

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.

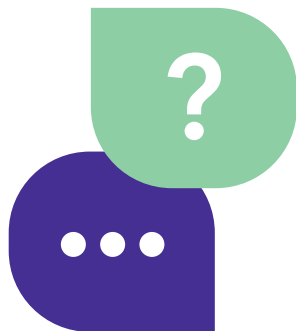
Some challenges

PLASTIC POLLUTION: Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations (SUPPR) is an example of a positive step taken by the federal government to beat plastic pollution. But the government failed to address the issue of existing plastic pollution in landfills and in our natural environment.

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?