

Environmental Stewardship



What's the issue?

Responsible use of resources, conservation, protecting our air, land and water – improving in all areas is critical to a sustainable future. Individuals, companies, industry groups and governments all have a part to play in environmental stewardship. We need to maintain the viability of our ecosystems for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

Some challenges

BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: The federal government will ban many single-use plastics starting in 2021. Questions remain around what items will be on the list and the phase-in period. The ban doesn't address the issue of the use of non-essential plastics.

COMMON RECYCLING STANDARDS: With all the recycling efforts made by municipalities and companies, there's much room to improve. For instance, Deloitte reports that just 9% of the plastic waste generated annually in Canada is recycled. One hurdle to greater progress is the lack of a harmonized approach across jurisdictions.

ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION: Transportation accounts for about one-quarter of Canada's carbon emissions. As our population and economy grows, so do the number of vehicles on our roads.

SAFEGUARDING THE WATER SUPPLY AND DRINKING WATER: Our freshwater resources are a national treasure. The Great Lakes, for instance, holds over 20% of the entire world's surface freshwater. Pollution and misuse threatens that. Meanwhile, while urban centres enjoy access to clean water, First Nations often face drinking water advisories.



Questions for politicians

- What kind of system approach is needed to manage the entire life cycle of plastics?
- What policies or incentives should we have to move from a linear economy (ongoing consumption of resources) to a circular one (reusing resources)?
- What would you do to increase the recycling rate in Canada, and lower contamination rates (i.e. non-recyclable material in the recycling system)?
- What policies will you support to drive more sustainable transportation, i.e. electric vehicles, cleaner public transport, clean fuel standards, biking, etc.?
- What kinds of legislation and changes in business practices are needed to protect our freshwater sources?
- What steps will you take to upgrade water systems and alleviate the drinking water crisis in First Nations communities?