

# **Task Force to Tackle Plastics**

Meeting 1

October 5<sup>th</sup> 2018

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- Introductions and norms of collaboration
- “Why We’re Here” presentation
- “The Plastics Problem” presentation
- Discussion of guiding principles
- Objectives and path forward

## Norms of collaboration

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1. Be respectful of and open to all points of view
2. Seek common ground as we are here to work together toward a particular vision for the state
3. Share talk time, so that everyone can participate and no one dominates
4. Limit contributions to being on topic and constructive
5. Be on time for meetings
6. Maintain a “zero waste” meeting environment – no single use plastics!

# Agenda

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# TACKLING PLASTICS

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION FOR MINIMIZING  
THE USE OF SINGLE-USE-PLASTICS



# The harmful side of plastics

- More plastic has been produced over the last 10 years than during the whole of the last century.
- Eight million tons of plastic are dumped into the ocean every year.
- That's a whole garbage truck per minute – and 80 percent of that comes from land-based sources.
- **Virtually every piece of plastic ever made still exists in some shape or form.**

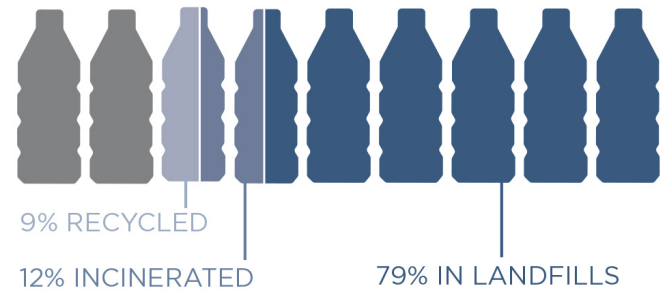


# Problems with single-use plastics

- **Currently, we only recover 5% of the plastics we produce.**
- Single-use-plastics, like straws, bottles, bags, and packaging, frequently do not make it to a landfill or recycled.
- 50% of the plastic used, is used only once and thrown away.

9.1 B TONS OF PLASTIC PRODUCED

6.9 B TONS OF PLASTIC WASTE



13.2 B TONS OF WASTE IN LANDFILL BY 2050  
*if trends continue*



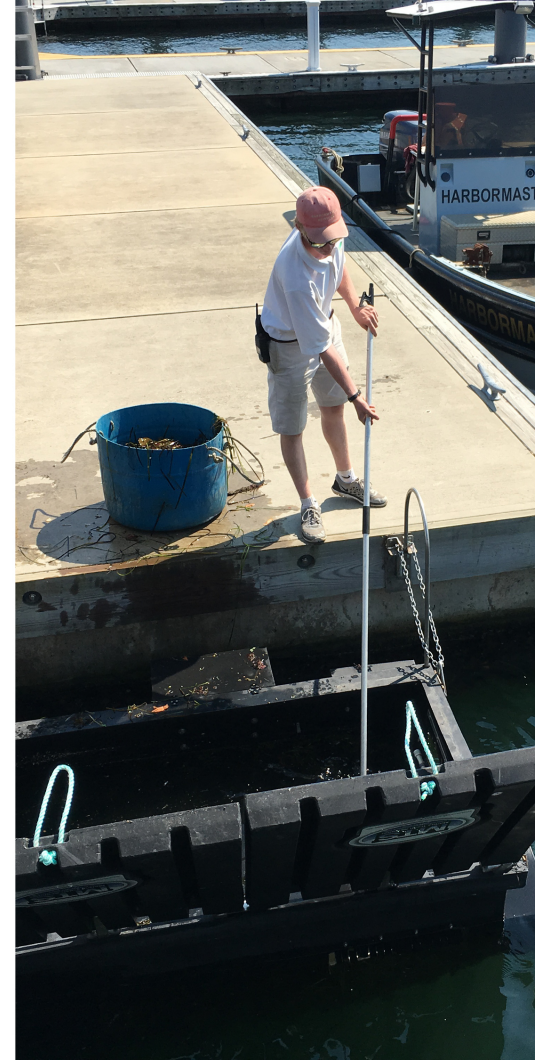
# Turning the tide on plastics in 2018

- The **Volvo Ocean Race** stopped at Fort Adams State Park this past May, attracting more than 100,000 visitors.
- Rhode Island was the first state to take the **Clean Seas Pledge**.
- The **Ocean Summit**, was so popular other host communities held summits to showcase solutions to the plastic crisis.
- Volvo Ocean Race Newport Stopover Team was recognized with the EPA's **New England 2018 Environmental Merit Award**



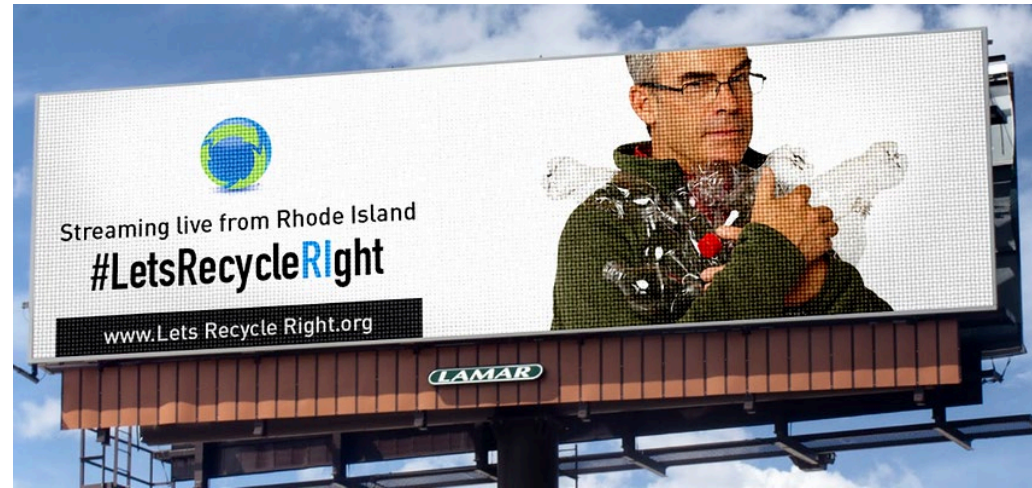


- With the **Zero Plastics Marina Initiative**, DEM along with the RI Marine Trades Association and marina operators are taking action to keep plastics out of Narragansett Bay and off our ocean coastlines.
- A voluntary effort where marinas pledge to commit to plastic prevention activities.
- Activities include plastic prevention education, plastic pollution prevention and reduction, recycling, and coastline clean-ups.



# Building on existing initiatives and work

- **Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation** kicked off an awareness campaign to help Rhode Islanders recycle right by enlisting an all-star cast.
- **Producer Responsibility Program:** Looking at opportunities for shared responsibility for products at the end of their useful life.
- **Litter Control Efforts**



# Building on existing initiatives and work

- **Rhode Island Hospitality Green Certification Program** for businesses to attain green performance standards, implement best practices, and comply with regulatory requirements.
- **Green events:** CVS Charity Classic, Volvo Ocean Race
- Several municipalities have already enacted **bans on single-use plastic bags**
- Coastal/Riverine **cleanups**



# Leadership on solving the plastic problem

- In July, Governor Gina M. Raimondo signed an **Executive Order** aimed to reduce reliance on single-use plastics that often end up in Rhode Island's waters and shoreline.
- The **Tackling Plastics Executive Order** targets single-use disposables such as shopping bags, bottles, cups and straws - along with items like six-pack rings and balloons - that become unsightly, dangerous and all-too-familiar litter on land and in coastal waters.



- Membership includes representatives from Environmental groups, Marinas and Relevant industries, state and local leaders, and state agencies

# Progress through collaboration

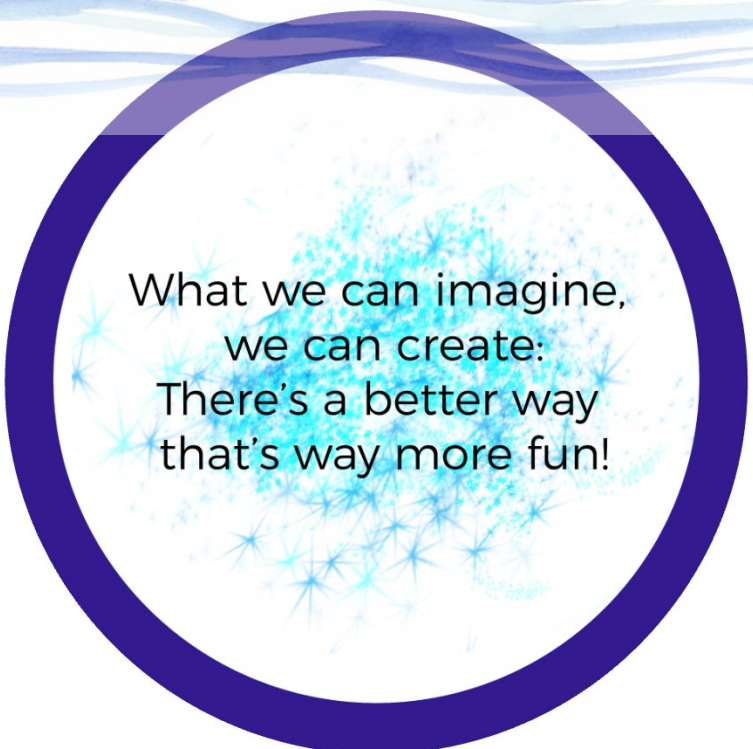
This collaboration will help us make meaningful progress in creating a comprehensive, source-reduction approach to address the problems associated with single-use plastics and packaging to create a stronger, safer, and greener Rhode Island for future generations.



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# UPSTREAM

Real Change Starts at the Source



What we can imagine,  
we can create:  
There's a better way  
that's way more fun!









# PROVIDENCE Journal

## Providence sewer overflow tunnel OK, but loaded with plastic bottles

By **Richard Salit**  
Journal Staff Writer

Posted Mar 15, 2014 at 8:51 PM

For the first time since the combined sewer overflow tunnel went into service five years ago, an inspection team descended 300 feet beneath Providence to drop inside the 26-foot-wide pipeline and examine all three miles of it.



## TOP TRASH COLLECTED

**27%**  
Tiny Trash



**14%**  
Eating



**23%**  
Smoking



**21%**  
Drinking



**3%**  
Fishing



**11%**  
Other



|   |   |  |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>42,124</b><br>Plastic and foam pieces less than 2.5 cm | <b>22,435</b><br>Food wrappers<br>Plates<br>Plastic utensils<br>Take-out containers | <b>36,575</b><br>Cigarette butts<br>Wrappers<br>Cigar tips | <b>32,426</b><br>Plastic bottles<br>Glass bottles<br>Cans<br>Caps<br>Straws, stirrers | <b>5,024</b><br>Line<br>Nets<br>Ropes<br>Cages<br>Buoys | <b>17,953</b><br>See list at right. |
|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|

### TINY TRASH IS A BIG PROBLEM!

Plastics never go away; they just break down into tinier and tinier pieces that end up being ingested by marine life, and, in turn, us humans. These "microplastics" are found in plankton, arctic sea ice, and the gills and digestive tracts of the seafood we humans eat. How much plastic do YOU want to eat?



## UNUSUAL ITEMS



- INDUSTRIAL BAGS OF RICE
- NEEDLE NOSE PLIERS
- DENTURES
- SHRIMP COCKTAIL PLATTER
- TENT POLE
- 2 USB DRIVES



## ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

|   |                |        |
|---|----------------|--------|
| Cigarette Butts                           | 34,036         | 21.74% |
| Plastic Pieces                            | 19,180         | 12.25% |
| Glass Pieces                              | 13,848         | 8.85%  |
| Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)        | 12,118         | 7.74%  |
| Foam Pieces                               | 9,096          | 5.81%  |
| Bottle Caps (plastic)                     | 8,531          | 5.45%  |
| Beverage Bottles (plastic)                | 4,764          | 3.04%  |
| Beverage Cans                             | 4,446          | 2.93%  |
| Straws, Stirrers                          | 4,543          | 2.90%  |
| Beverage Bottles (glass)                  | 4,205          | 2.69%  |
| Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)     | 3,847          | 2.46%  |
| Other Plastic/Foam Packaging              | 3,666          | 2.34%  |
| Other Plastic Bags                        | 3,237          | 2.07%  |
| Grocery Bags (plastic)                    | 2,856          | 1.82%  |
| Bottle Caps (metal)                       | 2,854          | 1.82%  |
| Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)             | 2,161          | 1.38%  |
| Cups, Plates (plastic)                    | 2,081          | 1.33%  |
| Lids (plastic)                            | 1,842          | 1.18%  |
| Cups, Plates (foam)                       | 1,596          | 1.02%  |
| Paper Bags                                | 1,468          | 0.94%  |
| Forks, Knives, Spoons                     | 1,452          | 0.93%  |
| Cups, Plates (paper)                      | 1,404          | 0.90%  |
| Tobacco Packaging/Wrap                    | 1,215          | 0.78%  |
| Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)        | 1,148          | 0.73%  |
| Cigar Tips                                | 1,004          | 0.64%  |
| Construction Materials                    | 904            | 0.58%  |
| Balloons                                  | 835            | 0.53%  |
| Take Out/Away Containers (foam)           | 778            | 0.50%  |
| Strapping Bands                           | 735            | 0.47%  |
| Fishing Net & Pieces                      | 655            | 0.42%  |
| Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.) | 458            | 0.29%  |
| Fishing Buoys, Pots and Traps             | 454            | 0.29%  |
| Fireworks                                 | 332            | 0.21%  |
| Cigarette Lighters                        | 320            | 0.20%  |
| Tampons/Tampon Applicators                | 310            | 0.20%  |
| Diapers                                   | 255            | 0.16%  |
| 6-Pack Holders                            | 221            | 0.14%  |
| Other Trash (Clean Swell)                 | 196            | 0.13%  |
| Condoms                                   | 167            | 0.11%  |
| Syringes                                  | 113            | 0.07%  |
| Tires                                     | 96             | 0.06%  |
| Fishing Gear (Clean Swell)                | 68             | 0.04%  |
| Toys                                      | 64             | 0.04%  |
| Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.) | 50             | 0.03%  |
| Other Packaging (Clean Swell)             | 37             | 0.02%  |
| Personal Hygiene (Clean Swell)            | 31             | 0.02%  |
| <b>Total Pieces of Trash</b>              | <b>156,537</b> |        |



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Big Oil, Bad Air

## As drilling ravages Texas' Eagle Ford Shale, residents 'living in a Petri dish'

Health worries take a back seat in South Texas oil boom

By [Jim Morris](#)  [Lisa Song](#)  [David Hasemyer](#)  6:00 am, February 18, 2014 Updated: 4:53 pm, December 17, 2014



Text NEWS to 77453 for Alerts




### Several injured when car plows into S.A. bus stop (graphic)

Toddler who died ID'd

Austin's maker o



Tiger Woods' Daughter Was a Cute Kid, but What She Looks Like Now is Int   
Ad by StyleGoop

## Oil-boom wealth a mixed blessing for Eagle Ford's school districts

By [Lindsay Kastner](#) Updated 1:34 am CDT, Sunday, September 16, 2012







# ETHYLENE CHAIN



Every choice  
has a consequence





Give everything  
the time  
it deserves



What we can imagine,  
we can create:  
There's a better way  
that's way more fun!



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OZZI IS THE ONLY COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM REPLACING DISPOSABLES AND CONSIDERED THE VANGUARD OF WASTE REDUCTION.



# UPSTREAM

Real Change Starts at the Source

Jamie Rhodes, UPSTREAM Program Director,  
Hermit & Alchemist



[jamie@upstreampolicy.org](mailto:jamie@upstreampolicy.org); 401-225-3441

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# Objectives and working groups

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## Task force objectives

- Explore and recommend legislative options related to specific types of plastics, including
  - Plastic bags
  - Plastic bottles
- Establish a plastics “Lead by Example” challenge
- Compile ideas and messaging to be used in education and outreach related to plastics
- Explore and encourage innovation related to plastics alternatives
- Compile an inventory of the work to date throughout the state related to plastics and recommend work to be done following the conclusion of the task force

## Working groups

1. Legislative solutions
2. “Lead by Example” challenge
3. Education
4. Innovation
5. Inventory

## Next two task force meetings

- November 14: 9-10:30 (location TBD)
- December 14: 9-10:30 (location TBD)