

The Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter

Progress Report



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Executive Summary

Marine litter is human-created waste that has been discharged into the coastal or marine environment. Marine litter is ugly and can harm ocean ecosystems, wildlife and humans. Its effects have prompted governments, private enterprise, environmental groups and countless citizens to take action.

In March 2011, leaders from plastics organizations across the globe signed a declaration to combat marine litter. The Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter represented a public commitment by a global industry to tackle a global problem: plastics in the marine environment.

Recognizing their important role in fighting marine litter, these plastics associations have made six public commitments that are aimed at contributing to sustainable solutions. The six commitments focus on education, research, public policy, sharing best practices, plastics recycling/recovery and plastic pellet containment.

To fulfill these commitments, today there are more than 140 projects planned, underway or completed – this represents a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of projects since the Declaration announcement. The projects vary widely, from beach clean ups to global research to education campaigns.

58 associations representing 34 countries have signed the Declaration as of December 2012. The Declaration and list of signatories can be found at:
www.marinelittersolutions.com/who-we-are/joint-declaration.aspx

Introduction: Marine Litter and the Global Declaration

In March 2011, leaders from plastics organizations across the globe signed a declaration to combat marine litter. [The Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter](#) represented a public commitment by a global industry to tackle a global problem: plastics in the marine environment.

This Report provides an update on that commitment.

Marine Litter

Marine litter is human-created waste that has been discharged into the coastal or marine environment. Specifically: “Marine debris* is defined to include any anthropogenic, manufactured, or processed solid material (regardless of size) discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the environment, including all materials discarded into the sea, on the shore, or brought indirectly to the sea by rivers, sewage, storm water, waves, or winds.”

Experts estimate that up to 80% of marine litter is from land-based sources, such as poor waste management and sewage overflows. Ocean based sources include trash from boats, abandoned fishing gear and natural disasters.

Roughly 70% of marine litter, such as glass, metal and all sorts of marine equipment and other refuse, sinks to the ocean floor. The remainder floats or is suspended.

Marine litter is ugly and harms ocean ecosystems, wildlife and humans. It can injure coral reefs and bottom dwelling species and entangle or drown ocean wildlife. Some marine animals ingest the litter and choke or starve. Medical waste (such as syringes), sharp objects and large pieces of litter can pose a direct threat to humans. The economic impact of marine litter is thought to be significant.

As the scope and potential impacts of marine litter have become better understood, governments, private enterprise, environmental groups and countless citizens have taken action. Since ocean litter has no geographic or political boundaries, solutions must be global and involve international partnerships. Effective solutions focus on preventing all types of litter from entering waterways and oceans.

* This is the international consensus definition of “marine litter” used in this report. Source: <http://5imdc.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/honolulustrategy.pdf> (The terms “litter” and “debris” are used interchangeably.)

The Declaration

Marine litter consists of all sorts of materials – but many plastics float, making them more visible, and many also are resistant to degradation and persist in the marine environment. Plastics makers and processors have long been involved in efforts to reduce plastic marine litter, from conducting research to enhancing product stewardship to cleaning up beaches.

To leverage these efforts and to generate additional innovative solutions, 47 plastics associations from regions across the globe signed the Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter in March 2011.

The Declaration, signed at the 5th International Marine Debris Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, identified six commitments (described in more detail below) that will contribute to sustainable solutions. Signatories later identified numerous specific actions – from educational campaigns to increased plastics recycling – designed to fulfill these commitments, and they agreed to track and report progress. Additional associations subsequently signed the Declaration, and today there are more than 140 projects planned, underway or completed – this represents a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of projects since the Declaration announcement.

Signatories use the Declaration as a framework for action, in cooperation with governments, non-governmental organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders.

“Marine litter is a global problem, and it requires global solutions,” said Vice President of Plastics for the American Chemistry Council Steve Russell when announcing the Declaration, predicting that it would “generate the creative spark that launches innovative solutions.”

“Plastics should not be part of the oceans, and marine litter is not acceptable,” said President of PlasticsEurope Jacques van Rijckevorsel. While plastics contribute significantly to our quality of life, resource preservation and innovation, “they should be responsibly used and disposed of either via recycling or energy recovery,” he said.

To date, 58 associations representing 34 countries have signed the Declaration. The Declaration and list of signatories can be found at:

www.marinelittersolutions.com/who-we-are/joint-declaration.aspx

Commitments Made Under the Declaration

Humans cause marine litter – and humans have the power to stop it. This humble recognition has spurred people across the globe to fight the scourge of marine litter.

Plastics associations recognize their important role in fighting marine litter and have made six public commitments that contribute to solutions, coupled with more than 140 projects to fulfill the commitments. These commitments focus primarily on the plastics portion of marine litter. Success will require sustained, good faith cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders.

The project examples listed below are from the section of the report below titled “Projects Underway – A Snapshot.” More detailed information on these and all 140+ projects is available at www.marinelittersolutions.com and from the Declaration’s signatories.

1. Contribute to solutions by working in public-private partnerships aimed at preventing marine litter.

The focus of this commitment is **education**. By raising awareness of the problem and highlighting steps people are taking to combat it, this commitment can help change the behavior that leads to marine litter.

Projects include:

- Participation by plastics value chain in European Union consortium to raise awareness of marine litter throughout Europe (MARLISCO)
- Coastal cleanups in South Africa
- Anti-littering music video parody of “Gangnam Style” song in Malaysia

2. Work with the scientific community and researchers to better understand and evaluate the scope, origins and impact of and solutions to marine litter.

The focus of this commitment is **research**. While the general scope of the marine litter problem is ostensibly apparent, studies are needed to determine the actual impacts of plastic marine litter, how marine litter enters the ocean and how to prevent it.

Projects Include:

- Financial and expert support for scientific research under a United Nations framework (GESAMP) on the impacts of “micro-plastics” in the oceans
- University-led study on plastic pellets on beaches in a port in Brazil
- Impact of degradable plastics in the marine environment near Australia

3. Promote comprehensive science-based policies and enforcement of existing laws to prevent marine litter.

The focus of this commitment is advocacy for effective *public policy*. Government policies – and the way they are or are not enforced – have a huge impact on the prevalence of litter in the oceans, so advocating effective and efficient policies can spur cleanups and prevent marine litter.

Projects include:

- European plastics value chain supporting the “Zero Plastics to Landfill by 2020 in Europe” vision.
- Promoting the marine litter issue to the National Agenda in Malaysia
- Supporting reauthorization of federal marine litter legislation and funding in the USA

4. Help spread knowledge regarding eco-efficient waste management systems and practices, particularly in communities and countries that border our oceans and watersheds.

The focus of this commitment is sharing *best practices*. While individual projects may vary from place to place, sharing successes – and the knowledge that comes with them – helps industry, government and others understand what actually works to prevent marine litter.

Projects include:

- Annually convening European industry, government, scientists and waste experts to share best practices in recycling and recovery (IDENTIPLAST)
- Spreading learnings from the rest of world to plastics makers and customers in the United Arab Emirates
- Collaborating with the Sustainable Packaging Coalition on a recycling label to increase plastic wrap, bag and film recycling in the USA

5. Enhance opportunities to recover plastic products for recycling and energy recovery.

The focus of this commitment is ***recycling and recovering plastics***. Capturing plastics for recycling and recovering their energy keeps plastics out of the waste and litter streams, as well as reduces energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Projects include:

- A USA public education campaign on reducing, reusing and recycling plastic bags and film in Florida, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.
- An initiative in several European countries to evaluate the feasibility of capturing floating marine litter (Waste Free Oceans)
- Expanding public support for converting plastics to energy in Canada

6. Steward the transport and distribution of plastic resin pellets and products from supplier to customer to prevent product loss and encourage our customers to do the same.

The focus of this commitment is ***plastic pellet containment***. Many types of plastics are sold to product companies as small pellets – when spilled or released into the environment during manufacturing or transportation, these pellets can be unsightly and be mistaken for food by wildlife, so reducing pellet loss is critical.

Projects include:

- Promoting practices that prevent pellet loss through the supply chain in numerous countries (Operation Clean Sweep)
- Industry association requiring plastics makers in Brazil to meet standards on pellet containment
- Making pellet containment an integral part of product stewardship in Malaysia

Case Studies

Commitment #1 – Education

Awareness campaigns – South Africa

To raise awareness of marine litter and to encourage actions to alleviate the problem, Plastics|SA has organized, sponsored and participated in a comprehensive series of educational events in various locations throughout the country. The activities have included:

- Two Oceans marathon – educational exhibits and litter clean up during coastline running race
- African Marine Debris Conference – marine debris conference planned for African nations in June 2013
- Berg2Beach – anti-litter and recycling campaign with youths and community organizations focused on land, inland dams, rivers and the ocean
- Cape Argus PicknPay Cycle Tour – educational exhibits and litter clean up during coastline cycling race
- Clean Up South Africa Week – clean up and recycling activities in September
- Fish-line bins – discarded fishing line collection points at high density fishing areas
- International Coastal Clean Up sponsorship – clean up and recycling activities in September
- Marine and Coastal Educators Network (MCEN) – national and regional anti-litter workshops
- Recycling Day South Africa – clean up and recycling activities in September
- Rivers and Mangroves – litter clean up
- World Oceans Day – clean up and recycling activities in June

The breadth of these activities delivers anti-marine litter messages to a diverse and wide swath of the South African population.

Don't be a Litterbug campaign – Malaysia

The Malaysian Plastics Forum (MPF) has developed an anti-littering campaign named “Don't be a Litterbug” to raise awareness of the harm caused by littering on this peninsular nation. The campaign also seeks to address the littering habits of Malaysians.

The MPF solicits businesses to sign a Commitment Statement supporting the Don't be a Litterbug campaign – to date more than 100 have signed the pledge. The Campaign has created a Facebook page that posts anti-littering messaging, anti-littering videos, news

articles about littering fines, activity updates and links to other anti-littering groups. To raise awareness, the campaign produces events called “Hi-5 Me (Mother Earth)” at public locations, which have been covered in various media outlets, and also has created an advertorial for placement in news publications.

In addition, the campaign has produced a video posted on YouTube and Facebook that parodies the extremely popular song Gangnam Style by Korean rapper/pop singer PSY. The video reprimands singers who strew confetti and litter around a music stage, requiring them to clean up after themselves and to recycle plastics.

The Facebook page and video can be viewed here:

<http://www.facebook.com/DontbeaLitterbug>

Commitment #2 – Research

GESAMP research on micro-plastics – Global

Micro-plastics are relatively tiny particles of plastics that have been manufactured or reached the marine environment as litter. Micro-plastics can be ingested by marine creatures and might carry, accumulate or release chemicals or pollutants. Despite a fairly recent increase in research, significant scientific questions remain. As a global issue, the research and potential actions are best carried out at the international level.

The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), a United Nations advisory body, studies the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection.

GESAMP held a workshop in 2010 that improved understanding of the potential impact of micro-plastics, as well as potential mitigation measures. The workshop, which gathered representatives from industry, academia, nongovernmental organizations, agencies and other sectors, also identified additional research needs on micro-plastics in the marine environment.

To help maintain momentum following the workshop, signatories have agreed to provide support to GESAMP’s research on micro-plastics. The research focuses on evaluating the sources, fate and effects of micro-plastics in the marine environment. GESAMP works with scientists and policy makers in this intergovernmental setting to help ensure that science informs the development of future policy.

More information on GESAMP and micro-plastics can be found here:

www.gesamp.org/micro-plastics.

Commitment #3 – Public Policy

Australian Packaging Covenant – Australia

Plastics are used to make packaging that, if not disposed of properly, can make its way into the marine environment. Public policy designed to prevent plastic packaging from becoming marine litter can be difficult to enact, due to competing agendas, lack of resources and politics.

To create effective policy in Australia, the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) helped create and is implementing an agreement between companies in the supply chain, all levels of government and community groups “to reduce the environmental impacts of consumer packaging.”

In the collaborative effort known as the Australian Packaging Covenant, responsibility for managing the environmental impacts of packaging is shared throughout the supply chain – raw material suppliers, packaging manufacturers and suppliers, brand owners and retailers – and by consumers, waste service providers, recyclers and all levels of Australian government.

Participants will achieve the Covenant goals by:

- designing more resource efficient and recyclable packaging;
- increasing the recovery and recycling of used packaging; and
- reducing the incidence and impacts of litter, including marine litter.

Participation is voluntary, but non-participation triggers a regulatory regime and enforcement in each of the states and territories.

Nearly 900 companies have signed the Covenant, and scores of projects have removed plastics and other materials from the waste and litter stream. Due in part to the Covenant, the national recycling rate increased from 39 percent in 2003 to 63 percent in 2011.

PACIA is one of the founding industry representatives of this national initiative and a board member of the National Packaging Covenant Industry Association that manages and administers the covenant. By leveraging and aligning itself with the covenant, PACIA is able to help create broad public policy that supports the goals of the Global Declaration.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.pacia.org.au/mediacentre/NationalPackagingCovenant.aspx>

Commitment #4 – Best Practices

How2Recycle Label Campaign – USA

Thin, lightweight plastic product wraps, bags and film allow consumers and companies to do more with less: less material, less waste and fewer emissions than alternative materials. However, these items can be blown from city streets, poorly designed waste cans and landfills to the marine environment, where they can be mistaken for food by sea creatures, which can lead to choking or death.

Removing plastic wraps, bags and film from the waste/litter stream for recycling can help prevent this marine litter. And as plastics recycling grows, broadly sharing what works and what doesn't work can help improve recycling rates to remove even more plastics from the litter stream.

In 2012 the American Chemistry Council (ACC) worked with the non-profit GreenBlue's Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) to help promote a recycling label that could increase recycling of plastic wraps, bags and film.

At the time, SPC was developing "how2recycle" labels for packaging to inform consumers what can be recycled and to increase recycling. (The how2recycle label originated in the U.K. under the non-profit Waste and Resources Action Programme – WRAP.) ACC has substantial experience partnering with retailers on the collection of plastic wraps, bags and film at stores and creating communications materials to help consumers know what can be recycled. ACC also had been measuring the rates and availability of recycling of plastic wraps, bags and film, information that was essential to creating a how2recycle label for these products that complies with USA laws, regulations and guidelines.

The new label is complete and now is being used by consumer product makers to help increase recycling. A new poster used at retail stores incorporates the new label, as well.

More information can be found at www.how2recycle.info and www.plasticbagrecycling.org.



Commitment #5 – Recycling/Recovery

Half-litre Plastic Bottles: Close the Loop – The Netherlands

Monitoring of the North Sea shorelines has found that half-litre plastic (PET) beverage bottles are among the most prevalent forms of litter on tourist beaches in the Netherlands. Local authorities and the tourism sector annually spend millions of euro preventing and cleaning up beach litter – litter that also makes its way into the marine environment.

To produce a quick win solution, the Dutch Polymer Institute (DPI) and partners* have launched a program aimed at capturing half-litre bottles for recycling. Begun in September 2012, the program will determine the movement, amount and geographical spread of these bottles, identifying those that are littered and those that are not. This will provide information about why – and how many – bottles are not captured for disposal or recycling.

Each partner in the product chain (raw material producers, retailers, waste collectors, etc.) will design possible solutions to help close the recycling loop. The program will determine the feasibility of proposed solutions and then identify the appropriate partner/s to implement them. If successful, the program will capture these bottles for recycling and remove them from the litter stream.

The project will include research into the lack of collection of half-litre plastic beverage bottles and their caps for recycling. Half-litre bottles are not included in the current deposit/collection system that covers larger bottles. The Dutch Parliament currently is reviewing the deposit/collection system – in the event that the deposit system is extended to half-litre bottles, DPI's program focus may shift to other sources of plastic marine litter, such as crisp (chips) packets, balloons or plastic bags.

* Partners: Sabic, Van Gansewinkel, North Sea Foundation, Copernicus Institute (Utrecht University), DPI, DPI Value Centre, Kruidenier Food Services, IMSA Amsterdam, PlasticsEurope, NRK.

Spotlight Case Study: Operation Clean Sweep®

Commitment # 6 – Plastic pellet containment

Problem: Pellet loss

Many plastics are sold in pellet form: a small piece of plastic “resin” approximately the size of a split pea. These pellets are shipped through various means – in boxes, trucks, rail cars, barges – to companies that make products with these pellets.

Throughout this process, pellets can be spilled into the environment. If they reach waterways, they can be washed out to sea.

In recent years, researchers have reported that seabirds, turtles and fish are ingesting plastic items. Most of these plastics are used consumer products (such as bottles caps) that have been carelessly discarded. However, some of this litter consists of resin pellets that sometimes cannot pass through sea creatures’ digestive tracts, which may contribute to malnutrition and starvation.

While consumers are responsible for the proper disposal of the products they use, companies throughout the plastics supply chain also must take responsibility for keeping pellets out of the marine environment.

Response: Operation Clean Sweep

The Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) in 1992 created an education initiative in the USA to minimize pellet loss called Operation Clean Sweep that focuses on proper containment of plastic pellets. Manuals and tools designed to improve good housekeeping practices were made broadly available to companies throughout the USA that handled plastic pellets, including resin producers, transporters, bulk terminal operators and plastics processors.

The goal: achieving zero pellet loss – which is both good for the environment and good for business.

SPI and American Chemistry Council (ACC) today are working together to enhance Operation Clean Sweep through new tools, additional communications materials and expanded participation. To be successful, all employees in every aspect of the industry must be educated on the properly handling of plastic pellets. Everyone in every company, from top management to shop floor employees, must be committed to eliminating pellet loss.

SPI and ACC also supported legislation in the state of California that requires programs to reduce plastic pellet loss into the environment – legislation that is consistent with Operation Clean Sweep.

International Expansion

In addition to efforts in the USA, the goals of Operation Clean Sweep were incorporated as a commitment under the Global Declaration in March 2012. The commitment states: *Steward the transport and distribution of plastic resin pellets and products from supplier to customer to prevent product loss and encourage our customers to do the same.*

Since that time, numerous national plastics associations have launched Operation Clean Sweep in their countries by signing licensing agreements to utilize the program's tools and resources. To date, 8 countries have signed licensing agreements:

- Canada
- France
- India
- Mexico
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- United Kingdom

In addition, other national plastics associations are implementing pellet containment initiatives similar to Operation Clean Sweep that meet the Global Declaration commitment, as well as increase awareness of marine litter across the plastics value chain. Those countries include:

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Italy
- Malaysia
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Spain
- Portugal
- Sweden

For example, PlasticsEurope is undertaking an initiative called “Zero Pellet Loss” aimed at raising awareness among operating staff at plastics producer facilities. The initiative includes videos, posters and training sessions that encourage operating staff to continually look for potential sources of pellet loss and to take preventive action. Zero Pellet Loss is being rolled out to PlasticsEurope members in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Operation Clean Sweep and its counterparts have sparked a global effort designed to prevent resin pellet loss and to keep pellets out of the marine environment.

More information can be found here: <http://www.opcleansweep.org>

Projects Underway – a Snapshot

To fulfill the six public commitments of the Declaration, signatories presently are implementing more than 140 projects – this represents a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of projects since the Declaration announcement. Since some projects are implemented in more than one country, identifying an exact number is not feasible.

The following chart combines projects that were announced as part of the Global Declaration in March 2011 and subsequent projects. The projects are segregated by geographic cluster, country/region (location) and the Declaration’s six commitments. The projects status is noted if possible.

More detailed information on these projects is available at www.marinelittersolutions.com and from the Declaration’s signatories.

Note: some projects contribute to more than one commitment; however, each project is listed under only one commitment. Exceptions are marked with an asterisk* if the project elements are distinct enough to be listed under more than one commitment.

Status – November 2012

- ☑ Completed
- Ongoing
- ⦿ Planned
- ✗ Cancelled
- ⓘ Status uncertain at time of report

The Americas

Commitment	Status	Name/Project	Location
Education	○	America Recycles Day – promotes more plastics recycling	USA
Education	○	Anti-litter campaign – Keep America Beautiful (national)	USA
Education	○	Anti-litter web site/campaign (teacher/student focus)	Canada
Education	○	Earth 911 – partnership to raise awareness of/increase plastics recycling	USA
Education	⦿	Great Lakes Clean Up Partnership	Canada

Education	<input type="radio"/>	Living Classrooms – anti-litter program/river clean up (student focus)	USA
Education	<input type="radio"/>	Rozalia Project – education and marine litter clean up (youth focus)	USA
Education	<input type="radio"/>	Ship to Shore – anti-litter program (fishing industry focus)	Canada
Education	<input type="radio"/>	Sustainability Training Program (eco-design, plastics use, recovery, etc.)	Mexico
Education	<input type="radio"/>	Tales for Recycling – dramatic presentation (student focused)	Mexico
Research	<input type="radio"/>	Measuring marine litter	Brazil
Research	<input type="radio"/>	Measuring pellets found at port	Brazil
Research	<input type="radio"/>	Micro-plastics POPs affinity study – review of existing research	USA
Research	<input type="radio"/>	Micro-plastics bioavailability of POPS study	USA
Research	<input type="radio"/>	Sea pellet decline analysis – study in North Atlantic	USA
Research	<input type="radio"/>	Support for government (NOAA) research funding	USA
Policy	<input type="radio"/>	Support legislation to spur recycling	Mexico
Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Support pellet containment legislation (California)	USA
Policy	<input type="radio"/>	Support reauthorization of marine litter legislation (federal)	USA
Best practices	<input type="radio"/>	How2Recycle label campaign	USA
Best practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plastics Recovery Seminar (Atlantic Canada)	Canada
Best practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plastics Recovery Tours (Quebec)	Canada
Best practices	<input type="radio"/>	Plastics. Too Valuable to Waste – partnership to expand recycling best practices in California	USA
Best practices	<input type="radio"/>	Reverse Logistics proposal for recycling waste	Brazil
Best practices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability Conferences – presentations on plastics recovery	Canada
Recycling/recovery	<input type="radio"/>	A Bag’s Life – campaign promotes reuse, recycling, recovery	USA
Recycling/recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural plastics recovery research	Canada
Recycling/recovery	<input type="radio"/>	Conversion technology trial (Edmonton)	Canada, USA
Recycling/recovery	<input type="radio"/>	Conversion technology trials and support	USA
Recycling/recovery	<input type="radio"/>	Expanded polystyrene (EPS) recycling partnerships (California)	USA
Recycling/recovery	<input type="radio"/>	Expanded polystyrene (EPS) recycling projects (Canada)	Canada

Recycling/recovery	○	Go Recycle Campaign (metro DC area)	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	Green Up Vermont (litter clean up)	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	www.plasticmarkets.org – connects plastics recyclers and buyers	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	Pac Next (collaboration to optimize plastic bag and film recycling/recovery)	Canada, USA
Recycling/recovery	○	www.plasticfilmrecycling.org – enhance plastic bag and film recycling	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	Plastics recycling/recovery education at conferences	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	Plastics recycling/recovery technical assistance	Canada
Recycling/recovery	☑	Plastics recycling reports	Canada
Recycling/recovery	○	Plastics recycling reports	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	Recycle Your Plastics – web site to help increase plastics recycling	USA
Recycling/recovery	○	Waste incineration feasibility study	Brazil
Pellet containment	○	Operation Clean Sweep – pellet containment program	Canada, Mexico, USA
Pellet containment	○	Zero Pellets Manual – compulsory participation in pellet containment program	Brazil

Europe, Africa, Gulf

Commitment	Status	Name/Project	Location
Education	○	Ambassador Program – education program on reducing, reusing, recycling (youth focused)	United Arab Emirates
Education	○	African Marine Debris Conference – marine debris conference for Africa	South Africa
Education	☑	Awareness seminar – sharing knowledge, establishing best practices and communications platform	Denmark
Education	○	Beach watch big weekend – beach clean up	UK
Education	○	Berg2Beach – anti-litter project focused on inland dams and rivers	South Africa
Education	○	Cape Argus PicknPay Cycle Tour – litter awareness	South Africa
Education	○	Clean the GCC – beach clean up	United Arab Emirates
Educations	○	Clean Up South Africa Week	South Africa

Education	○	Cool Seas Roadshow-Bottle Champion – conservation, anti-litter program (youth focused)	UK
Education	○	Cool Waters – awareness program in primary schools	Turkey
Education	○	Cuaderno de bitácora – Awareness program (sailing clubs focused)	Spain
Education	○	Fish-line bins – collects discarded fishing line located at high density fishing areas	South Africa
Education	○	Golletta Verde – Information campaign (citizens, public administration focused)	Italy
Education	○	Happy Fish – litter clean up	Turkey
Education	①	Innovations for Environment conference (recycling focus)	Turkey
Education	○	International Coastal Clean Up sponsorship	South Africa
Education	☑	Jonge Baekeland youth competition organized by science/nature magazine	Belgium
Education	○	Love Where You Live campaign – anti-litter initiative	UK
Education	○	Marine and Coastal Educators Network (MCEN) – national and regional workshops	South Africa
Education	✗	MARLIREC – awareness campaigns	Europe
Education	○	MARLISCO – national video competition and awareness campaign	Spain
Education	○	North Sea Partnership – identifying solutions for collecting plastic waste	Denmark
Education	☑	PAGEV international congress – industry event focused on sustainability	Turkey
Education	○	Plastics Awards competition – award for contribution to marine litter solutions	Turkey
Education	◉	Plastics in the Ocean – workshop on prevention of land-based litter	Germany
Education	○	* Plastics - too valuable to be thrown away – educational activities (citizen, public administration focused)	Croatia
Education	○	Plastimobile – plastics recycling awareness exhibit (school children focused)	Belgium
Education	○	Recycling Day SA	South Africa
Education	○	Recykling Rejs – canoe rally on river to raise awareness	Poland
Education	○	Rivers & Mangroves – litter clean up	South Africa

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sea in Not a Dump – anti-litter event	Denmark
Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seas and Beaches 2012 – summer anti-litter advertising campaign	Italy
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spiagge e Fondali Puliti – beach cleaning (sediment and seabed)	Italy
Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spiaggia 101 – litter clean up on beaches	Italy
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Oceans Marathon – educational exhibits and litter clean up	South Africa
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacances Propres – anti-litter campaign (tourism focused)	France
Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waste Free North Sea – marine litter prevention, clean up (fishing industry focused)	Belgium
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste Free Oceans – marine litter prevention, clean up (fishing industry focused)	France
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste Free Oceans – marine litter clean up (fishing industry focused)	Europe
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste Free Oceans – marine litter clean up (fishing industry focused)	Turkey
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	World Oceans Day clean up	South Africa
Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As-Made – marine litter study	Belgium
Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Sources Litter – marine litter study	Germany (Baltic, North, Mediterranean Seas)
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine Debris monitoring – partner with institutions monitoring effects of marine debris, including entanglement	South Africa
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mosa Pura – study of floating plastics in river	The Netherlands
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mussels and lugworm study – research on micro-plastics in mussels and lugworms	Belgium, France, The Netherlands
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical & Advisory Panel on Marine Debris – research assistance	South Africa
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coalition building – law enforcement cooperation with business	Turkey
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMSA North Sea Marine Litter program – government, NGOs, industry effort to combat marine litter	The Netherlands

Policy	○	Plastics Waste Management and Pollution Prevention – advocacy on improved waste and anti-pollution strategies	South Africa
Best practices	○	Ambassador Program – sharing world’s best practices with Gulf manufacturers	United Arab Emirates
Best practices	○	Coalition building – coordination of administration organizations concerned with marine litter	Belgium, The Netherlands
Best practices	○	Identiplast – European event on recycling/recovery of plastics	Europe
Best practices	○	Knowledge transfer – advanced practices on recycling/recovery shared with less advanced countries	Europe (Italy, Poland, Spain, UK)
Best practices	○	MOLOK-deep collection of waste – innovative waste collection (litter reduction) system	Finland
Best practices	○	Stash Your Stick – encourage collection fishing light sticks for recycling	South Africa
Recycling/recovery	○	Ämmässuo – energy recovery facility/project	Finland
Recycling/recovery	○	Association Plastique Environnement (APE) – anti-litter initiative (agricultural film focused)	France
Recycling/recovery	○	Framework Agreement – Government, cities, industry agreement on disposition of packaging waste	The Netherlands
Recycling/recovery	○	Half-litre plastic bottles: Close the Loop – program to capture bottles for recycling	The Netherlands
Recycling/recovery	○	Industry Waste Management Plan – actions to increase recycling rates (awaiting government approval)	South Africa
Recycling/recovery	○	Landfills away from coast – effort to discontinue use of landfill near shore	Finland
Recycling/recovery	○	New plastic packaging waste recovery routes – enhanced recycling bins and responsibilities	Finland
Recycling/recovery	○	Passive capturing of floating debris – new marine litter collection technology	Belgium
Recycling/recovery	○	* Plastics – too valuable to be thrown away – activities to increase collection of waste	Croatia

Recycling/recovery	○	Zero plastics to landfill – promotion of legislation to divert all waste from landfills for recycling/recovery	Europe
Pellet containment	○	Coastal Pellet Watch Project – quarterly monitoring of pellets and micro-plastics	South Africa
Pellet containment	○	Pellet containment program using Plastics Europe Zero Pellets Loss approach	Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden
Pellet containment	○	Operation Clean Sweep – pellet containment program	France, South Africa
Pellet containment	○	Operation Clean Sweep – pellet containment program	United Kingdom
Pellet containment	○	Yksikään pelletti ei karaka – anti-litter effort through plastics supply chain	Finland

Asia, Pacific

Commitment	Status	Name/Project	Location
Education	○	1 Malaysia Green, 1 Malaysia Clean Campaign – citizen education on reducing, reusing, recycling plastics	Malaysia
Education	○	Don't Be a Litterbug – anti-littering campaign	Malaysia
Education	○	Kerteh Beach clean up	Malaysia
Education	☑	MPMA-SCIENEX Foundation 3Rs Awareness Programme 2011 – Reduce, reuse, recycling education (student focused)	Malaysia
Education	☑	Music video – anti-littering parody of “Gangnam Style” song	Malaysia
Education	☑	National Recycling Day 2011	Malaysia
Education	☑	National Youth Day 2011 – Reduce, reuse, recycling education	Malaysia

Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Degradable Plastics Performance – study completed on impact of various degradable plastics in Australian environment	Australia
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Driftage litter – assess recovery and utilization methods of marine litter from fishing activities	Japan
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Malaysia Green, 1 Malaysia Clean Mini Lab – elevate campaign to National Agenda	Malaysia
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	* Australian Packaging Covenant – co-regulatory model for improved sustainability, recycling and litter mitigation	Australia
Best Practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	* Australian Packaging Covenant – developing and sharing packaging design improvements	Australia
Best practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	PACIA Design for Sustainability with Plastics (D4S) – advocates life cycle approach starting in packaging design stage	Australia
Best practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability in Supply Chains – guidance to drive sustainability	Australia
Best practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Plastics Recovery Guidance – principle-based policy guidance for government, industry, communities	Australia
Recycling/recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	3Rs Awareness Programme on Plastics – educate students, community recycling centres	Malaysia
Recycling/recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	5R Recycling Campaign	Malaysia
Recycling/recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	* Australian Packaging Covenant – focus on increased recycling, markets, recovery, including trial recycling projects	Australia
Recycling/recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plastics recycling survey – national, annual	Australia
Recycling/recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recast of container, packaging recycling law – more efficient recycling methods	Japan
Recycling/recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recycling system for waste expanded polystyrene (EPS) – improved fish box recycling	Japan
Recycling/recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recycling of expanded polystyrene (EPS) across New South Wales	Australia
Recycling/recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recycling of expanded polystyrene (EPS) fishing floats	Japan
Recycling/recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recycling expanded polystyrene (EPS) – focused on waste from 2011 tsunami	Japan

Pellet containment	①	Operation Clean Sweep – pellet containment program	India, Nepal
Pellet containment	○	Responsible Care program – includes education and beach clean ups	Malaysia

Global

Commitment	Status	Name/Project	Location
Research	○	GESAMP research on micro-plastics – support multinational research on occurrence and impact	United Nations

The Declaration's Countries and Participating Organizations

Countries with Declaration Signatories (34)

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy*, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal*, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland*, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America

Participating Plastics Organizations (58)

1. ACC, American Chemistry Council, Washington, D.C., USA
2. AICM, Association of International Chemical Manufacturers, Beijing, China
3. AIPMA, All India Plastic Manufacturers Association, Mumbai, India
4. AHPI, Association Hellenic Plastics Industries, Athens, Greece
5. ANAIP, Spanish Association of Plastics Industry, Madrid, Spain
6. ANAPE, Asociación Nacional de Poliestireno Expandido, Madrid, Spain
7. ANDIMAT, Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Materiales Aislantes, Madrid, Spain
8. ANIPAC, Asociación Nacional de Industrias del Plástico, Asociación Civil, Mexico City, Mexico
9. APIP, Associacao Portuguesa da Industria de Plasticos, Lisbon, Portugal
10. ASECONP, Asociación Española de Fabricantes de Contenedores Plásticos para Residuos Urbanos, Madrid, Spain
11. ASEMUPLAST, Asociación de Empresarios del sector Plástico de la región de Murcia, Spain
12. ASEPUR, Asociación Española de empresas de polyuretano, Madrid, Spain
13. ASETUB, Asociación Española de fabricantes de tubos y accesoros plasticos, Madrid, Spain
14. ASOVEN, Asociación Ventanas pvc, Madrid, Spain
15. ASPA PLAST, Romanian Plastics Processor Employers' Association, Bucharest, Romania

* These countries conduct marine litter projects and are included in the “Projects Underway – A Snapshot” section. However, they are not included in the country count because they have no Declaration signatory.

16. BAP, Bulgarian Association Polymers, Sofia, Bulgaria
17. BPF, British Plastics Federation, London, United Kingdom
18. CEP, Centro Español de Plásticos, Madrid, Spain
19. Cicloplast, Madrid, Spain
20. CIRFS, European Man-Made Fibres Association, Belgium, Brussels
21. CPA, Comité Français des Plastiques en Agriculture, Levallois Perret, France
22. CPIA, Canadian Plastics Industry Association, Mississauga, Canada
23. ECOPLAS Argentina SA, Buenos Aires, Argentina
24. Elipso, Les entreprises de l'emballage plastique et souple, Paris, France
25. Essenscia, Belgium Federation for Chemistry, Plastics and Life Sciences, Brussels, Belgium
26. EuPC, European Plastics Converter Association, Brussels, Belgium
27. EuPR, European Plastics Recyclers, Brussels, Belgium
28. EUROMAP, European Plastics and Rubber Machinery, Frankfurt, Germany
29. FAMA, Asociación de Fabricantes de Artículos Monouso Reciclables, Madrid, Spain
30. Federation de La Plasturgie, French Association of Plastic Converters, Paris, France
31. Federplast, Belgian Federation of Plastics Producers and Rubber Products, Brussels, Belgium
32. Fetrplast, Federacion Espanola de Transformadores y Manipuladores de Plasticos, Madrid, Spain
33. FTI, Federation of Thai Industries, Bangkok, Thailand
34. GPCA, Gulf Petrochemicals & Chemicals Association, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
35. HGK, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Zagreb, Croatia
36. IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V, Bad Homburg V.D.H, Germany
37. Instituto do PVC, Sao Paulo, Brazil
38. IPI, Indian Plastics Institute, Mumbai, India
39. JPIF, Japan Plastics Industry Federation, Tokyo, Japan
40. KPIA, Korea Petrochemical Industry Association, Seoul, South Korea
41. KVS, Kunststoff Verband Schweiz, Aarau, Switzerland
42. MMSZ, Association of Hungarian Plastics Industry, Budapest, Hungary
43. MPMA, Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association, Selangor, Malaysia
44. Muoviteollisuus ry, Finnish Plastics Industries Federation, Helsinki, Finland
45. NRK, Dutch Rubber & Plastics Federation, Leidschendam, The Netherlands
46. P&K, Plast och Kemiforetagen, Stockholm, Sweden
47. PACIA, Plastics and Chemical Industry Association, Melbourne, Australia
48. PAFA, Packing and Films Association, Nottingham, United Kingdom

49. PAGEV, Turkish Plastics Manufacturers Research, Development & Educational Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey
50. PlasticsEurope, European Association of Plastics Manufacturers, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium with regional centers in Frankfurt, Germany, London, United Kingdom, Madrid, Spain, Milano, Italy and Paris, France
51. Plastics New Zealand, Manukau City, New Zealand
52. Plastics|SA, Gauteng, South Africa
53. Plastindustrien, Danish Plastics Federation, Copenhagen, Denmark
54. Plastivida, Instituto Sócio-Ambiental dos Plásticos, Sao Paulo, Brazil
55. PPIA, Philippine Plastics Industry Association, Caloocan City, Philippines
56. SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, Washington, D.C., USA
57. SPPCR, Association of Plastics Industry of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
58. WVK, Wirtschaftsvereinigung Kunststoff, Bad Homburg, Germany