

## MAY 4, 2016 NOTES AND ACTION PLAN

NY/NJ Trash Free Waters Partnership is a collaborative effort across public, private and nonprofit sectors to reduce trash in all waterbodies.

EPA Region 2 Challenge: ZERO TRASH LOADING TO SURFACE WATERS WITHIN 10 YEARS.

### Notes from Breakout Brainstorming Session:

Imagine it's 2026 and no trash entering our waters, how did we get there? What are the elements of a successful plastics program? Lessons Learned? Why was it engaging? Who was involved? How do you know your program is working?

Using the above prompt questions, we broke into 3 subgroups (plastic bags, plastic bottles and litter abatement).

Big Picture Themes, Ideas and Resources:

### *What are the elements of successful plastics reduction program?*

- Work with multiple partners (listed separately below)
- Involve children and student groups (e.g., school environmental club)
- Ease burden on township employees and township resources – use volunteers
- Data driven – use proven formats like this one for carryout bags:  
<http://plasticbaglaws.org/baseline-study-of-carryout-bag-use-in-nyc/>
- Convenience and proper placement of receptacles - ex., smoking is prohibited in restaurants/bars BUT very few places have cigarette butt receptacles ; trash/recycling same day, all residents use same recycling bin and all trash bins have lids
- Raise awareness; Education about secondary plastic uses
- Signage (e.g., bring your own bag signs in grocery store parking lots)
- Positive reinforcement (e.g., ice cream certificates for increasing recycling)
- Single stream recycling (Separation/alternate collection of bottle caps)
- Enforcement of litter laws

### *Challenges*

- Enforcement
- Money
- Resistance to Change
- Laziness
- Fear from businesses that they are losing customers

- Perception that urban poor cannot manage bag fee ordinances
- Water quality and infrastructure issues such as lead

### ***Resources***

- Banthebead: [www.beatthemicrobead.org](http://www.beatthemicrobead.org)
- NJThinkOutsidetheBag
- Plasticgbaglaws.org
- NJDEP: Building Fishing Line Recycling Containers
- [http://www.nj.gov/dep/njcleanmarina/docs/bin\\_specs\\_1.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/njcleanmarina/docs/bin_specs_1.pdf)
- Californians Against Waste: <http://www.cawrecycles.org>
- Surfrider.org
- Rethinkdisposable.org
- Technological solutions (bottle alternatives)
- Hydration stations in public locations; parks, public events, etc. – Bring in MOBILE hydration station and not allow vendors to sell bottled water

### ***Legislation***

- Statewide Bottle Return Bill
- Bag Fee Bill – Longport
- Municipal Resolutions of Support
- Stormwater enforcement permits
- Microbead –Free Waters Act of 2015 - Act ONLY bans rinse off cosmetic products, such as scrubs and toothpaste. The law does not ban products such as creams, fillers and cleaning products. Read the ingredients list on the box carefully, if you see **POLYETHYLENE or POLYPROPYLENE** the product contains microbeads. SHOP SMART

### ***Partners (Sample)***

- Environmental Commissions
- Green Teams
- Trash Free Partners such as Surfrider Foundation, Clean Ocean Action, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Alliance for a Living Ocean, American Littoral Society
- Recyclers
- Enforcement agents
- Anglers/outdoor types
- DPW
- Scouts

- Businesses
- Board of Education
- School Groups (environmental clubs)
- Houses of Worships
- Youth and Senior Groups

**Next Steps: Conference Call June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



**Solutions for NJ Trash Free Waters  
ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET  
MAY 4, 2016**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Choose one goal/project you will work on in your community.**
  
- Identify the resources you will need.**
  
  
  
- What challenges might you encounter?**
  
  
  
  
- Select people in your community and Trash Free Waters NJ partners that can help you in some way and how/when you will approach them.**
  
  
  
  
- What is the first step you will take when you return to your town?**