

## PLASTICS SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

*We love plastics. We hate plastic waste.*

At the Plastics Industry Association, we believe that plastics are amazing materials with mechanical properties that are unmatched by metals, glass, cartons, or fiber. With their light weight, durability, and efficient production, plastics solve sustainability challenges that exist in a broad range of other industries.

Plastics have a great story, and we believe that we have a responsibility to lead engagement opportunities, advocate for its sustainability benefits, and address opportunities to improve. As a result, PLASTICS believes that our priority focus areas for sustainability are to promote the circular economy, address plastic waste where it exists, and encourage responsible use of resources.

### Promote Plastics Circularity

- Educate on renewable and biobased feedstocks.
- Support plastic collection and recycling efforts and increase residential access.
- Promote all forms of recycling.
- Explore new markets for recycled materials.
- Advocate for new infrastructure as alternatives to landfill and incineration.
- Educate consumers and policy stakeholders on the environmental benefits and renewable end of life options of plastics.
- Advocate for designing for recyclability, compostability, and reusability and the equipment needed to support it.

### Eliminate Plastic Waste in the Environment

- Enhance Operation Clean Sweep.
- Support organizations that organize and participate in clean-ups.
- Support increase of infrastructure, consumer education, and standards to mitigate plastic leakage to the environment.

### Use Resources Responsibly

- Use energy, water, and materials efficiently.
- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Promote life cycle assessments (LCA) to calculate measurable environmental impacts and strive for impact reduction. Use LCA data to steer appropriate material selection.
- Celebrate efficient and sustainable manufacturing through programs like PLASTICS' Zero Net Waste Program.
- Educate about ESG reporting and investing.
- Support plastics workforce through programs like PLASTICS' Future Leaders in Plastics, Manufacturing Day, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) actions.
- Dispel greenwashing claims and spurious comparisons to other materials.

**Approved** by PLASTICS Sustainability Advisory Board, September 2022  
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