

# Single-Use Plastics

*"Think about it. Why would you make something that you're going to use for a few minutes out of a material that's basically going to last forever, and you're just going to throw it away. What's up with that?"* **Jeb Berrier, [BagIt Movie](#)**

# Single-use plastics found on our beaches

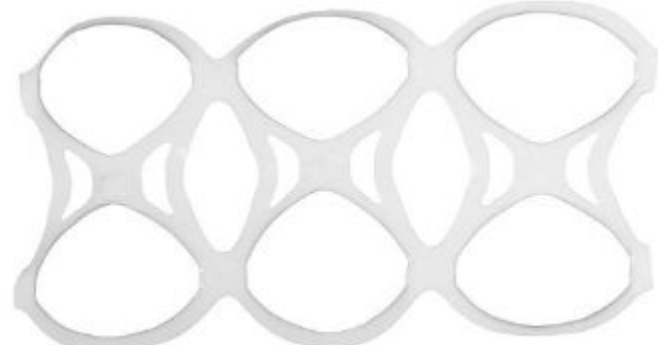
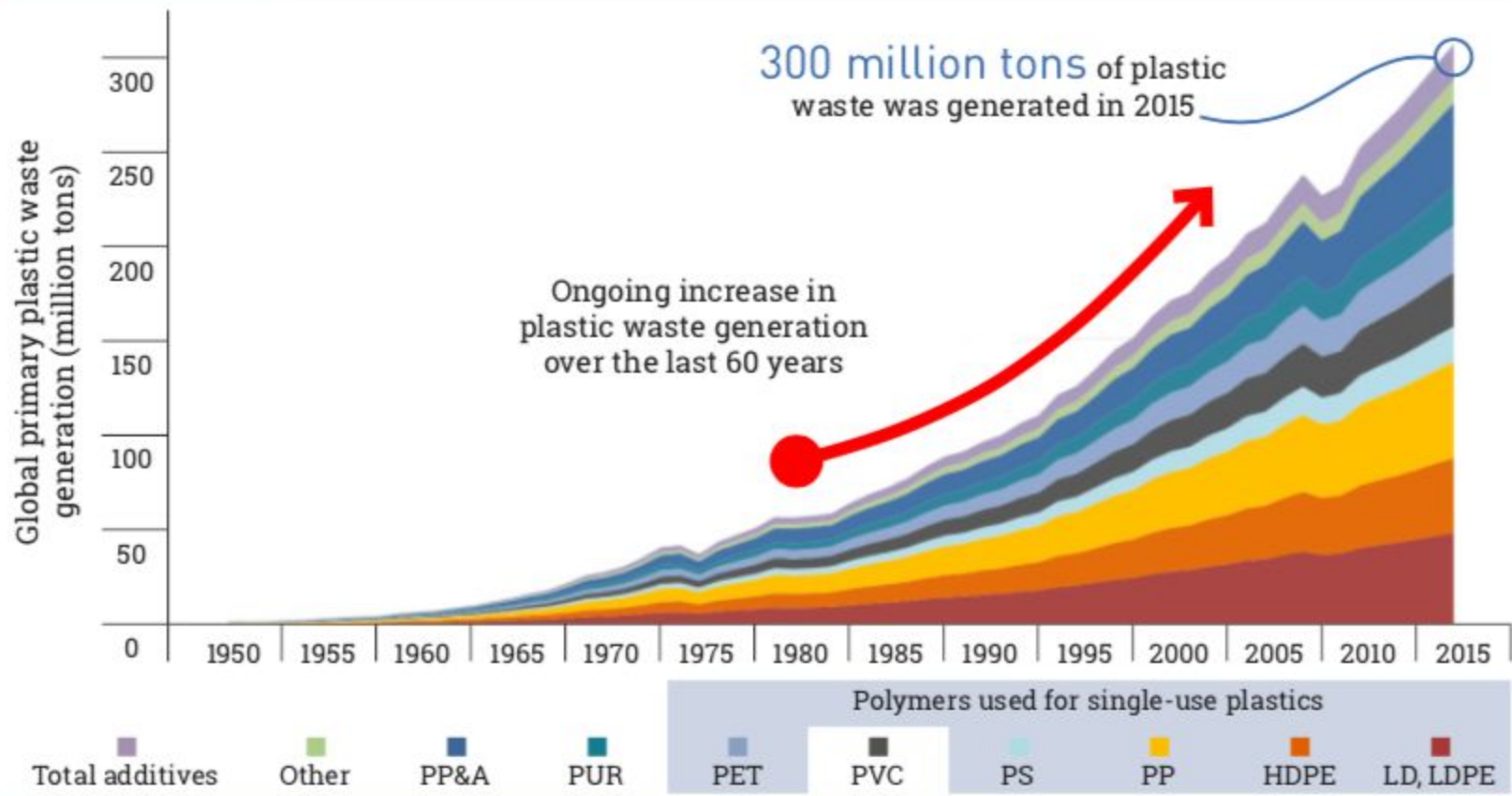


Figure 1.4. Global primary plastics waste generation, 1950 - 2015<sup>16</sup>



Source: Adapted from Geyer, Jambeck, and Law, 2017

# Single use plastics have devastating environmental consequences



# What can we use instead?

Paper plastic lined coffee to-go cup with plastic lid



Metal reusable coffee to-go mug with silicone lid



Plastic check-out bag



Jute bag





Plastic straws



Bamboo straws



Styrofoam take-out food container



Paper take-out food container





Plastic bottled water



Stainless steel  
Water bottle



# Is recycling the answer?

## Less than 10% of plastics is recycled

Due to contamination that makes it useless, and consumers who throw it away.

BC does recycle a high percentage of what is collected in the Blue boxes, but most never makes it into the boxes.

Despite more public awareness campaigns about recycling over the past 25 years, the rate has decreased.

Reduce Rethink Reuse



# Are compostable plastics the answer?

To breakdown compostable plastics need high temperatures. No facilities exist on Vancouver Island that can do this, and there are few anywhere in BC.

This means they end up in landfills or the ocean where they have just as serious environmental effects as regular plastics.

Most are made from plant material. Growing plants to make plastics will take land from food production.

If compostable plastics are mixed with normal plastics they cannot be recycled.

Single-use plastics are starting to be banned around the world for example: The European Union 2019.

# European parliament votes to ban single-use plastics

**Vote by MEPs paves way for law to come into force by 2021 across EU**



▲ The directive will target common beach litter as well as polystyrene cups and those made from oxo-degradable

Please support us by adding styrofoam, plastic straws, plastic take-out containers and cutlery to the existing plastic bag by-law.

Members of our class visited businesses in the CRD area and got lots of support.

