



**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND JOB CREATION**

PLASTIC FREE SUMMER



ENSURING A PLASTIC FREE TODAY, FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Overview of Plastic Free Summer

Plastic is the cheapest and most durable packaging material, but its slow decomposition rate, ranging from 20 to 1000 years, poses significant environmental hazards. The lack of recycling contributes to its accumulation in landfills, waterways, seas, and oceans causing pollution and threatening marine life & human health.



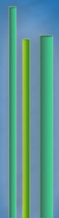
Scientific studies have revealed alarming risks to human health, including cardiovascular disease, respiratory issues, cancer, fertility problems, and toxic metal poisoning. In response to these concerns, over 127 countries, including Jamaica, have implemented measures to regulate single-use plastics.

These factors and more led the MEGJC to declare PFS which began in July 2022. The aim of Plastic Free Summer is to educate the public on the potentially harmful impacts of plastic pollution on Jamaica's environment, the effort of the Ministry and its agencies to mitigate it, and what members of the public can do to make a difference.

Alternatives for Single Use Plastic



Tote Bags



Reusable Straws



Hydroflasks



Reusable Utensils

Ban Single Use Plastics in Jamaica

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) initiated efforts to reduce plastic pollution with a ban on single-use plastic packaging materials. The ban was implemented in three phases, covering:

PHASE 1: January 1, 2019

24"x24" polyethylene or polypropylene plastic bags & plastic drinking straw



PHASE 2: January 1, 2020 polystyrene foam (Styrofoam)

PHASE 3: January 1, 2021

plastic bags of dimensions 24"x24" & thickness of 0.06mm or less. As well as plastic drinking straws attached to or forming part of the packaging of juice boxes and drink pouches.



Microplastics - What are they?

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that pose a threat to aquatic life and can have negative effects on soil and freshwater ecosystems. Researchers warn that terrestrial microplastic pollution is higher than marine pollution, affecting species that maintain soil fertility.



What can you do?

As with all pollutants and factors that cause environmental risk, the 4 R's...Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, are the most effective.



REUSE
REFUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE

REFUSE – Choose eco-friendly products, bring reusable bags and containers when shopping, and avoid beauty products with microplastic beads.



REUSE
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REDUCE – Cut back on single-use plastics and plastic packaging. Reducing dependency on these products results in less waste materials ending up in landfill and the associated negative environmental impacts.



REUSE
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REUSE – Single-use plastics have normalized a "throw-away" culture. Replace single-use plastics with reusable alternatives to reduce waste.



REUSE
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RECYCLE – PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) bottles can be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way through recycling. Separate them from your regular garbage and place them in designated recycling bins. The Government supports separation-at-source programs in 18 communities in the Kingston Metropolitan Area. These bottles are collected by the National Solid Waste Management Authority and sent to Recycling Partners of Jamaica Limited for recycling.