

Ottawa Water Study Action Group
Participant feedback after screening of The Story of Plastics
April 22, 2020

Overall impressions

- Completely overwhelmed by the extent of all the problems
- Not new info but seeing it all at once was powerful
- Focusing on the world wide situation which makes sense because all of us are affected by the problem
- I've always had my doubts about how much plastic is really being recycled and after watching that movie they have been confirmed and then some.
- Plastic waste should be dealt with in the country where it takes place
- Companies generously help with clean-up but don't take responsibility for that waste
- We need to build a zero-waste economy
- Loved the movie we all learned something
- Impressed by the movie, need a systematic approach, we have become a disposable society
- Supply is pushing this
- Difficulties in the recycling system
- Reduce the inequality in society; there would be no recycling if there was no poverty
- Build on what we are for instead of what we don't want
- Burning plastic was disturbing
- Still building all these new plants for fracking
- In Alberta the oil workers need a just transition from the oil jobs

Ideas for taking action

- (5 comments) need to pressure on not subsidizing oil and gas; subsidies keep those industries afloat; go after oil and gas but also those that invest in them e.g. banks; get Feds to do what they said they would do and ban single use plastics; don't give bailouts to big business; Loblaws need to get to them
- (2 comments) Go to the source, i.e., the petroleum industry. Hold this industry accountable for cleaning up our plastic waste
- (2 comments) Making large corporations responsible for the plastic cleanup could inspire them to develop greater solutions; leave plastic bottles on Nestle's doorstep
- (3 comments) Put pressure on our Municipal and Provincial and Federal Governments to accelerate the legislation against single use plastics; sympathetic City Council
- It would be good to know the Canadian organizations that are either part of the problem or part of the solution (e.g., educating the public, pushing for new legislation, etc.). If OWSAG could provide any information it would be appreciated.
- Stop the plastic recycling program. It seems there are better places for our money than to help legitimize the production of plastic packaging and one-time use items
- (4 comments) Is anyone returning clamshell plastic to the stores? Send plastic back to the store; make it possible for consumers to protest packaging; takes back plastic to Farm Boy with a note saying she bought the goods not the plastic
- Suggestions for shopping where plastic packaging is not used are good to have for those who are serious about it but I don't see this as part of a large-scale solution

- (2 comments) add an incentive for consumers and manufacturers alike to think twice about their choices. People will respond more to something that affects their bottom line. We need to add a visible surcharge to all items in plastic containers/packaging, at the manufacturing and the consumer end.
- Everyone could pick one product not to take one item home in plastic - same product all at once
- (3 comments) Potential for Ottawa to be a Zero Waste Community; watched Valerie at Nu Grocery and how to shop Zero Waste; locally raise the profile of Nu Grocery
- Educate others