



Beat Plastic Pollution: Innovative Solutions Caribbean

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CARICOM



What is the role of the government in tackling marine litter and promoting plastic free lifestyles?

- ▶ Providing incentives for community and private sector initiatives toward non-plastic alternatives
- ▶ Awareness and education at the community, national and regional levels
- ▶ Addressing the issue at the regional level through decision of COTED to be used to guide national interventions
- ▶ Resource mobilization for all plastic free/management interventions through partnerships with IDPs and RDPs
- ▶ Scale up and replication of best practices in the management of plastics such as the pet bottles return success story from Barbados
- ▶ Development of national and regional capacities for the management of solid waste, marine litter and enforcement of regulations



What are the on-going efforts made by your government/CARICOM Secretariat?

- CARICOM Secretariat through the work of technical agencies such as CARPHA has been involved in initiatives for the management of plastics to reduce the impacts on the environment
- Solid waste management initiatives have been developed with IDPs
- Marine litter management programmes are ongoing through collaboration between CARPHA and UNEP/CAR-RCU
- Under the GEF-IWEco programme co-executed by CARPHA and UNEP the research component 2 will focus on marine litter impacts on the environment and biodiversity including microplastics
- Capacity will be developed at the EHS laboratory in Saint Lucia for the testing of microplastics in the marine and terrestrial realms
- Findings will be used to guide policies and programme development
- Submission to COTED would result in decisions at the regional level for sustained and concerted interventions in the management of plastics
- Resource mobilization for interventions including linking management of plastics to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the region



What role should the private sector play in combating plastic pollution and how can the government facilitate?

- ▶ The private sector is an intimate partner for the management of plastics
- ▶ Incentives for waste diversion and recycling initiatives will facilitate the reduction of the volume and impacts of plastics on the environment
- ▶ Research and development in plastic free alternatives
- ▶ Sustaining businesses for plastic free environment
- ▶ Upscaling initiatives through the organisations such as Chambers of industries and Commerce getting members to be more aware and interested in investments in plastic free initiatives
- ▶ Catalysing public private partnerships for the management of plastics



What are the necessary elements (enabling conditions) to facilitate citizens to move towards Plastic-Free Lifestyles?

- ▶ Awareness and education
- ▶ Provision of suitable and sustained initiatives for alternatives
- ▶ Harmonised activities and interventions at the national and regional levels
- ▶ Incentives
- ▶ Access to resources
- ▶ Transfer of technology north-south and south-south
- ▶ Technical cooperation among countries, sectors and communities
- ▶ Making management of plastics and good environmental practices a constituent of the education system by incorporation in a suitable subject matter and/or curricula at all levels



Lesson learned from the Caribbean?

- ▶ Need to treat the topic of plastic management with a higher level of urgency
- ▶ Private sector driven initiatives are more sustainable
- ▶ Source reduction is key to the progression towards a plastic free society
- ▶ Lifestyle changes and change of behavior to good environmental practices is required
- ▶ A concerted effort at the regional level with actions at the national level provide the impetus for greater buy-in to initiatives



How can the regional cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean accelerate the efforts to beat plastic pollution and plastic-free lifestyles?

- ▶ Transfer of technology and south south technical cooperation
- ▶ Regional initiatives with national benefits
- ▶ Incorporating plastic management into ongoing initiatives at the regional and national levels such as waste management, marine litter management, source reduction
- ▶ Replication of lessons learnt and success stories
- ▶ Development and implementation of awareness programmes tailored to cultural and regional appropriateness building on existing communication products
- ▶ Linking plastics to development impacts such as on tourism and disaster mitigation