

Plastic Waste Partnership – Examples of possible pilot project topics

Project Group 1 on Prevention and Minimization

Activity 1: Collect information, best practices and lessons learned on measures taken to prevent and reduce plastic waste, in particular on single use plastic waste and packaging waste, and analyse the impacts and challenges, including environmental, socio-economic and technical considerations.

- Develop national inventories of the primary sources of plastic waste with a view to informing governments, the private sector and civil society on ways to prevent and reduce plastic waste.
- Undertake a lifecycle analysis of plastics (e.g. at the municipal, provincial, national or regional level) with a view to preventing and reducing plastic waste.
- Implement a public procurement scheme with criteria aimed at preventing and reducing plastic waste.
- Test innovative products or services that contribute to plastic waste prevention and reduction.
- Promote the prevention and reduction of packaging waste in a certain sector (e.g. in the tourism sector) and certain single-use plastic products (e.g. sanitary products).

Activity 2: Collect information on best practices and identify challenges for improving the design of plastic products to increase their durability, reusability, repairability and recyclability, as well as to reduce hazardous constituents in plastic products.

- Design of alternatives to multi-layer plastic packaging.
- Design to reduce or avoid hazardous constituents in plastic products.
- Explore options and test design options to facilitate collection of plastic waste.

Activity 3: Collect information on best practices, challenges and opportunities on re-use of plastic products, especially packaging, including on identification of infrastructure development needs related to re-use, such as refill systems.

- Identify gaps between existing and necessary infrastructure, including delivery systems, to transition to reusable plastic products (e.g. collection and washing systems for reusable napkins, beverage containers, etc.).
- Switching from single-use plastics to reusable products in a specific context (e.g. use of reusable beverage containers in schools).
- Establish and disseminate water filtration and/or water refill stations in communities that lack access to potable water and rely on water in single-use plastic packaging.
- Explore options and test reusable plastic packaging for product delivery services, online shopping, etc.

Activity 4: Collect information that allows for the comparison, including environmental and socio-economic aspects, between:

- plastic products and alternatives to plastic products,
- bio-based and non-bio-based plastic products, and
- bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable plastic products,

taking into account a life-cycle approach.

- Undertake a local/national-level impact assessment for substituting a plastic product with a view to minimizing the generation of plastic waste.
- Assess the availability and potential of bio-based and/or bio-degradable plastic materials.
- Replicate use of successful alternatives to single use plastic products in a certain sector, e.g. in the healthcare or the tourism sector.