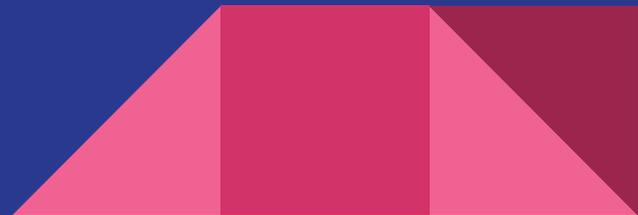


THE CASE FOR A BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS IN HRM

Presentation by iMatter Youth Halifax 02/01/2018

WHY WE'RE HERE



'Wasted': What happens when China no longer wants our trash?



Recyclable plastics could soon end up in Nova Scotia landfill

China no longer accepting recyclables, so Halifax scrambling to find alternatives as storage space runs out

By Nina Corfu, Moira Donovan, CBC News | Posted: Dec 07, 2017 2:49 PM AT | Last Updated: Dec 07, 2017 7:35 PM AT



The province's Environment Department says it will review a request to send stockpiled plastics to the landfill. (CBC)

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A change in policy halfway around the world means plastic bags that are supposed to be recycled — according to Nova Scotia law — could end up in a landfill.

Film plastics — such as plastic wrap, shopping bags and bread bags — are piling up at Halifax's material recovery facility in Bayers Lake Business Park because China is no longer importing the material and city officials can't find anybody else to recycle it.

In July, China notified the World Trade Organization it would stop accepting shipments of waste plastic, paper and other materials by the end of 2017 due to environmental and health concerns.

Matt Keliher, the solid waste manager for Halifax, told the CBC's *Information Morning* that 80 per cent or more of the city's recyclables were sent to China in recent years. Now the city is scrambling to find alternatives.

"They've managed to do that with almost every kind of material — except one: film plastics. "We have a stockpile at our facility right now," Keliher said. "We're almost at full capacity."

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Halifax sending 300 tonnes of recyclable plastics to out-of-province dump

Materials had been degrading in storage following China's decision to stop accepting recyclables

By Nina Corfu, CBC News | Posted: Jan 04, 2018 11:30 AM AT | Last Updated: Jan 04, 2018 11:30 AM AT



Halifax's solid waste manager, Matt Keliher, said the material could be shipped even further west than Ontario. (Mary-Catherine McIntosh/CBC)

Halifax has found a way to get around regulations that make it illegal to put recyclables in a landfill in Nova Scotia — by sending 300 tonnes of plastics to an out-of-province dump.

The municipality's solid waste manager, Matt Keliher, said the stash of film plastics — materials such as shopping bags and plastic wrap — had been degrading at a storage facility in Halifax since August 2017, following China's announcement it would no longer be importing recyclables beginning in 2018.

Keliher said he had hoped the province would agree to temporarily waive the rules banning recyclables from the dump, so the material could be disposed of locally.

But the province took too long to decide either way, he said, forcing the city to send the material to an undisclosed location outside the

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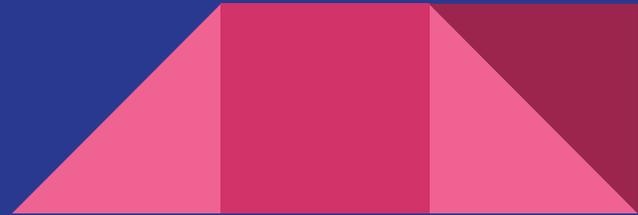
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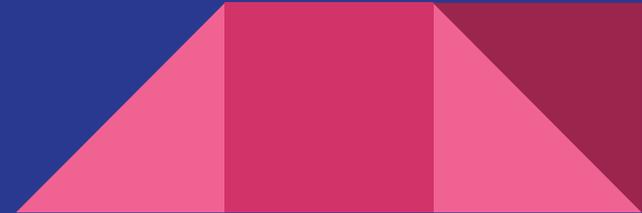
REDUCE





Estimated 97,176 kg of CO₂ emitted into the atmosphere with the estimated 10,091 km trip

Shipping waste across the atlantic to China to burn



Nova Scotia is in the process of sending 300 tons of film plastic to a landfill outside of Nova Scotia. Maybe a good time to review some of the tips for reducing plastic use!



Five ways to recycle less - David Suzuki Foundation

Recycling feels good. But some of us may be getting too much of this good thing... "Recycle" is the last "R" in "reduce, reuse and recycle."

DAVIDSUZUKI.ORG

15

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If there isn't a way to burn plastic safely, in the day and age, we might just as well give up. Why ship China our mess? Handle it ourselves in a closed loop system.



Halifax told it can dump film plastics in landfill, but will burn them instead

Halifax has been given temporary permission from the province to dump recyclable film plastics in a Nova Scotia landfill, but plans to instead truck incoming material...

CBC.CA

This is insane! For years I've been meticulously diverting all our household plastic film and bags from the garbage by collecting each piece in old produce bags for recycling, and now it's all going in the landfill!! I've really got to think of ways to avoid acquiring plastic - reusable bags for produce, not just the actual grocery bag, which I do use. But all the packaging that comes with new items, everything is wrapped in plastic now... Current use of plastic in our society is truly a nightmare! Even the plastic we have shipped to China likely mostly went into making plastic doodads that will soon be in landfills anyway. This is so disheartening!



Recyclable plastics could soon end up in Nova Scotia landfill

China has announced it's no longer accepting recyclables from countries like Canada, so the Halifax is scrambling to find alternatives — Including throwing...

CBC.CA

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Ponder me this? On Jan. 5 the province's environment department said it's letting Halifax dump plastic into one of the province's landfills because HRM can no longer send it to China.... HOW can the government sit back and tell the people that they have such WONDERFUL recycling programs if we're shipping things to China to be recycled. That is NOT a provincial recycling program.....



'The time is right:' Halifax councillor proposes plastic bag ban for HRM | Metro Halifax

Council set to discuss banning or reducing use of plastic bags across the municipality

METRONEWS.CA

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This is our Canadian trash crisis...all those recyclable items going into a landfill because there is too much plastic in the world for China to handle anymore. And I don't blame China, Canadian trash is finally catching up to us and making our consumerism and horrible plastic regulations very obvious.

Can you make the EASY changes?

REDUCE: pay attention to excessive plastic packaging, take a pass on straws and other single use plastic, buy local (usually less plastic), stop bottled water, realize we don't need the latest of everything so perhaps cut back on overall consumerism.

REUSE: use reusable bags, your own travel mug, buy used items when possible, refinished furniture. Get the life out of the products that you do own. Don't buy a new version just because it's new. The old items don't just disappear: cloths, furniture, electronic parts, packaging...our trash management is overcome with all items that have also been treated as disposable.

RECYCLE: the last two steps would reduce our overall recycling needs. Which is what we all have to do if there is too much plastic in the world. For the minimal plastic you should be bringing into your house, recycle it and hope it doesn't go into a landfill where it will leech toxins. In PEI it will likely be incinerated and go directly into our air.

I just wish people would get this. This is not a controversial topic anymore, it's simple reality.

CBC Prince Edward Island

January 5 at 4:00am

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In total, the city plans to ship out between 10 and 12 tractor-trailer loads of plastic.

via CBC Nova Scotia



plastics-out-of-province-dump-china-ban-1.4472714

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NS Environment Minister approves letting Halifax ship its garbage mountain of trash bags to a Nova Scotia landfill in West Hants. The department of environment announced the temporary exemption in provincial recycling law on Friday. Several hundred tonnes of Halifax's plastic bags have been rotting (or whatever plastics do) at a storage facility since last August, as a result of China's decision to no longer import recyclables due to "environmental and health concerns". If China has these concerns is this really what we went here at home in Nova Scotia? Just moving the problem from one part of the province to another?

"This is only a temporary measure," minister Iain Rankin said in an accompanying press release. "Nova Scotia is a leader in recycling and waste diversion, and we will continue to be."

The municipality, and West Hants landfill operator Green for Life, had requested a temporary reprieve from the province to skirt laws banning recyclable materials in Nova Scotia landfills. The change lasts for six months and only applies to the Halifax Regional Municipality's dumping of plastic shopping bags and the plastic wrap around commercial products such as toilet paper and water bottles.

When that took too long, the municipality started sending its 300 tonnes of recyclable plastics to an out-of-province dump. As reported elsewhere, three tractor-trailer loads of plastics have already been shipped.

The municipality refused to disclose where the materials were going, other than it was potentially "even further west than Ontario."

According to CBC, the municipality has found a recycling source for newly trashed film plastics, but the materials in storage were too degraded for that option.

Halifax's manager of solid waste, Matt Keliher, writes in today's release that putting the film plastics in a landfill is a last resort: "We have been actively looking for new markets and will continue to do that in the months to come."

Prior to China's announcement last year, 80 percent of the city's recyclables were sent to Asia.

According to Friday's press release, "other applications for a variance will be considered promptly."

HALIFAX

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Item No. 13.1

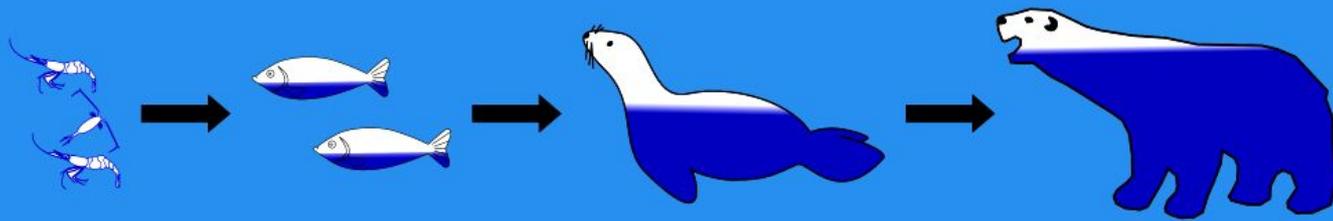
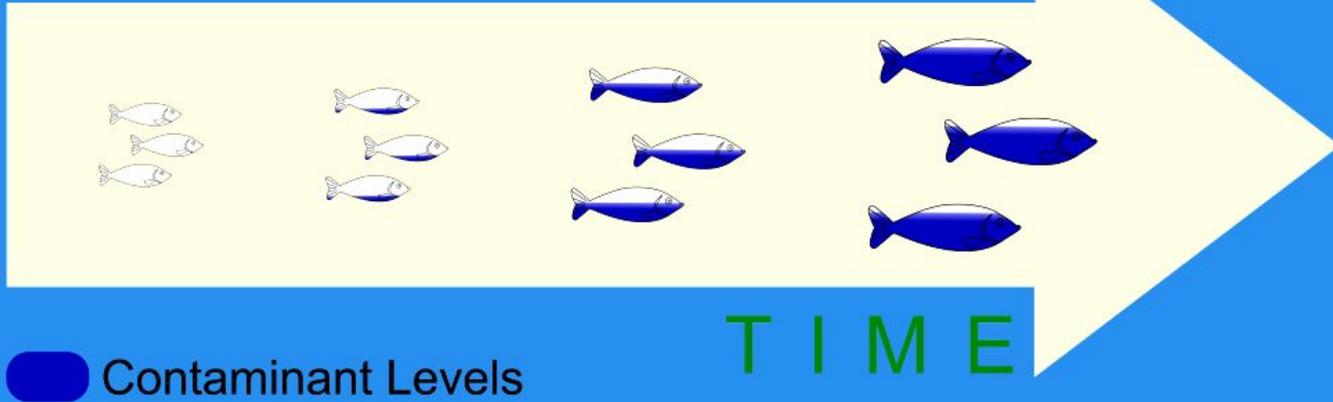
Request for Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Meeting: February 2, 2017		
Subject: Plastic Shopping Bags		
Motion for Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to Consider:		
<p>The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report to look at various options to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags in the municipality. The report should include options such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A complete ban- Partial ban, including alternatives such as paper bags.- Impose a fee per bag use.		
<p>Reason: Many municipalities across North America are looking to phase out or eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags. Currently, a number of businesses in HRM either do not offer plastic shopping bags or charge a fee per use. Reducing or eliminating the use of plastic bags at retail outlets would result in the reduction of plastic bag litter across the municipality.</p>		
<p>Outcome Sought: A staff report looking at the various options to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags. The report should examine the benefits and implications to businesses and consumers.</p>		
Councillor Tony Mancini		District 6

44% of all seabirds consume plastic (Barry 2009)



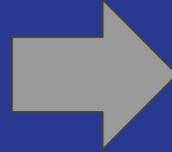
267 marine species found to be affected by plastic pollution, often confusing it for jellyfish or other prey (Barry 2009).

Bioaccumulation

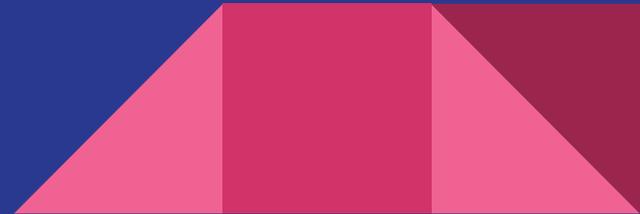


Contaminant Levels

Biomagnification

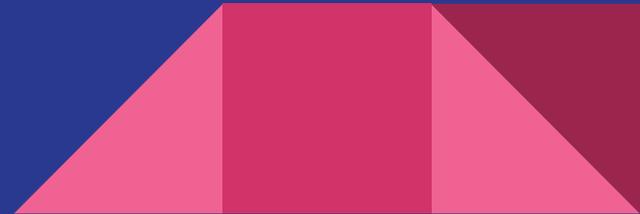


Mussels off the coast of Halifax have been found to have 10-80 pieces of plastic/10 grams in them (Anderson et al. 2016)





Takes 10-1000 years to biodegrade in landfills, and even once they biodegrade microfibres of the plastic are still an issue, especially in marine environments



Anderson, J. C., Park, B. J., & Palace, V. P. (2016). *Microplastics in aquatic environments: Implications for canadian ecosystems*
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2016.06.074>

Barry, Caroline (2009 August 20). Plastic breaks down in the ocean after all- and fast. *National Geographic*.
<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/08/090820-plastic-decomposes-oceans-seas.html>

Sustainable Freight (2017). Emission Calculator. Retrieved from
<http://www.sustainablefreight.com.au/tools-and-programs/emission-calculators>

