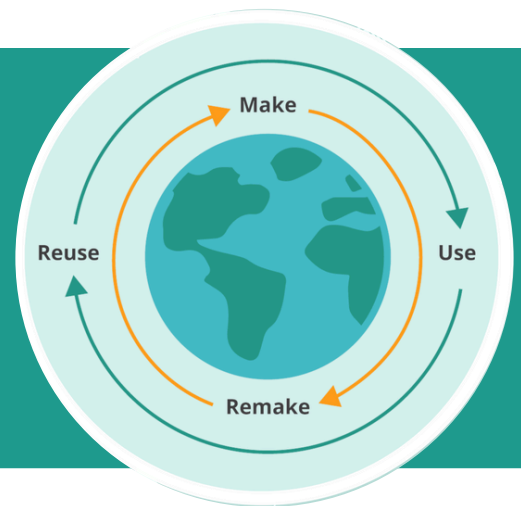


# Circular Economy, Sustainability and Climate Action

#Eco360

Activity

Grade Level: 9-12



## Main Objective

Learners will learn about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Learners will explore how a circular economy for plastics fits within the climate action goals of a country.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Identify and describe United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals
- Understand how a circular economy for plastics should be an important aspect of a country's climate action goals
- Understand Canada's climate action goals and strategy for tackling plastic waste

## Length of Activity: 75 - 90 hours

**Step 1:** Intro to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

**Step 2:** Learn about climate change and plastic pollution

**Step 3+4:** Research about Canada's climate action goals, plastic policies to answer activity questions

## Materials Required

- Internet-enabled device
- Topic backgrounder
- Eco 360 notebook (we recommend asking learners to maintain a notebook for this program to write down reflections as they go through the program)
- [Report: Clean Canada: Protecting the Environment and Growing our Economy](#)

## Curriculum Connections

### Alberta

Biology 30 Unit D: Population & Community Dynamics

- 30-D2.1sts explain why Canadian society supports scientific research and technological development to facilitate a sustainable society, economy and environment

Social 10-1

- 3.7 explore multiple perspectives regarding the relationship among people, the land and globalization (spirituality, stewardship, sustainability, resource development)

### Ontario

Grade 9 Geography

- C1. The Sustainability of Resources: analyse impacts of resource policy, resource management, and consumer choices on resource sustainability in Canada

Grade 9 Biology (B1.2, B2.3, B2.4, B3.5)

Grade 10 Biology (B1.3)

## Activity

### Step 1: Begin by introducing the learners to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

Spend time on goal # 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production - that focuses on reducing plastic waste in the environment:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals:

 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

- Goal # 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production:

 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12>

- Have learners explore the "Overview", "Targets and Indicators" and "Progress and Info" tabs. Ask learners to take

### Step 2: Learn about plastic pollution and climate change

Continue by exploring how plastic pollution is connected to climate change.

- Using the backgrounder, explain to learners how greenhouse gas emissions from plastic lifecycle poses a challenge to keep the temperature of the earth from rising beyond 1.5 degree Celsius. Besides adding emissions to the environment, the plastic waste pollution ending up in the environment has severe adverse impacts

### Step 3: Canada's Climate Action Goals and Plastic Pollution Policies

Now that learners have a good understanding of the connection of plastic pollution to climate change and sustainable development goals, dive into Canada's climate action goals, and how tackling plastic pollution is addressed there.

- In groups, learners will answer the following questions as they read the:

#### [Report: Clean Canada: Protecting the Environment and Growing our Economy.](#)

- How is the plastic policy connected to United Nations' Sustainable Development goals?
- How is the plastic policy connected to United Nations' Sustainable Development goals?
- Learners may also review the following additional resources for this research:
  - 'Government of Canada taking action to reduce plastic pollution'

#### <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/06/10/government-canada-taking-action-reduce-plastic-pollution>

- 'Canada to ban harmful single-use plastics and hold companies responsible for plastic waste'

#### <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2019/06/10/canada-ban-harmful-single-use-plastics-and-hold-companies-responsible>

- 'Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations'

#### <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste/single-use-plastic-overview.html>

## Step 4: Conclusion

After reading the case study, discuss the following questions as a class. Learners can record their answers in their Eco 360 notebooks:

1. What is the importance of national policy solutions towards tackling plastic pollution, given waste management is a shared responsibility across all levels of government?
2. Are national policy solutions more important than individual action? Why or why not?
3. Are there any challenges in implementing Canada's zero plastic waste policy?
4. How can we hold our governments at all levels accountable for eliminating plastic waste?