

Action Plan of Marine Debris Governance in Taiwan¹ (1st edition)

2018 February

**By the “Marine Debris Governance Platform” in Taiwan
(Environmental Protection Administration & NGO Alliance)**

¹ Original text can be found [here](#) (written in Chinese)

1. Introduction

The Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) and Taiwan environment NGOs worked together to establish the “Marine Debris Governance Platform” in July 2017. After intensive information exchange and discussion, they realized the complexity and severity of marine debris in Taiwan as well as the difficulty that such a problem cannot be solved alone by any single organization. Together they developed this action plan and will work to reduce the production of and the impact caused by marine debris.

2. Objective

To make sure the ‘ongoing actions’ are constantly in progress and to execute the ‘future actions’ to efficiently reduce the generation of marine debris and mitigate its impact on the ocean environment.

3. Timeline

- (1) The action plan will be carried out from 2018 to 2022 (tentative)
- (2) The action plan will be reviewed once every two years. The relevant parties will hold workshops to review and update the action plan.
- (3) Update progress every six months and confirm the work plan.

4. Overview of the action plan

- (1) Source reduction
- (2) Prevention and removal
- (3) Monitoring and surveying
- (4) Outreach and public participation (enhance multi-party collaboration and expand civic participation)

5. Action plan details

(1) Source reduction

A. Policy

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
1.1.O-1	Restriction on the use of plastic shopping bags and disposable utensils in 2002	EPA
1.1.O-2	Restriction on overpackaging in 2005	
1.1.O-3	Restriction on the use of plastic trays and package boxes in 2007	
1.1.O-4	Reduce disposable to-go cups in 2011	
1.1.O-5	Expand the restriction on plastic shopping bags and disposable utensils in 2017	
1.1.O-6	Restrictions on personal care and cosmetic products containing plastic microbeads in 2017	
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
1.1.F-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction or restriction of SUP(Single Use Plastic): - Announce a timeline on reducing or removing SUP (e.g. bubble tea cups, plastic straws, disposable utensils, plastic bags etc.) and steps; push for relevant policies to reduce plastics - Develop measures to promote reusable containers and utensils, and establish a reusable-friendly environment <p>*Proposed timeline to remove SUP: 4 plastic items (plastic bags, to-go cups, plastic straws and disposable utensils) will be discussed to expand the scope of restricted measures and materials in 2020 and straws will be the first to be limited in 2019. Next, there will be a charge for to-go purchases of these 4 items in 2025. In 2030, these 4 items will be totally banned.</p>	Lead: EPA Partner: NGO
1.1.F-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the hotel ecolabel criterion - Reduction of single use toiletries in hotels. Invite NGOs to public hearings for the hotel ecolabel criterion revision. 	Lead: EPA, Tourism Bureau Partner: NGO
1.1.F-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the efficiency of public drinking fountains - EPA to supervise all cities and counties to maintain the facilities and the quality of water; develop plans to increase the use of drinking fountains; based on these measures, the EPA will then evaluate the need to increase facilities in potential areas 	Lead: EPA, six major city governments Partner: NGO

1.1.F-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of 'reduce plastic' zones: - Subsidize local governments in promoting policies on 'reduce plastic' commercial zones 	Lead: EPA Partner: local governments, NGO
1.1.F-5*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alternatives to aquaculture equipment - Styrofoam is used in oyster farming. Alternatives should be developed to prevent it from becoming marine debris 	Lead: EPA, Fisheries Agency Partner: NGO, fishermen's association, academics

*To be decided

B. Corporate responsibility

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
1.2.O-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporations' voluntary reduction of plastics and promotion of biodegradable plastic packaging 	Partner: NGO
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
1.2.F-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circular economy and zero waste - Zero waste design on packages or containers and include this in relevant circular economy policies; promote the R&D on relevant skills 	Lead: EPA, MoE Partner: NGO
1.2.F-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodegradable labels - Develop zero waste strategies. Establish a system and regulations for biodegradable product label certification and promote the use and recognition of such labeled products 	Lead: EPA, MoE Partner: NGO
1.2.F-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero waste biological cycle - Government to cooperate with civic groups to establish recycling system of zero waste products (It is suggested to start from cities with well-developed kitchen waste treatment system) 	Lead: EPA, six major municipal governments Partner: NGO
1.2.F-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct clean oceans exhibitions to encourage corporations to reduce plastic packaging 	Lead: NGO with government subsidy

C. Educate and engage public participation

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
1.3.O-1 1.3.O-2 1.3.O-3 1.3.O-4 1.3.O-5 1.3.O-6 1.3.O-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # plastic-free September - 100 plastic-free school fairs (Aug 2017 to July 2018) - No bottled water during the Universiade (Aug 2017) - Sustainable shops map - Million-dollar green action - Campaigns carried out by different environmental NGOs - Plastic-free primary schools 	NGO
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
1.3.F-1*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic-free trip to Xiaoliuqiu 	Lead: local government Partner: NGO

*To be decided

(2) Prevention and removal

A. Effectively remove debris from hotspots

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
2.1.O-1	- Mechanically or manually remove waste in certain ports	Ports cooperation, Fishermen's Association
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
2.1.F-1*	- Port authority to take responsibility to clean up wastes, purchase necessary equipment or remove floating marine debris	Lead: Maritime Bureau Partner: EPA, Fisheries Agency, Fishermen's Association
2.1.F-2	- Encourage more fishing vessels to assist in cleaning up floating marine wastes and aim to recruit 5,000 fishing vessels to participate in environmental protection fleet in five years	Lead: EPA, Fisheries Agency, Fishermen's Association
2.1.F-3	- Train volunteers with scuba diving skills and encourage them to assist in underwater wastes removal in a correct and safe manner	Partner: NGO

*To be decided

B. Prevent waste entering oceans

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
2.2.O-1	- Capture of riverine litter and collect information	EPA
2.2.O-2	- Regular checkups on waste management facilities in coastal area and river banks	Lead: EPA Partner: local governments
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
2.2.F-1	- Establish database of litter captured in Taiwan's rivers - Estimate riverine litter in Taiwan - Collect data on litter in rivers in coastal counties - Identify three priority rivers for data collection and litter removal	Lead: EPA Partner: Water Resources Agency
2.2.F-2*	- Develop plan to reduce and remove litter in waterways	Lead: EPA Partner: Water Resources Agency and

		local governments
2.2.F-3	- Increase the recycling of plastic containers to prevent their entering into the environment	Lead: EPA Partner: local governments
2.2.F-4	- Disclose map of EPA landfill sites	Lead: EPA Partner: NGO
2.2.F-5	- Transfer wastes from off-shore islands to Taiwan - EPA to subsidize the transfer of wastes from off-shore islands to Taiwan; local governments to execute marine debris removal and transfer, and to enhance recycling locally	Lead: EPA Partner: local governments and NGO
2.2.F-6*	- Encourage the recycling of derelict fishing gear and nets - Set up storage places for fishing gear in ports - Work with recycling and cleaning companies to regularly remove the gear and explore methods to reuse this derelict gear - Encourage fishermen to bring waste to land	Lead: Fisheries Agency and EPA Partner: Fishermen's Association, NGO, local governments
2.2.F-7	- Enhance waste management on boats and ships, including the navy, coast guard and fishing sector to bring wastes back on shore	Lead: Ministry of National Defense, Coastal Guard, Fisheries Agency, EPA Partner: Fishermen's Association
2.2.F-8	- Improve waste management in coasts and rivers; residences in these areas to not dump illegally	Lead: EPA Partner: local governments

*To be decided

C. Educate and engage public participation

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
2.3.O-1	- Coastal cleanup website	EPA
2.3.O-2 2.3.O-3 2.3.O-4 2.3.O-5	- Other campaigns by NGO: - Coastal cleanup - Xiaoliuqiu beach money - Strawless March - Street cleanups	NGO
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
2.3.F-1	- Identify priority coasts - Identify beaches to be cleaned with the coastal cleanup	EPA

	website and coordinate civil society organizations and local governments to conduct beach cleanups	
2.3.F-2	- Continue coastal cleanup on marine debris hotspots	NGO

(3) Monitoring and surveying

A. Monitor pollution on Taiwan coastline and in nearby oceans

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
3.1.O-1	- Civil society organizations to regularly monitor marine debris on certain coastlines	NGO
3.1.O-2	- Research on wildlife (whales and dolphins) affected by marine debris	
3.1.O-3	- From land to ocean: cross-continental research plan	
3.1.O-4	- Global research project on micro-plastic pollution in salt	
3.1.O-5	- Survey on the use of disposable plastics in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Korea	
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
3.1.F-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research on the source of coastal wastes - Local governments to continue coastal cleanup and report basic data - Local governments to identify one spot and research the components and sources of marine debris 	Lead: EPA, National Parks or scenic area Administration, Forestry Bureau Partner: local governments
3.1.F-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beach survey - First beach survey to be held in June 2018 to survey current status of pollution in Taiwan coastline 	NGO
3.1.F-3*	- Research on marine debris and its influence on biology and ecology	Academics, NGO, Forestry Bureau, National Park Administration, Fisheries Agency
3.1.F-4*	- Research on marine debris and its influence on local economy	National Park Administration, academics, NGO
3.1.F-5*	- Research on mass dumping in rivers	EPA, Water Resources Agency
3.1.F-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigations of microplastics in the coastal areas of Taiwan - Collecting and analyzing microplastics in water, sediments and biota of 7 culture zones and 2 beaches in Taiwan. - Investigations of microfibers in the drinking water of 	Lead EPA

	Taiwan - Collecting and analyzing microfibers in drinking water treatment plants in Taiwan.	
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B. Educate and engage public participation

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
3.2.O-1	- Love the ocean trip - marine debris platform (to collect and publish database of ICC - International Coastal Cleanup)	NGO
3.2.O-2	- Continue to engage the public to monitor marine debris	NGO and EPA

(4) Outreach and public participation

A. Enhance relationships among multiple stakeholders

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
4.1.O-1	- Marine debris management platform	EPA and NGO
4.1.O-2	- Hold regular workshops in and outside the country to exchange experiences (e.g. 2017 marine debris forum)	All
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
4.1.F-1	- Actively participate in experience exchanges and forums in Southeast Asia	All
4.1.F-2	- Participate in global forums	All
4.1.F-3	- Dialogue with marine waste management in China (e.g. through APEC, RCEP, city-to-city MoUs or exchanges between civil society organizations)	NGO
4.1.F-4	- Empower government and civil servants through their awareness of the urgency and seriousness of the issue	All

B. Raise public awareness and attention in society

No.	Ongoing Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
4.2.O-1 4.2.O-2 4.2.O-3	- Screening of 'A Plastic Ocean' from Aug 2017 to Aug 2018 - Tour of plastic creatures - 'Find back the waste' tour	NGO
No.	Future Actions	Lead Agency/Partner
4.2.F-1	- EPA to sponsor education programs on marine debris: - EPA to subsidize environmental education programs on marine debris	EPA