

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2018 Charlevoix G7 Interim Compliance Report

10 June 2018 — 10 December 2018

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25 February 2019

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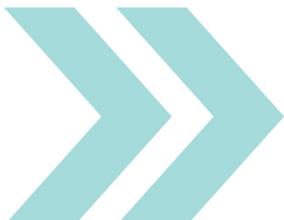
“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*

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15. Environment: Ocean Plastics Charter

“Supporting secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.”

G7 Charlevoix Ocean Plastics Charter

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan	N/A		
United Kingdom			+1
United States	N/A		
European Union			+1
Average		+0.67	

Background

With the importance of plastic to the economy and society at large, the plastics industry has surged in growth over the past 50 years. Between 1950 and 2015, 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic was manufactured while some 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste was produced, resulting in an inability to manage them effectively at their end-of-life.²¹⁶⁹ In 2017, only nine percent of plastic produced was recycled, 12 percent incinerated and the remaining 79 percent ending up in landfills or the natural environment.²¹⁷⁰ Each year, it is estimated that 8-12 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in our oceans, making up 80 percent of the litter found in aquatic environments.²¹⁷¹ If current production and waste management trends continue, 12 billion tonnes will have accumulated by 2050, at which point oceans will have more plastic than fish (by weight).²¹⁷² Moreover, the production of plastics emits some 400 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year due to the energy used in their production, transport, and final waste treatment.²¹⁷³

The problem of plastics pollution has come to the forefront of public awareness across the world and public opinion now agrees that the pervasiveness of plastic in our everyday lives poses serious

²¹⁶⁹ Seven charts that explain the plastic pollution problem, BBC 10 December 2017. Access Date: 4 September 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42264788>.

²¹⁷⁰ Seven charts that explain the plastic pollution problem, BBC 10 December 2017. Access Date: 4 September 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42264788>.

²¹⁷¹ Clean Seas Plastic Management Infographic, UN Environment (UNEP). Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_final_Infographic.pdf?amp%3BisAllowed=y%2C%20thumbnail||https%3A/wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_Infographic_cover.png&sequence=1.

²¹⁷² Clean Seas Plastic Management Infographic, UN Environment (UNEP). Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_final_Infographic.pdf?amp%3BisAllowed=y%2C%20thumbnail||https%3A/wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_Infographic_cover.png&sequence=1.

²¹⁷³ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 1, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

dangers to marine life, our natural environment, and public health.²¹⁷⁴ The current system of plastics recycling is resulting in low recovery rates of plastic waste while the poor quality of recycled plastic and lack of price incentives are holding back secondary plastic markets.²¹⁷⁵ Secondary Plastics Market is for “recycled plastics in its bid to create a truly circular economy.”²¹⁷⁶ A circular economy aims to “redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits and entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system.”²¹⁷⁷ Given the scale of this challenge, it is recognized that technical, policy and regulatory improvements can create better and greater recycling rates and further support the secondary plastics market, which has a critical role to play in plastics management.²¹⁷⁸ This includes reducing and restricting plastic waste, particularly single-use plastics and microplastics such as takeaway cups, cutlery, plastic straws and microbeads in personal care products while also addressing issues in the supply chain, from plastics design, production and use to the end-of-life stage.²¹⁷⁹ The end-of-life stage refers to plastics that have served their intended purpose and are then treated as waste and leaked into the environment or recovered and reused or refurbished into new goods.²¹⁸⁰ These options are dependent on type and quality of plastic material, and whether appropriate separation technologies are in place to separate, recover and reprocess these plastics. New innovations have the potential to bring improvements in plastic design, separation and reprocessing and in developing plastics that are renewably sourced and biodegradable.²¹⁸¹ Currently, however, these technologies have not been scaled up due to fragmentation and lack of coordination in the plastics economy.²¹⁸²

Plastics are made from a polymer mixed with additives such as stabilizers, plasticizers, and pigments, and can contain unintended contaminants such as bisphenol A (BPA) and certain phthalates, whose risks to human health and the environment have already been documented.²¹⁸³ The secondary plastics market collects and sorts this primary plastic waste that is produced and reprocesses it back

²¹⁷⁴ Plastic waste threat to marine life, The Guardian 15 September 2007. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2007/sep/16/pollution.travelnews>.

²¹⁷⁵ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 1, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

²¹⁷⁶ EU PLASTICS STRATEGY AIMS TO BUILD SECONDARY MARKETS TO MAKE RECYCLING PLASTICS ‘PROFITABLE’, resource 16 January 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://resource.co/article/eu-plastics-strategy-aims-build-secondary-markets-make-recycling-plastics-profitable-12352>.

²¹⁷⁷ What is a circular economy?, Ellen McArthur Foundation. Access Date: 14 October 2018.

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/concept>.

²¹⁷⁸ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 2, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en

²¹⁷⁹ World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics (2016). Access Date: 24 September 2018. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>.

²¹⁸⁰ Global Forum on Environment — Plastics in a Circular Economy: Design of Sustainable Plastics from a Chemicals Perspective, Slide2, OECD 29 May 2018. Date Access: 24 September 2018. <https://www.slideshare.net/secret/tdTfwCh9qcUGpp>.

²¹⁸¹ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 17, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>

²¹⁸² The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 17, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>.

²¹⁸³ Briefing: Plastics in a Circular Economy, Page 4, European Parliament, May 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/603940/EPRS_BRI\(2017\)603940_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/603940/EPRS_BRI(2017)603940_EN.pdf).

into raw material or recycles it into new plastic goods. Because most plastic produced has a “useful life” of less than one year, applying circular economy principles to reduce waste to a minimum and making the business case for plastics recycling can improve the economics and uptake of plastics recycling. By creating a better “after-use” or secondary plastics market, environmental outcomes will improve due to less leakage into natural systems such as oceans.²¹⁸⁴

A major challenge in building a better and more effective secondary market lies in the fact that the plastics market is very fragmented due to the lack of standards and coordination across the value chain. This has resulted in the creation of different plastics such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET), high-density polyethylene (HDPE), polypropylene and polystyrene as well as varying approaches to labelling, collection schemes, and sorting and reprocessing systems.²¹⁸⁵ Moreover, the development, design, and format of new plastic materials are disconnected from the development of after-use systems and infrastructure.²¹⁸⁶ “

Finally, recycling rates for different polymers vary widely across countries, with PET and HDPE — which are mostly used for packaging — being recycled at high rates (19 percent to 85 percent), while polypropylene and polystyrene are much less recycled at 1-2 percent.²¹⁸⁷ According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, overall plastic recycling rates range from 30 percent in the European Union to 10 percent in the United States while in many developing and emerging economies, uncontrolled waste collection and treatment is still the norm.²¹⁸⁸

To address these challenges, G7 members — with the exception of Japan and the United States — agreed to and signed an Ocean Plastics Charter at the Charlevoix Summit held in June 2018. In this Charter, members pledge to “move toward a more resource-efficient and sustainable approach to the management of plastics,” which includes making all plastics recyclable by 2030, reducing single-use plastics and promoting the use of recycled plastic, improving and increasing recycling infrastructure, and creating more sustainable technologies.²¹⁸⁹

On 25 September 2018, UN Environment launched a Global Plastics Platform to encourage and support commitments to reduce plastic pollution. The Platform will provide policy support and find ways “to change the design, production, consumption, and disposal of plastics around the world, in

²¹⁸⁴ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 15, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>.

²¹⁸⁵ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 25, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>.

²¹⁸⁶ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 25, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>

²¹⁸⁷ Governments need to encourage plastic recycling markets, OECD Newsroom, OECD 4 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/governments-need-to-act-to-encourage-plastic-recycling-markets.htm>.

²¹⁸⁸ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 1, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

²¹⁸⁹ G7 Charlevoix Summit, Ocean Plastics Charter, G7 Presidency 11 June 2018. Access Date: 3 September 2018 <https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OceanPlasticsCharter.pdf>.

line with a transition to a more circular economy.”²¹⁹⁰ Furthermore, the Platform will look for opportunities to reduce economic and industrial waste. This initiative builds on the World Economic Forum-hosted Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, the work of the Regional Seas Conventions, and other existing partnerships.²¹⁹¹

Commitment Features

In the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, leaders have committed to “supporting secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.”

The core of this commitment is to support secondary markets for plastics. To achieve this outcome, G7 leaders named two possible instruments. These are 1) by using policy measures; and 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

The core commitment is a pledge to “support the secondary or ‘after-use’ market for plastics by developing various policies that encourage better and more recycling of plastic waste.” “Support” is defined as “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”²¹⁹² The “after-use” market for plastics is part of the new plastics economy and is the redesign and convergence of materials, formats, and after-use systems to substantially improve the collection, sorting and reprocessing yields, quality, and economics, while allowing for regional differences and continued innovation.”²¹⁹³

Such actions to support these goals include improving regulation at the production level, enforcing rules to tackle illegal dumping, setting recycling targets to drive the supply market, creating public awareness campaigns for consumers and manufacturers to create demand for plastics recycling and for goods made with recycled plastic, and supporting the development of more cost-effective collection, sorting and reprocessing systems.²¹⁹⁴ In this regard, investing in domestic reprocessing capacity would decrease reliance on the limited number of global markets such as China, who in January 2018 decided to close their market to imports of plastic waste, thereby creating demand shocks due to this market concentration.²¹⁹⁵ A combination of these and other policy interventions can help create a better functioning secondary plastics market. When G7 members pledge to support the secondary plastics market with policy actions that promote better plastics management, they recognize the economic, regulatory and technical obstacles to a well-functioning plastics market.

²¹⁹⁰ UN Environment Announces Global Plastics Platform, Highlights Countries’ Commitments, International Institute for Sustainable Development 2 October 2018. Access Date: 7 October 2018. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-environment-announces-global-plastics-platform-highlights-countries-commitments/>

²¹⁹¹ UN Environment Announces Global Plastics Platform, Highlights Countries’ Commitments, International Institute for Sustainable Development 2 October 2018. Access Date: 7 October 2018. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-environment-announces-global-plastics-platform-highlights-countries-commitments/>

²¹⁹² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 7 September 2018 <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

²¹⁹³ The New Plastics Economy, Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Coves) 2017. Access Date: 28 September 2018. https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.

²¹⁹⁴ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

²¹⁹⁵ Governments need to encourage plastic recycling markets, OECD Newsroom, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/governments-need-to-act-to-encourage-plastic-recycling-markets.htm>.

The first instrument, “by using policy measures” is a policy that is adopted by the member to target a local, regional or national objective regarding secondary plastics. This includes the fragmentation in the plastics market with regards to the collection, sorting and reprocessing of plastic waste into raw material or new goods.²¹⁹⁶ In addition, recognizing that all plastics are not manufactured the same due to the purpose and length of time the plastic is used for, a categorization system would be needed to increase uptake in reusing, recycling, and recovery.²¹⁹⁷ Simultaneously, investment, expansion, and innovation in end-user systems and infrastructure would also be required to capture plastic waste leakage and further improve the economics of plastics management.²¹⁹⁸

The second instrument is “by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.” “Develop” is “when a commitment states it will develop, it should be interpreted to mean that a new initiative will be established in the area. It should not apply to old initiatives.”²¹⁹⁹ It should be interpreted to mean a brand-new initiative.²²⁰⁰

International incentives motivate one to do something on a global scale, where each nation encourages each other. An example of this could be economic incentives to support secondary markets for plastics.²²⁰¹ “International standards” of behaviour for responsible practices should be clearly outlined and subscribed to surrounding how to act and approach these secondary markets for plastics.²²⁰²

Developing incentives to improve the design and chemistry of plastics that would increase the “useful life” beyond one year would reduce and potentially restrict consumption of single-use plastics such as shopping bags, food packaging, bottles, cups and drinking straws while creating higher quality plastic for the secondary market, thereby improving the economics of the value chain.²²⁰³

Full compliance is awarded to a G7 member who completes the core commitment and implements both instruments of 1) using policy measures and 2) developing EITHER international incentives or international standards or requirements for product stewardship, design, and recycled content. “Or” implies a list of possibilities so one out of the three suggested tools alongside policy measures, counts as full compliance.

²¹⁹⁶ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

²¹⁹⁷ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

²¹⁹⁸ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

²¹⁹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto). 2 May 2016. Access Date: 7 September 2018 <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

²²⁰⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto). 2 May 2016. Access Date: 7 September 2018 <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

²²⁰¹ Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, UNEP. April 2009. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10744/MarineLitterAglobalChallenge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

²²⁰² Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, UNEP. April 2009. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10744/MarineLitterAglobalChallenge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

²²⁰³ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 4-5, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

Partial compliance will be awarded if the G7 member fulfills the core commitment but with only one of the two instruments. Non-compliance will be awarded if the G7 member does not fulfill the core commitment or its supporting instruments.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does NOT support secondary markets for plastics nor does so 1) by using policy measures; and 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.
0	The G7 member supports secondary markets for plastics AND does so 1) by using policy measures; OR 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.
+1	The G7 member does supports secondary markets for plastics AND does so 1) by using policy measures; AND 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

*Compliance Director: Laila Kanji
Lead Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 10 June 2018, the Government of Canada pledged to invest CAD100 million in preventing plastic waste entering the oceans, investigate the issue of plastic waste on shorelines, and improve management of existing plastic resources.²²⁰⁴

On 1 August 2018, Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, underlined the significance of the sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems, and the protection of the marine environment during a tour of environmental research and clean energy companies in Mont-Joli, Quebec.²²⁰⁵

On 8 September 2018, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, launched the Community Cleanup, which called on Canadians to clean up plastics from their local shorelines, parks, and neighborhoods. The program encourages Canadians to connect with their local members of Parliament to organize community plastic cleanups.²²⁰⁶

On 17 September 2018, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, introduced the new Ocean Plastics Education Kit for Canadian students in partnership with Ocean School, Ocean Wise, Sea Smart, Students on Ice and WE. The kit is meant to raise

²²⁰⁴ Working together on climate change, oceans, and clean energy, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Quebec City) 10 June 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/06/10/working-together-climate-change-oceans-and-clean-energy>

²²⁰⁵ Minister McKenna visits Mont-Joli to highlight clean energy and the protection of marine environment, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/07/minister-mckenna-visits-mont-joli-to-highlight-clean-energy-and-the-protection-of-marine-environment.html>

²²⁰⁶ Thousands of Canadians to tackle plastic pollution across the country, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 31 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/09/thousands-of-canadians-to-tackle-plastic-pollution-across-the-country.html>

awareness of issues on marine plastics, as well as to empower Canadian students to develop solutions toward the marine litter issues.²²⁰⁷

On 20 September 2018, the Government of Canada announced its “Greening Government Strategy,” which includes commitments to “increase plastic waste diversion,” “reduce single-use plastic use in operations, meetings and events,” and “procure sustainable plastics products.” The objective is to redirect at least 75 percent of plastic waste from federal operations by 2030.²²⁰⁸

On 20 September 2018, the Government of Canada hosted the Oceans Inspiration Expo in partnership with GLOBE Series and Delphi Group. The Expo, held in Halifax, facilitated a discussion on acknowledging marine issues such as sustainable oceans and fisheries and ocean plastics and marine litter.²²⁰⁹

On 28 September 2018, the G7 Innovation Challenge to Address Marine Plastic Litter was recognized by plastic makers in Canada and the United States. The new G7 Innovation Challenge aims to encourage the development of new technology to build on the successes and innovations in the plastics value chain.²²¹⁰

On 12 October 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada published feedback received from Canadians between April and September 2018 regarding their views on “Moving Canada Toward Zero Plastic Waste.” These consultations discussed how Canada can reduce plastic waste and marine litter and help develop a federal-provincial-territorial approach to keep plastic within the economy and out of landfills and the environment.²²¹¹

On 14 November 2018, the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau met the Premier of the State Council of People’s Republic of China, Li Keqiang at the third Canada-China Annual Leaders’ Dialogue. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Li issued the Joint Statement on Marine Litter and Plastics, acknowledging the negative impacts of plastic pollution and focusing on the significance of managing plastics and protecting oceans through a sustainable lifecycle approach.²²¹²

On 23 November 2018, Minister McKenna, was joined by her provincial and territorial counterparts through a teleconference for the annual meeting of Canadian Council of Minister of the Environment in Ottawa. Federal, provincial, and territorial environment ministers agreed to support

²²⁰⁷ Government of Canada partners on new tool to help students learn about plastic pollution, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 September 2018. Access date: 11 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/09/government-of-canada-partners-on-new-tool-to-help-students-learn-about-plastic-pollution.html>

²²⁰⁸ Government of Canada actions on plastic waste in federal operations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/government-canada-actions-plastic-waste-federal-operations.html>

²²⁰⁹ Media Advisory — G7 Oceans Inspiration Expo Opens to the Public, Canada News Wire (Halifax) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/media-advisory---g7-oceans-inspiration-expo-opens-to-the-public-693758321.html>

²²¹⁰ Media Statement: Plastic makers endorse new G7 Innovation Challenge to address marine plastic litter, Canadian Plastics Industry Association (Mississauga) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 4 November 2018. https://plastics.ca/_resources/Innovation%20Challenge%20Media%20Statement%20CPIA.pdf

²²¹¹ Moving Canada toward zero plastic waste: Closed consultation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 31 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/consultations/moving-toward-zero-plastic-waste.html>

²²¹² Joint Statement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Marine Litter and Plastics, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/14/joint-statement-between-government-canada-and-government-peoples-republic-china>

the Canada-wide zero-plastic-waste strategy to “prevent, reduce, reuse, and clean up plastic waste.” The ministers also agreed to in principle an updated memorandum of understanding for mutual aid for environmental emergencies. The council affirmed its commitment to the joint work on shared environmental priorities, such as the quality of air and water, climate change, and other effects.²²¹³

Canada has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals by supporting secondary markets for plastics using policy measures to promote the reduction and recycling of plastics as well as through public engagement on encouraging a zero plastic waste future.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Angelah Liu

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 25 June 2018, the French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Nicolas Hulot, and the Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Brune Poirson, participated in the Council of the European Ministers of the Environment. Mr. Poirson reiterated support for a ban on single-use plastics, stating that “France ... supports at the European level the ban on single-use plastic objects that generate a lot of marine litter.”²²¹⁴ This follows the Roadmap for the Circular Economy adopted on 23 April 2018.²²¹⁵

On 25 June 2018, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition released a Corporate Social Responsibility framework for the logistics industry that called on operators to promote the reuse or recycling of resources used by the industry such as plastic packaging and film.²²¹⁶

On 2 July 2018, the French Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Brune Poirson and the Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy and Finance, Delphine Gény-Stephann, obtained commitments from 55 companies and industry groups to incorporate an additional 300,000 tonnes of recycled plastics into their products by 2025, doubling the current rate of recycled plastics usage, as well as commitments to design, obtain, and recycle materials in an environmentally conscious way.²²¹⁷

²²¹³ Federal government, provinces, and territories push forward a Canada-wide zero-plastic-waste strategy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 November 2018. Access date: 25 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/11/federal-government-provinces-and-territories-push-forward-on-a-canada-wide-zero-plastic-waste-strategy.html>

²²¹⁴ Conseil des ministres européens de l’environnement, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 25 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/conseil-des-ministres-europeens-lenvironnement-france-emmene-leurope-sur-voie-lambition>

²²¹⁵ Roadmap for the Circular Economy, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 23 April 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/FREC%20anglais.pdf>

²²¹⁶ Référentiel de responsabilité sociétale des entreprises (RSE) en logistique, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 25 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/R%E2%94%9C%C2%AEf%E2%94%9C%C2%AErentiel%20RSE%20en%20logistique%20Version%20compl%E2%94%9C%C2%BFte.pdf>

²²¹⁷ 100% plastiques recyclés en 2025 : 55 industriels et fédérations s’engagent en faveur du recyclage et de l’éco-conception, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/100-plastiques-recycles-en-2025-55-industriels-et-federations-sengagent-en-faveur-du-recyclage-et>

On 26 July 2018, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition released a fact sheet on governmental actions to promote a circular economy titled “Three Months of Work: An Advancing Roadmap.” It indicated that by 2020, the French “will have more opportunities to purchase products made of materials from recycling” and “will sort their waste more easily thanks to harmonization in the colour of waste bins through all French territory by 2022.”²²¹⁸

On 1 August 2018, Poirson announced the launch of an “Oceans Mission” that would include new measures to protect the oceans from waste, in particular, plastic pollution.²²¹⁹

On 12 August 2018, Poirson announced plans to introduce a penalty system that would make packaging made with non-recycled plastic up to 10 percent more expensive.²²²⁰ Poirson indicated: “Tomorrow, when there is a choice between two bottles, one made with recycled plastic, the other not, the first one will be cheaper.” Poirson also announced that the government would increase taxes on landfills and reduce taxes on recycling activities.²²²¹

On 14-15 October 2018, Poirson held consultations at the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition with a variety of stakeholders with a view to preparing a law on the circular economy. Stakeholders consulted included manufacturers, local authorities, representatives of the recycling industry, and environmental organizations.²²²²

From 15 October 2018 to 15 December 2018, the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, supported by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, ran a national audiovisual campaign discussing the environmental and economic benefits of recycling and encouraging citizens to move towards a circular economy. The campaign was co-funded by 13 recycling sector organizations and had a budget of EUR3.6 million.²²²³

France has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals through supporting secondary markets for plastics by using tax policy measures, public engagements, and other initiatives to promote recycling, recovery, and reduction of plastics waste while advocating for international requirements for better product stewardship.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zhenglin Liu

²²¹⁸ Trois mois de travail, une feuille de route qui avance, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/bilanpersFREC_web.pdf

²²¹⁹ Pollution des océans et des récifs coralliens, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pollution-des-océans-et-des-recifs-coralliens-brune-poirson-sattaque-aux-substances-chimiques-et-aux>

²²²⁰ France to set penalties on non-recycled plastic next year, France24 (Paris) 12 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.france24.com/en/20180812-france-plastic-penalties-recycling-environment-reduce-reuse-pollution>

²²²¹ France to make unrecycled plastic bottles more expensive, Reuters (Paris) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-plastics/france-to-make-unrecycled-plastic-bottles-more-expensive-idUSKBN1KY13T>

²²²² Note aux rédactions — Économie circulaire: Brune Poirson consulte l'ensemble des parties prenantes, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/note-aux-redactions-economie-circulaire-brune-poirson-consulte-lensemble-des-parties-prenantes>

²²²³ “Ensemble, continuons de recycler!” Brune Poirson lance une grande campagne de communication inter-filière sur le recyclage, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/ensemble-continuons-recycler-brune-poirson-lance-grande-campagne-communication-inter-filiere-sur>

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 18 September 2018, German Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze released a statement prior to the G7 Environment Ministers meeting stating that “we must work for sustainable and resource-efficient use of plastics along the entire life cycle, from product design and manufacture to recycling.”²²²⁴

On 26 November 2018, Minister Schulze announced a strategy for combatting plastic waste. This strategy is a five-point plan that will focus on circumventing unnecessary packaging, making products more environmentally friendly, increasing recycling, preventing plastics from entering organic waste, and increasing donations for international actions which eliminate plastic waste from the oceans and rivers.²²²⁵

Germany has partially complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals by stating its support for the secondary plastics market however has yet to implement policy measures or international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design, and recycled content.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Heerea Rikbraj

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 28 June 2018, Italian Minister of the Environment, Sergio Costa, announced that an amendment to Italy’s Code on the Environment was being developed to involve Italy’s fishermen in the clean-up of marine litter and allow them to bring plastic waste recovered from its waters to land. Currently, they are not allowed to bring this ashore for the purposes of reusing, recycling and recovering. According to Minister Costa, this is the first step “towards a circular economy.”²²²⁶

On 26 September 2018, Italian Undersecretary for the Environment, Salvatore Micillo, spoke at a conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Corepla, the National Consortium for the collection, recycling and recovery of plastic packaging. There he reiterated that a law was being developed to allow the country’s fisherman to recover plastic waste from Italy’s waters

²²²⁴ G7 environment ministers discuss measures to combat climate change, marine litter and resource inefficiency, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g7-umweltministerinnen-und-minister-diskutieren-massnahmen-gegen-klimawandel-meeresmuell-und-ressour/>

²²²⁵ Germany unveils 5-point plan to reduce plastic waste, DW News (Berlin) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-unveils-5-point-plan-to-reduce-plastic-waste/a-46455503>

²²²⁶ Mare, Costa: a breve legge per recupero plastica, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 28 June 2018. Access Date: 17 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-costa-breve-legge-recupero-plastica>

and bring it back to shore, in efforts to tackle marine plastic pollution. Micillo further stated that “the circular economy is the future, and we want to develop it.”²²²⁷

On 1 October 2018, the Directorate General for Waste and Pollution at the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection concluded a consultation on the document “The Circular Economy and the Efficient Use of Resources: Indicators for measuring the circular economy,” which addresses plastics throughout. The consultation began on 30 July 2018, and the ministry indicated that it was a step towards creating a “National Action Plan for the Circular Economy.”²²²⁸

Italy has partially complied by developing policy measure through the Code on Environment for fishermen yet no international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Zhenglin Liu

Japan: N/A

Japan has not signed the Ocean Plastics Charter but taken steps to reduce the amount of plastic waste disposed into the ocean by passing a bill that reduces the amount of microplastics leaked into the ocean and has initiated plans to recycle disposable plastics.

On 11 June 2018, Minister Yasunari Morino of the Japanese foreign ministry stated in an interview “[The Charter] expects the countries to institute a wide range of regulatory measures around plastic goods, including various commonplace goods in our lives.” He went on further saying, “we need to look at the implications of this document for how it will affect our lives and industry. And also we believe that all countries, not only G-7 but all countries including developing countries, need to be involved in the discussion efforts to tackle this global issue.”²²²⁹

On 15 June 2018, the Japanese parliament approved a bill intended to decrease the amount of microplastics dumped into the ocean, but it included no sanctions for failure to comply.²²³⁰

On 4 July 2018, the Japanese Environment Ministry started planning on how to increase recycling of disposable plastics. One idea is administering subsidies to help waste management companies build state of the art recycling facilities.²²³¹

On 17 August 2018, a Japanese government panel commenced discussions on an action plan to reduce plastic waste. The panel will evaluate “how to efficiently recover and recycle disposable plastic

²²²⁷ Il Sottosegretario Micillo a Corepla: Italia leader nel riciclo, su plastica dobbiamo fare di più. Presto una legge per pulire i mari, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 17 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/il-sottosegretario-micillo-corepla-italia-leader-nel-riciclo-su-plastica-dobbiamo-fare-di>

²²²⁸ Documento “Economia Circolare ed Uso Efficiente Delle Risorse — Indicatori per la misurazione dell’economia circolare, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <http://indicatoricircolari.consultazione.minambiente.it/>

²²²⁹ Japan Needs Longer Look at Oceans Plastics Charter After G-7 Summit, Bloomberg News (Washington D.C) 11 June 2018. Access Date: 07 October 2018. <https://www.bna.com/japan-needs-longer-n73014476401/>

²²³⁰ Japan passes anti-plastic law but with no sanctions for polluters, The Jakarta Post (Tokyo) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2018/06/16/japan-passes-anti-plastic-law-but-with-no-sanctions-for-polluters.html>

²²³¹ How China’s plastic waste ban has left Japan to deal with mountains of trash, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 04 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2153690/how-chinas-plastic-waste-ban-has-left-japan-deal-mountains-trash>

items, promote bioplastics that are derived from biomass sources and easily decomposable in nature.”²²³²

On 14 October 2018, the Japanese government announced a 25 percent reduction in disposable plastics by 2030, making it mandatory for shops to charge for plastic bags and slashing the use of microplastics in facial scrubs and toothpaste. In addition, the government intends to increase monitoring of illegal dumping and promote the use of environmentally friendly bioplastics made from plants.²²³³

On 7 November 2018, the Ministry of the Environment presented a policy that would request companies to curb the use of microbeads used in facewash and toothpaste, and restaurants and shops to not use plastic bags and straws.²²³⁴

Although Japan has not signed on to the Ocean Plastics Charter, it plans on developing strategies and policies to reduce marine plastic pollution.

Analyst: Judith Nwachibelu

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 18 June 2018, Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), opened a competition that offers GBP4 million to businesses that intend on reducing or reusing plastic in innovative ways.²²³⁵ Possible circular economy approaches could include but are not limited to, the development of new polymer materials, new product designs, new recycling processes, increasing the value of recycled polymer, and innovations that encourage people to change behaviour to reduce plastic waste.²²³⁶

On 18 June 2018, the UK launched the Plastics and Research Innovation Fund, amounting to GBP20 million.²²³⁷ The funding is to be managed by UKRI to develop a more sustainable approach to plastics to create “a new model where you use, you reuse, and you recycle.”²²³⁸

²²³² Japanese government panel begins discussions on reducing plastic waste, Japan Times (Tokyo) 17 August 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/08/17/national/science-health/japanese-government-panel-begins-discussions-reducing-plastic-waste/#.W8hx4ktKjIU>

²²³³ Japan eyes reducing amount of plastic waste by as much as 25% by 2030, Japan Times (Tokyo) 14 October 2018. Access Date: 11 November 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/10/14/national/japan-eyes-reducing-amount-plastic-waste-much-25-2030/#.W-haBZnkjIU>

²²³⁴ Japan gov't to urge companies to curb use of microplastics, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 7 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2018/11/4279143ebb2f-govt-to-urge-companies-to-curb-use-of-microplastics.html>

²²³⁵ Reducing plastic waste in the environment: apply for funding, UK Government (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reducing-plastic-waste-in-the-environment-apply-for-funding>

²²³⁶ Reducing plastic waste in the environment: apply for funding, UK Government (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reducing-plastic-waste-in-the-environment-apply-for-funding>

²²³⁷ Science Minister announces £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund to turn the tide on plastics production, UK Research and Innovation (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.ukri.org/news/science-minister-announces-20-million-plastics-research-and-innovation-fund-to-turn-the-tide-on-plastics-production/>

On 19 June 2018, the Government of the UK prohibited the sale of products containing microbeads in an attempt to prevent the small plastics from entering and harming the marine environment.²²³⁹

On 30 June 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs offered a GBP 19,000 contract for research into the economic and environmental consequences of introducing a policy ban on all single-use plastics.²²⁴⁰ This ban would include plastic straws, plastic plates, and plastic cutlery.²²⁴¹

On 30 August 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May confirmed that the government will deliberate a change to the national fee for plastic bags purchased from retailers, increasing the fee from GBP0.05 to GBP0.10.²²⁴² It is proposed this fee is to be extended to smaller retail stores, as it was only applicable to those retailers with more than 250 employees.²²⁴³

On 30 August 2018, The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a new partnership with the UK Scouts.²²⁴⁴ The Government intends on creating a new “Plastics and Marine Environment Activity Pack” to reduce the amount of single-use plastics in the ocean.²²⁴⁵ This will be supplemented through an international exchange programme that allows scouts from the United Kingdom and Kenya to interact and learn about the harmful impacts of plastic pollution.²²⁴⁶ The Prime Minister, during her visit to Africa in the same week, pledged approximately GBP40,000 for a new Girl Guides and Scouts Plastic Challenge Badge that aims to educate children from three African countries about the detriments posed by plastic consumption.²²⁴⁷

On 11 September 2018, the Environment Agency published the Packaging Producer Responsibility Monitoring Plan of 2018, which is meant to ensure that packaging producers in England meet EU packaging recovery and recycling targets and they are registered in accordance with these

²²³⁸ Science Minister announces £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund to turn the tide on plastics production, UK Research and Innovation (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.ukri.org/news/science-minister-announces-20-million-plastics-research-and-innovation-fund-to-turn-the-tide-on-plastics-production/>

²²³⁹ World leading microbeads ban comes into force, UK Government (London) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-microbeads-ban-comes-into-force>

²²⁴⁰ Plastic plates and cutlery to be banned from sale under government plans, Telegraph (London) 30 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/30/plastic-plates-cutlery-banned-sale-government-plans/>

²²⁴¹ Plastic plates and cutlery to be banned from sale under government plans, Telegraph (London) 30 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/30/plastic-plates-cutlery-banned-sale-government-plans/>

²²⁴² Plastic bags: Charge could rise to 10p and be extended to smaller shops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45353073>

²²⁴³ Plastic bags: Charge could rise to 10p and be extended to smaller shops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45353073>

²²⁴⁴ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

²²⁴⁵ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

²²⁴⁶ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

²²⁴⁷ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

regulations.²²⁴⁸ In addition, the plan verifies data on recycling and recovery rates, ensures recycling and recovery of waste packaging meets standards, and that packaging is not disposed of through illegal avenues.²²⁴⁹ The plan enables the Environment Agency to exercise certain powers to guarantee the compliance of all packaging producers.²²⁵⁰

On 22 October 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs set out a strategy to ban the circulation of straws, stirrers, and cotton buds.²²⁵¹ An online consultation was opened to gather views of stakeholders.²²⁵²

On 29 October 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs proposed a new tax on food and drink companies for plastic packaging that does not include at least 30 percent recycled content.²²⁵³ This tax, however, is subject to consultation and is due to come in to effect on 1 April 2022.²²⁵⁴

On 29 October 2018, Chancellor Philip Hammond announced a GBP10 million fund to prevent the illegal industrial dumping of waste.²²⁵⁵ Pledges of GBP20 million and GBP10 million were granted to augment recycling and help fund innovative approaches to reduce litter respectively.²²⁵⁶

On 29 October 2018, the UK government signed the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy Global Commitment to eradicate plastic waste and pollution.²²⁵⁷ The primary targets of this commitment are to eliminate single-use plastics in exchange for reusable packaging, encourage

²²⁴⁸ Packaging producer responsibility monitoring plan 2018, UK Government (London) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018>

²²⁴⁹ Packaging producer responsibility monitoring plan 2018, UK Government (London) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018>

²²⁵⁰ Packaging producer responsibility monitoring plan 2018, UK Government (London) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018>

²²⁵¹ Government Launches Plan to ban Plastic Straws, Cotton-buds, and Stirrers, UK Government (London) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-plan-to-ban-plastic-straws-cotton-buds-and-stirrers>

²²⁵² Consultation on Proposals to Ban the Distribution and/or Sale of Plastic Straws, Plastic-Stemmed Cotton-buds and Plastic Drink Stirrers in England, Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (London) 22 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/plastic-straws-stirrers-and-buds/>

²²⁵³ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

²²⁵⁴ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

²²⁵⁵ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

²²⁵⁶ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

²²⁵⁷ UK Signs Global Commitment to Eliminate Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/29/uk-signs-global-commitment-to-eliminate-plastic-pollution/>

innovation to ensure that all plastic packaging could be safely reused, recycled, or composted, and circulate the plastic produced by implementing reusing strategies.²²⁵⁸

On 27 November 2018, the Government announced a 97 percent drop in single-use plastics being used by Foreign office staff in the United Kingdom.²²⁵⁹

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals by supporting the secondary plastics market through its funding incentives and policy measures to promote reduction, recovery, and recycling of plastic waste.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hamza Naim

United States: N/A

The United States is working towards developing a secondary market for plastics through its newly enacted policy measures and solution-based discussions happening in the Senate.

On 1 July 2018, the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 officially took effect. The bill, which was passed on 28 December 2015, restricts the manufacturing of rinse-off cosmetics and non-prescription drugs that contain plastic microbeads and prohibits the introduction or delivery of these products into interstate commerce.²²⁶⁰

On 26 September 2018, the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, held a hearing titled “Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health?” The Senate Committee examined the environmental impact of mismanaged plastic waste in the oceans and discussed various solutions to this bipartisan issue, welcoming proposals about how to incentivize plastic manufacturers to improve plastic design and production. The committee also recognized the importance of improving waste management and recycling infrastructures at the federal level.²²⁶¹

On 11 October 2018, the Save Our Seas Act of 2018 was signed by President Trump and enacted into US public law.²²⁶² The law helps guarantee the proper allocation of waste management resources, technologies, and investments. The law also reauthorizes the Marine Debris Act, which promotes

²²⁵⁸ UK Signs Global Commitment to Eliminate Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/29/uk-signs-global-commitment-to-eliminate-plastic-pollution/>

²²⁵⁹ FCO Reaches Major Milestone in Plastic Elimination Campaign, UK Government (London) 27 November 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fco-reaches-major-milestone-in-plastic-elimination-campaign>

²²⁶⁰ The Microbead-Free Waters Act: FAQs, United States Food and Drug Administration (New Hampshire) 3 November 2017. Access Date: 5 October 2018. <https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/guidanceregulation/lawsregulations/ucm531849.htm>

²²⁶¹ Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health, The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=9DED4FB8-AFFC-490A-A80F-DE55626E3E5F>

²²⁶² S.3508 — Save Our Seas Act of 2018, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 5 November <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3508?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22save+our+seas%22%5D%7D&r=2>

marine debris research and land-based waste management solutions.²²⁶³ The legislation encourages the US federal government to collaborate with the governments of developing nations to enhance waste management infrastructure.²²⁶⁴

On 14 November 2018, the US Senate Recycling Caucus held a briefing on Capitol Hill to evaluate the various opportunities and shortcomings of the current US recycling industry. The summit brought together multiple stakeholders within the recycling chain to discuss strengthening secondary markets for plastics.²²⁶⁵

Policy measures such as the Save Our Seas Act of 2018, display the United States growing support for the development of a secondary market for plastics. However, the United States has yet to create “international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.”

Analyst: Emma Davy

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 10 July 2018, the European Parliament’s environment committee proposed increased restrictions on plastic pollution under the Plastics Strategy.²²⁶⁶ Actions include prohibiting microplastics, oxo-degradable plastics, and dangerous substances in plastics as well as collecting taxes from sales of plastics should be put towards preventing the creation of plastic waste.²²⁶⁷ Nevertheless, the Committee failed to advocate for economic incentives to decrease the production and consumption of plastics and plastic pellets.²²⁶⁸

On 13 September 2018, EU members of parliament proposed actions for EU-wide measures on biodegradability and composability of plastics including making oxo-degradable plastics illegal by

²²⁶³ Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health, American Chemistry Council Statement for the Record Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018.

https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e/7/e7e8aeaa-2e1b-42a4-9609-7d4ee98e4600/76D4592DB8DBB6A8A69FF6F5F17429E9.dooley-testimony-09.26.2018.pdf

²²⁶⁴ America’s Plastics Makers Contribute To Solutions On Marine Litter, American Chemistry Council Statement for the Record Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e/7/e7e8aeaa-2e1b-42a4-9609-7d4ee98e4600/76D4592DB8DBB6A8A69FF6F5F17429E9.dooley-testimony-09.26.2018.pdf

²²⁶⁵ ISRI addresses Senate Recycling Caucus for America Recycles Day, Recycling Today (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 22 November 2018. <https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/isri-address-recycling-caucus-america-recycles-day/>

²²⁶⁶ Briefing EU Legislation in Progress, Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter, Page 10. European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)625115_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI(2018)625115_EN.pdf)

²²⁶⁷ Briefing EU Legislation in Progress, Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter, Page 10. European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)625115_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI(2018)625115_EN.pdf)

²²⁶⁸ Briefing EU Legislation in Progress, Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter, Page 10. European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)625115_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI(2018)625115_EN.pdf)

2020, banning microplastic beads, and creating incentives for collecting plastic waste at sea.²²⁶⁹ The proposals were set out in the non-binding draft resolution and were adopted.²²⁷⁰

On 10 October 2018, the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) voted to approve the European Commission's proposed regulations to deal with the use and waste of single-use plastics, in a motion to be put before the European Parliament on 24 October.²²⁷¹ The ENVI vote included affirmations to establish an extended producer responsibility plan, which creates guidelines enforcing plastic-producing companies to support the costs of ocean litter cleanup.²²⁷² The vote also included the approval of structures that will enforce a 90 percent recycling rate of plastic beverage bottles by 2025 and called for a full ban of lightweight plastic bags on the EU market.²²⁷³ A collection target of 50 percent and a recycling target of 15 percent by 2025 was also set by the ENVI for abandoned plastic fishing gear.²²⁷⁴

On 11 October 2018, the European Commission reviewed and updated the 2012 European Bioeconomy Strategy.²²⁷⁵ The updates recognize that the European bio-economy, of which the bioplastics industry is a major component, is worth EUR2.1 trillion in Europe alone, and aims to incentivize research in the bioplastics industry.²²⁷⁶ The Commission's updates also focus on driving research into marine biodegradability, while simultaneously scaling-up bio-based sectors to support plastics recycling and the circular economy.²²⁷⁷

On 24 October 2018, member of the European Parliament (MEPs) voted in favour of the ENVI-approved proposed a ban on single-use plastics, enforcing a total ban on the EU market by 2021.²²⁷⁸ MEPs also passed amendments calling for a further market ban of polystyrene food containers and oxo-degradable plastics by 2021.²²⁷⁹ Under the amendments, plastic waste from tobacco products will

²²⁶⁹ EU strategy to cut plastic waste: more recycling, ban on micro-plastics, European Parliament (Brussels) 7 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20180830STO11347/eu-strategy-to-cut-plastic-waste-more-recycling-ban-on-micro-plastics>

²²⁷⁰ MEPs propose ways to boost plastics recycling, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180906IPR12112/meps-propose-ways-to-boost-plastics-recycling>

²²⁷¹ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

²²⁷² MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

²²⁷³ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

²²⁷⁴ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

²²⁷⁵ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

²²⁷⁶ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

²²⁷⁷ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

²²⁷⁸ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

²²⁷⁹ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

also be reduced by 80 percent by 2030.²²⁸⁰ However, MEPs did not vote to pass the ENVI-approved proposed ban on lightweight plastic bags.²²⁸¹

On 29-30 October 2018, the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs, and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, led the EU delegation at the annual Our Ocean conference, in Bali.²²⁸² Commissioner Vella announced the European Commission's initiative to launch a coalition of aquariums to fight plastic pollution, through a reduction in single-use plastics on the premises and an awareness campaign to highlight the effects of single-use plastics on marine life.²²⁸³ The initiative aims to have a minimum of 200 aquariums worldwide signed on by 2019 and will be sponsored and coordinated by the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the support of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, the European Union of Aquarium Curators, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the U.S. Aquarium Conservation Partnership and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.²²⁸⁴

On 20 November 2018, the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, announced that as part of the European Plastics Strategy to boost the secondary plastics market, voluntary pledges by EU industries could result in 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics supplied by 2025.²²⁸⁵ However, pledges to recycle this plastic, required to match this number, only totalled 5 million tonnes; the European Commission acknowledged that more industry commitment will be required to move the secondary plastics market forward.²²⁸⁶ Further detail on private recycled plastic pledges will be published in the first quarter of 2019.²²⁸⁷

The European Union has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter by contributing to the development of new incentives and standards of plastic production and recycling while supporting the secondary plastics market.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arjun Kaul

²²⁸⁰ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

²²⁸¹ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

²²⁸² European Commission joins forces with world aquariums to fight plastic pollution, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 04 November 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6203_en.htm

²²⁸³ European Commission joins forces with world aquariums to fight plastic pollution, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 04 November 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6203_en.htm

²²⁸⁴ European Commission joins forces with world aquariums to fight plastic pollution, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 04 November 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6203_en.htm

²²⁸⁵ EU Plastics Strategy: Commission welcomes voluntary pledges from industry to boost the market for recycled plastics and encourages further action, European Commission (Brussels) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6444_en.htm

²²⁸⁶ EU Plastics Strategy: Commission welcomes voluntary pledges from industry to boost the market for recycled plastics and encourages further action, European Commission (Brussels) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6444_en.htm

²²⁸⁷ EU Plastics Strategy: Commission welcomes voluntary pledges from industry to boost the market for recycled plastics and encourages further action, European Commission (Brussels) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6444_en.htm