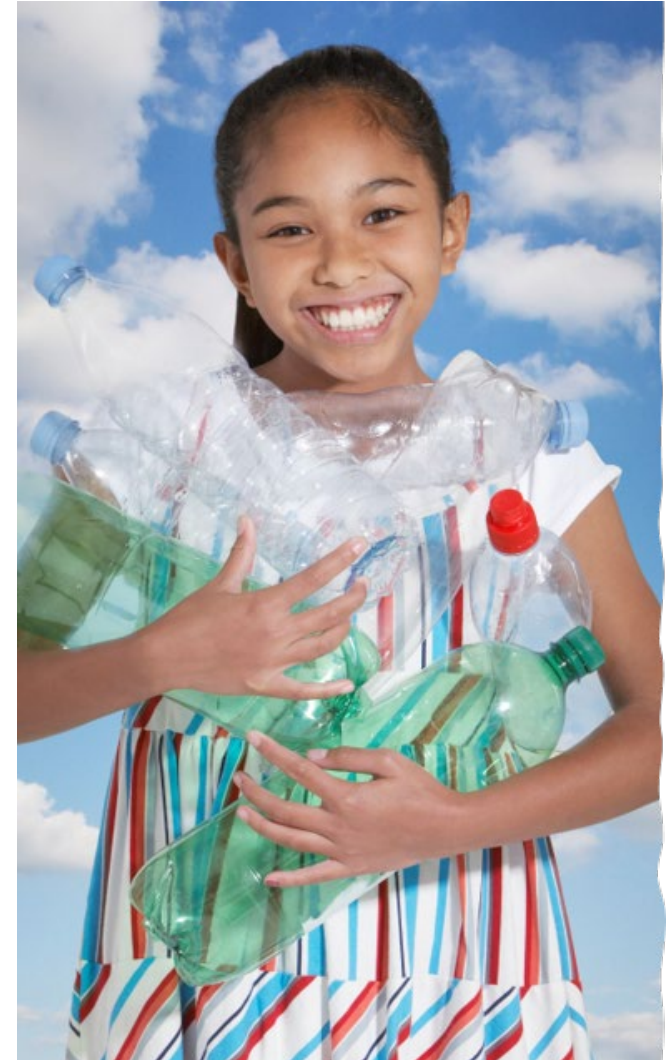
Grant projects that support reuse

67

Grant projects that support reduction

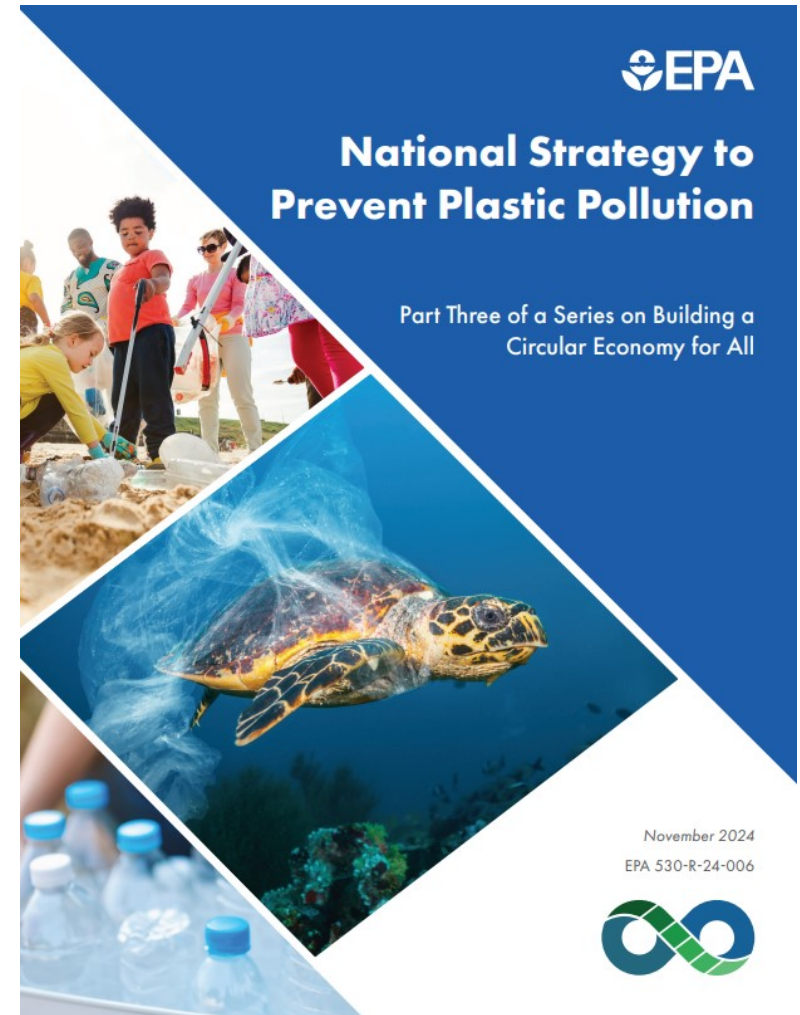
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Grant projects that support recycling



Next Steps

- Release the Final Strategy
- Strategy implementation:
 - Measurement plan
 - Continue to work with interested partners





Thank You!

