

# PW11.3.3

*Written Deputation for distribution to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee March 1, 2016 - 9:30 AM - Meeting 11 PW 11.3 Update: Draft Long Term Waste Management Strategy submitted by StopPlastics*

We hope that the Public Works Department has had a chance to open the packages the StopPlastics group dropped off last Wednesday. Inside the packages were broken bits of plastic: plastic forks, bags, cigarello filters, coffee cup lids, straws, etc, etc that we had gathered in a mere few minutes. The beach in South Etobicoke where we collected it was covered in plastic debris.

If we are going to solve our garbage problem we've got to limit waste at its source and that means prohibiting single use plastic. As a start we urge you to ban plastic bags in Toronto.

Some council members will point to the fact that plastic bags, like many types of plastic packaging are now recyclable. We'd like to address this point.

Recycling programmes set up to handle plastic packaging have actually encouraged the use of disposable plastic. People have learned to justify the overuse of plastic packaging by pointing to the fact that it's recyclable. The plastic packaging industry also like to excuse its extravagant use of plastic by countering environmental concerns with the recycling argument. BUT recycling plastic is not a solution because it is not a closed loop system and it takes centuries for plastics to biodegrade.

We must stop the cavalier use of plastic at its source. Let's start with a ban on plastic bags.

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