

COALITION FOR PLASTIC REDUCTION

Addressing the plastic waste crisis in the state of Illinois

THE PROBLEM

Every day, people throw away tons of plastic “stuff,” particularly single-use plastics like cups, bags, containers, plasticware and more. Because plastic takes so long to degrade, almost every piece of plastic ever produced is still out there, clogging our landfills and polluting our waterways. **Twenty-two million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year**, and half of litter collected in the Chicago River is related to single-use food packaging.

Plastic is also a climate issue. Plastic is made from fossil fuels, and it's estimated that the greenhouse gas emissions from plastics will outpace those from coal by 2030. The entire life cycle of plastic - from production to distribution to disposal - is harming our communities and environment.

City and state governments across the country have taken the lead on reducing single-use plastics through policy action. **It's time for Illinois to take action;** our health and the health of our regional ecosystems are at stake.

THE SOLUTION

Reducing waste at the source — preventing it from ever being created in the first place — is the only real solution to reducing the many harms caused by single-use plastics throughout their life cycle. Well-designed policies reduce pollution at the source, address disproportionate harm to frontline communities and advance equity and environmental justice. To that end, CPR seeks to advance policies in Illinois that would limit production, distribution, and use of single-use plastics.

WHO WE ARE

The Coalition for Plastic Reduction (CPR) is a membership coalition currently comprised of **25 civic organizations and cultural institutions** in the state of Illinois. Member organizations commit to endorsing the goals of the coalition, attending general meetings, serving on committees, and participating in advocacy and organizing actions and events.

OUR GOALS

SHORT-TERM

Work to pass a statewide ban on polystyrene foam cups and takeout containers by 2022. Introduce and build support for an omnibus bill of plastics policies that represents our long-term vision.

MEDIUM-TERM

Strengthen and expand our coalition while providing education, policy, and advocacy expertise to advance legislation and policy in Illinois that addresses the current plastic waste crisis.

LONG-TERM

Build public support for common sense policies that reduce the usage of plastics. Shift Illinois towards zero waste and reuse systems.

Nothing we use for a couple of minutes should harm our lakes, our rivers, our bodies, and our wildlife for hundreds of years to come.

Questions? Contact Paloma Paez-Coombe, Environment Illinois:
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COALITION MEMBERS & LEADERSHIP

The Coalition for Plastic Reduction (CPR) meets monthly and is facilitated by Environment Illinois.

Our steering committee leads and provides recommendations to the coalition. The steering committee is comprised of representatives from:

- Environment Illinois
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Illinois PIRG
- Organizing for Plastics Alternatives
- Shedd Aquarium

Member organization representatives serve as chairs of CPR's **three current subject committees**:

- Education & Advocacy
- Policy
- Coalition Building

Member organizations include:

- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Blacks in Green
- Bright Beat
- Bring It Chicago
- Bring Your Own Glen-Ed
- CHICA
- Chicago Environmentalists
- Chicago Recycling Coalition
- Climate Reality Project/Zero Waste Warriors
- Environmental Defenders
- Environment Illinois
- Faith in Place
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Go Green: Barrington, Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire
- Go Plastic Free
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Illinois PIRG
- League of Women Voters Chicago
- Organizing for Plastics Alternatives
- SCARCE
- Seven Generations Ahead
- Shedd Aquarium
- Sierra Club Illinois Chapter
- The Field Museum
- Will County Green

We welcome new members to our coalition that are interested in fighting for plastic reduction. Email us for additional information or sign up to join CPR with [this form](#).