



EUROCITIES ENVIRONMENT FORUM DECLARATION ON CURBING PLASTIC WASTE AND LITTERING

The need for action

It is clear that the problems associated with plastic waste are considerable and far reaching. The United Nations estimates that only 9% of plastic is recycled globally, while 60% of the estimated 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic manufactured since the 1950s has ended up in either landfill or the natural environment. As plastic production is set to increase from the current production of 300 million tonnes per year, so too will the volume of plastic waste.

Plastic pollutes the natural environment and severely affects ecosystems. Toxic substances associated with plastic particles enter the food chain and ultimately are consumed by humans. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle threaten the ability of the global community to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C. A holistic approach is necessary to combat these challenges, addressing the issue at source and working across value chains as well as addressing citizens' behaviour.

The role of cities

Plastic waste does not respect national borders and is a global problem that requires international solutions across several sectors and actors of the value chain, including local authorities. Cities are using their purchasing power to phase out single-use plastics and encouraging the use of recycled plastics in products. Cities play a key role in better collection and treatment of plastic and many are improving waste collection and management practices. Cities are striving to increase public awareness of consumption patterns, mobilising clean-up initiatives and collaborating with the business sector on the development of alternative products.



Commitment to curb plastic waste and littering

The city of _____ recognises the negative impacts of plastic waste on health and ecosystems. We welcome the EU's adoption of the EU Directive on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter and commit to considerably reduce the harmful impact of plastic waste and littering on ecosystems by:

- developing strategies, action plans and setting time-bound targets to significantly reduce plastic pollution in our cities, and report on progress by 2021
- implementing measures to eliminate or significantly reduce the use of unnecessary plastic products and consumption, especially in our own municipal activities, and promote correct handling of waste and prevent littering throughout our cities
- working with local business and industry to incentivise a rapid transformation from consumption of single-use plastics to sustainable products
- raising awareness amongst citizens of the problems caused by plastic waste and promoting solutions through collaboration with local stakeholders
- establishing systems for separate collection of all plastic waste

City:

Signature:

Date:

Position:

A joint initiative of EURO CITIES and city of Oslo, European Green Capital 2019 Award