



Drowning in Disposables: Reducing our Reliance on Single-Use Plastics

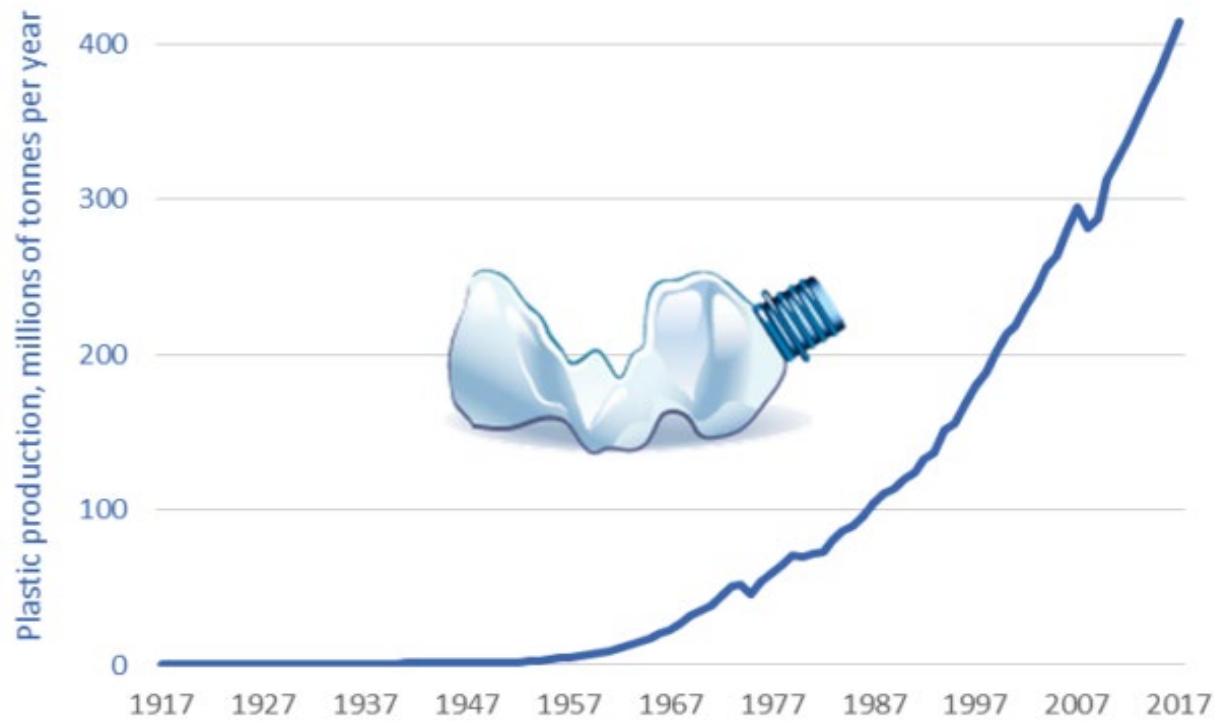
Waste Free Edmonton



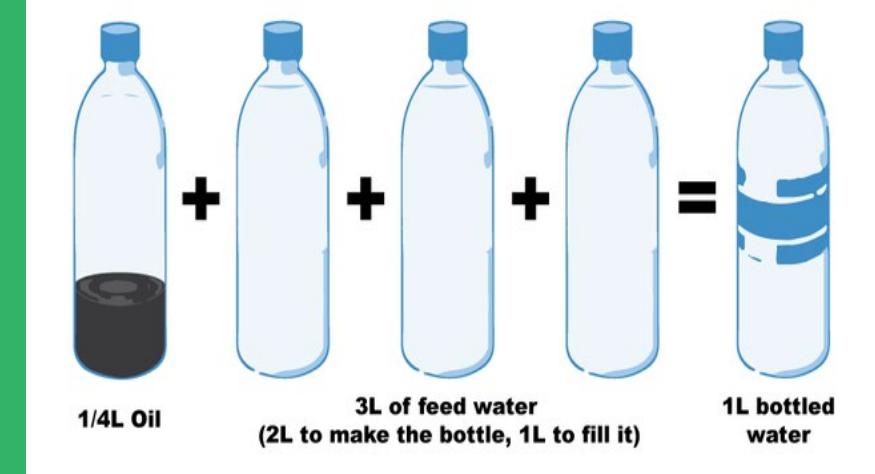
- Grassroots organization working to significantly reduce the amount of waste produced in Edmonton, with an initial focus on single-use plastics
- Our work is fueled by passionate volunteers
- Founded in 2018



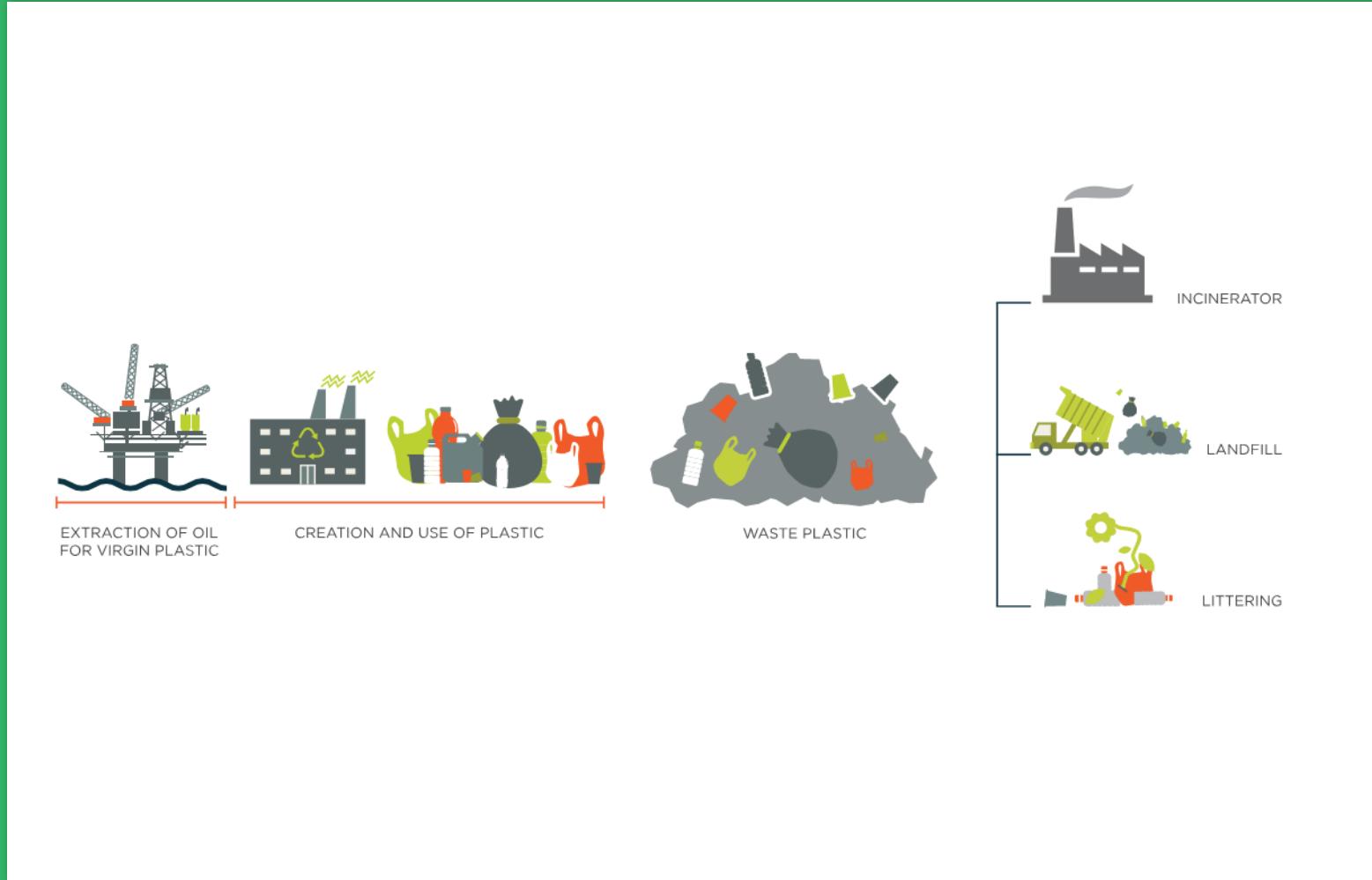
The Plastic Problem



Single-Use Plastics



Life Cycle of Single-Use Plastics



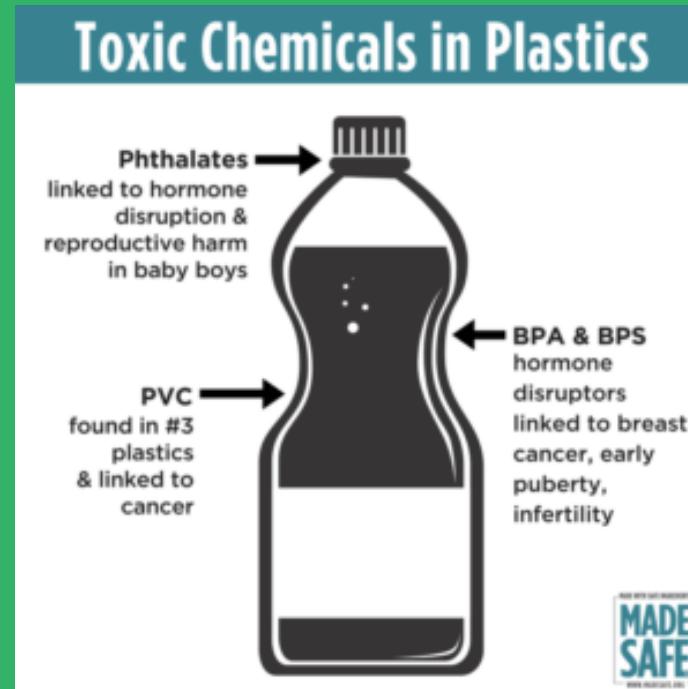
Source: plasticenergy.net (edited)

Environmental Impacts



Chris Jordan

Health Impacts





Plastic Impacts - Economic

- Inefficient use of resources – depleting a non-renewable resource in order to make a product that is used for mere seconds to minutes
- Costs of SUPs are passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices (food) and increased taxes
 - Hidden costs: stormwater management, street/litter clean-up, recycling, and disposal
 - E.g. plastics bags = 20-30 cents each in clean-up costs
- Stopping waste before it enters our management systems reduces operating costs and taxes





The Recycling Myth (False Solution #1)

- Downcycling NOT recycling
- What percentage of plastic do you think gets recycled in Canada?
 - A) 86%
 - B) 11%
 - C) 40%
 - D) 25%



Types of Plastic: What's in a number?



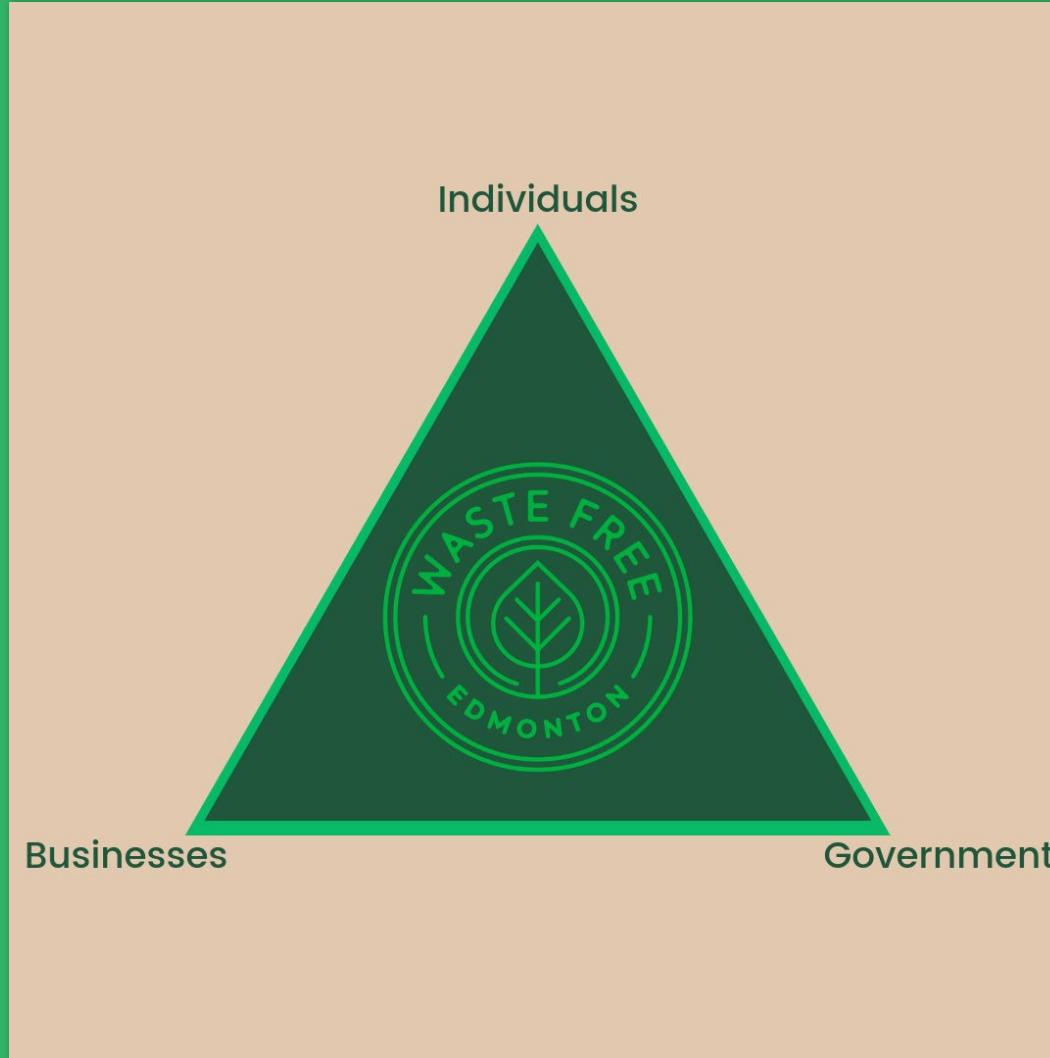


“Green” Substitutes? (False Solution #2)

- “Plant-based” and “biodegradable”
- “Compostable”



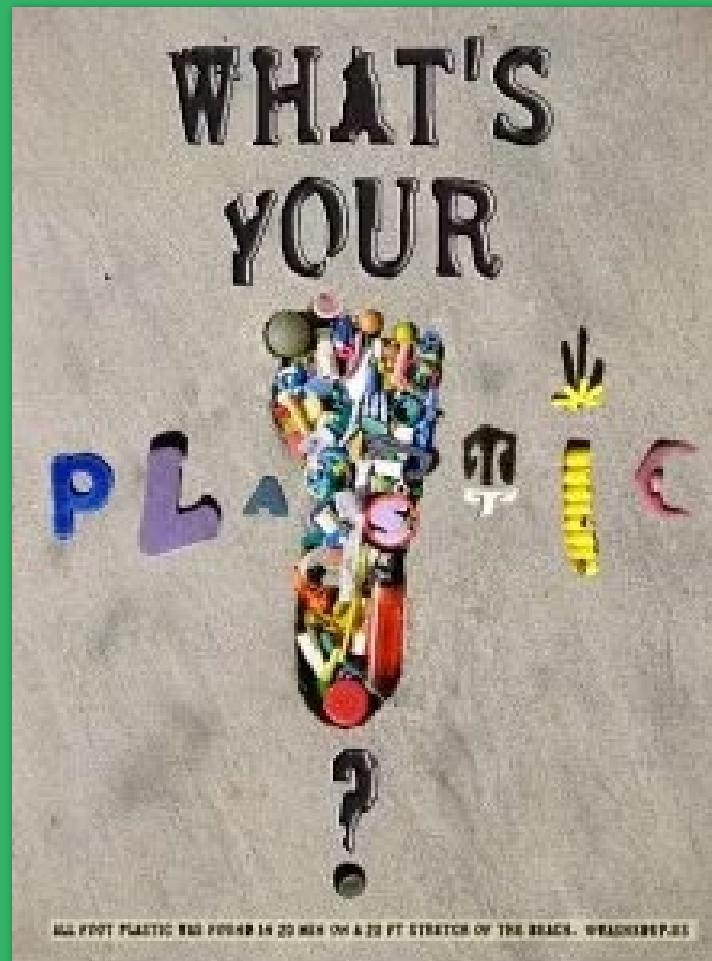
What are the solutions?



Solutions - Businesses



Solutions - Individuals



Solutions - Government



WFE – Government

A video player showing a government meeting in progress. Several people are seated around a large, curved conference table in a room with flags and monitors. The video player includes a play button, a progress bar showing "59:59 / 6:21:33", a volume icon, and a three-dot menu icon.

59:59 / 6:21:33

← → C https://wastefree.ca/resources-for-policy-law-makers/



TAKE ACTION

Resources for Policy/Law Makers

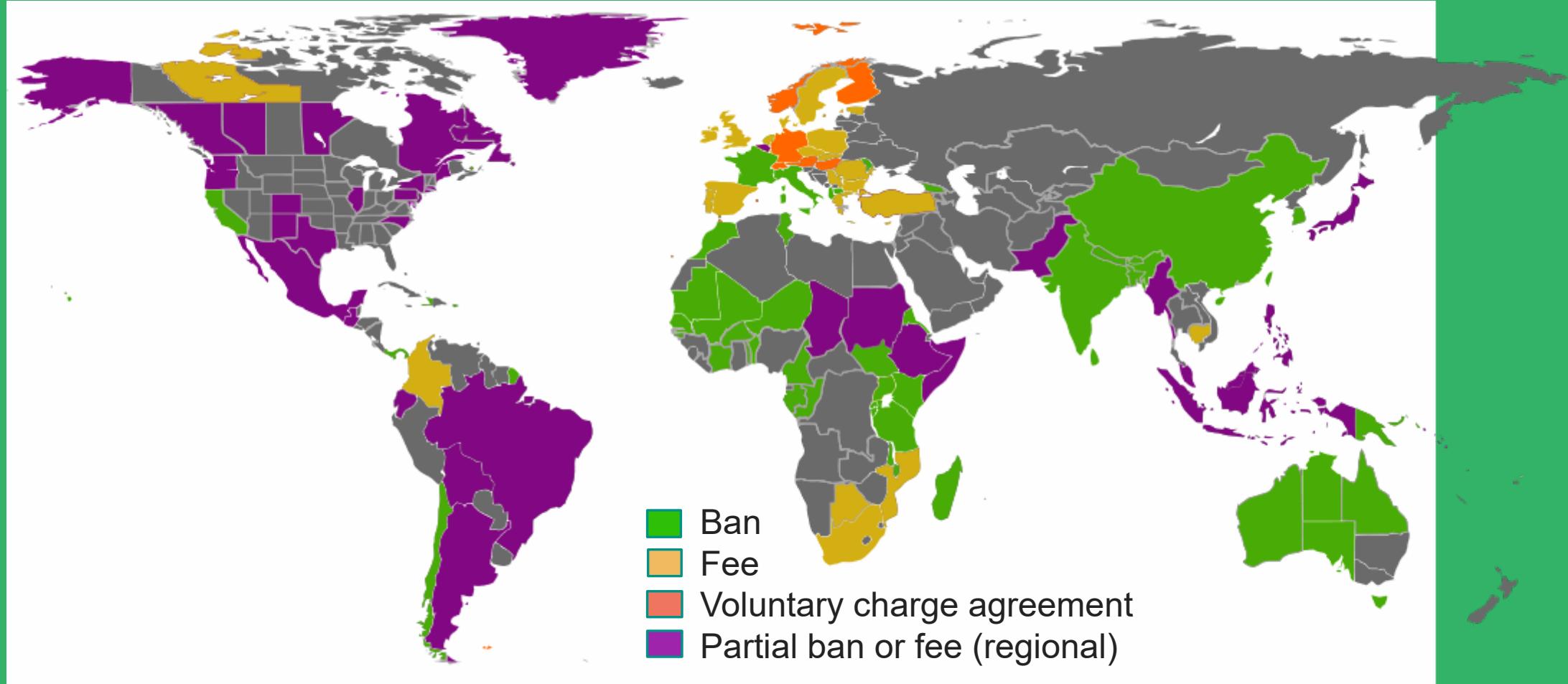
[WFE Research Report: Impact of Single-Use Plastics Laws Around the World](#)

[Plastic Bag Websites](#)

[Government Reports](#)

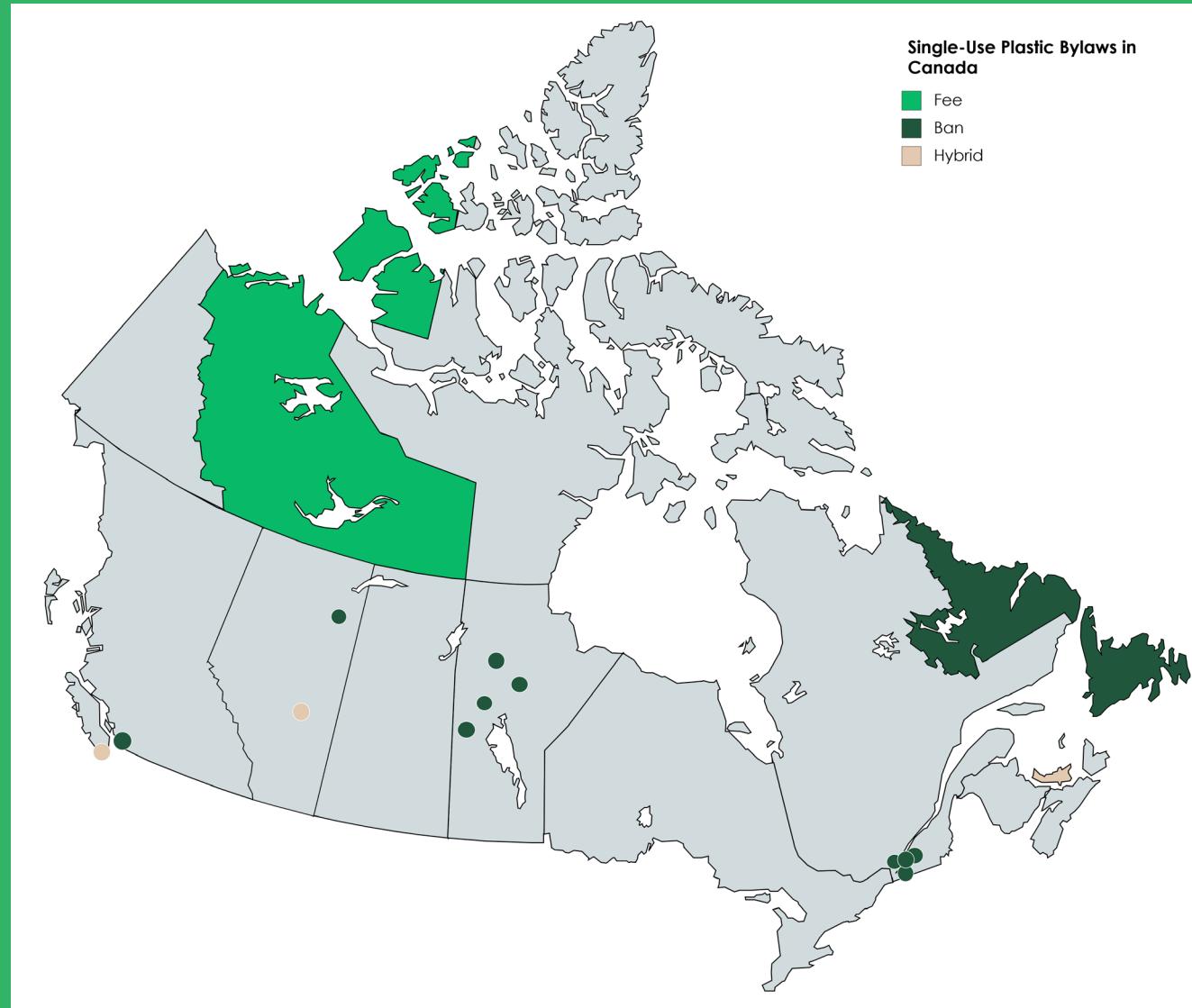
[Academic Articles](#)

Over 100 jurisdictions have taken action on plastics!



Source: Wikipedia

Plastic Laws in Canada



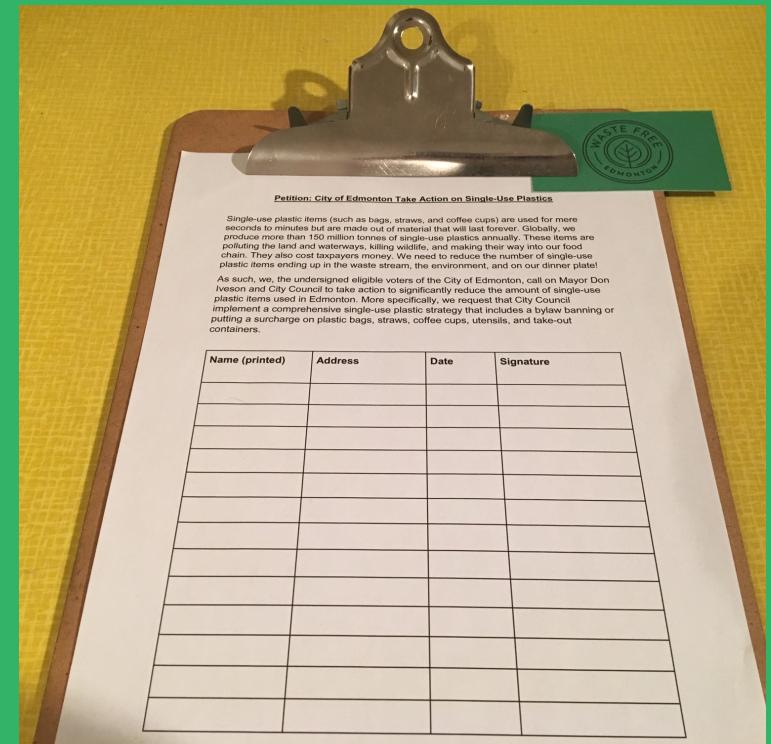


SUPs Laws Work!

- Deux-Montagnes, QC (pop: 17,000): Plastic bag ban = **1.5 million less bags** in 1 year
- LA County: Ban on plastic bags/10 cent charge for paper = **94% reduction**
- England: 5 p charge for plastic bags = **85% reduction** and **£29m donated** from retailers
- Ireland: 22 cent charge for plastic bags = **90% reduction**
- China: plastic bag ban/reusable bag fee = **67 billion less** plastic bags in 5 years

Waste Free Edmonton

- Website: www.wastefree.ca
- E-mail: info@wastefree.ca
- Social media: @wastefreeyeg



Thank you!

