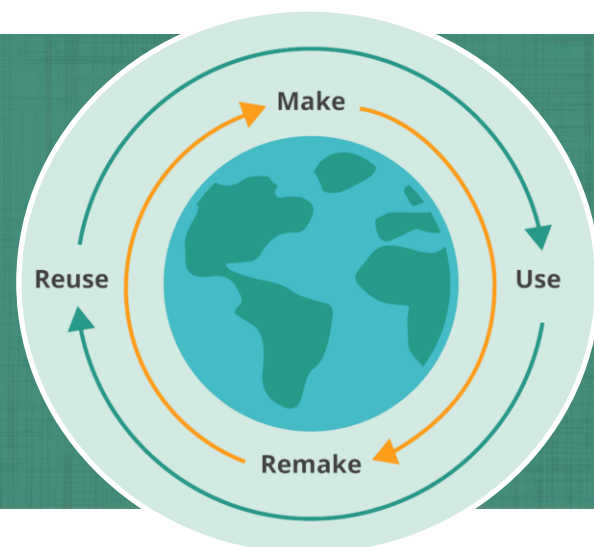


Policy Action: Circular Economy for Plastics

#Eco360
Activity
Grade Level: 9-12



Main Objectives

Learners will learn how policy can help transition to a circular economy. Learners will look at various circular economy policies around the world.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Understand how plastic waste can be eliminated in a circular economy
- Identify circular economy policies around the world addressing plastic waste
- Analyze the effectiveness of circular economy policies around the world
- Improve reading comprehension skills and solving case studies

Curriculum Connections

Alberta

Social 10-1

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

Ontario

Grade 9 Chemistry (C1.2)

Grade 9 Biology (B1.2)

Grade 10 Biology (B1.3)

Grade 9 Geography

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

Length of Activity

60 - 90 minutes

Materials List

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)

Case study: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

Step 1

Begin by introducing how a circular economy can work for the plastics industry by watching this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmTQA-RNygQ>
(8:11 minutes)

- After watching the video, discuss the six vision points mentioned in the video that are needed to transition to a circular economy for plastics
- Learners can also reference the vision presented in the video on a web-page: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-vision>

Step 2

Now that learners have an overview of what is required to transition to a circular economy for plastics, continue to explore circular economy policies around the world that aim towards accomplishing this transition. In this second part of the activity, learners will read a case study of EU's circular economy policy proposal and answer questions given in step 3.

Step 3: Conclusion

After reading the case study, divide your class in groups to work on answering the following questions using information from the case study. Learners can record their answers in their Eco 360 notebooks:

- a. Did you identify any or all of the six vision points discussed earlier in the case study?
- b. How does the proposal aim to accomplish the transition to a circular economy for plastics?
- c. What challenges do you foresee in implementing this strategy?
- d. Can we adopt a similar strategy to transition to a circular economy for plastics in Canada? Why or why not? What challenges do you foresee and how can we overcome them?