

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.

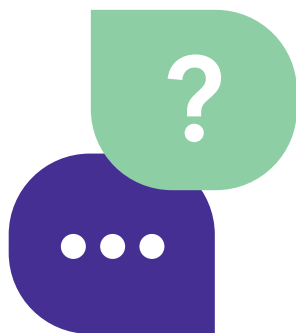
Some challenges

BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: The federal government will ban many single-use plastics starting in 2022. 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: Recycling efforts are made by municipalities and companies, but there's much room to improve. The government of Canada reports that Canadians throw away 3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year, only 9% of which is recycled. Sadly, most plastics still end up in landfills or in our natural environment. 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 can be done to increase the recycling rate and to expedite the ban on single use 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)?
- Do you support Canada's target for all new cars to be zero-emission by 2035?
- What policies will you support to drive more sustainable transportation, i.e. electric vehicles, cleaner public transport, clean fuel standards, biking, etc.?
- Are you in favor of Canada Water Agency and what are your recommendations?
- What kinds of legislation and changes in business practices are needed to protect our freshwater sources and what would be the role of Canada Water Agency?
- What steps will you take to upgrade water systems and alleviate the drinking water crisis in First Nations communities?