

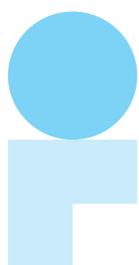


Oslo

Action Plan to Reduce Plastic Pollution in the Oslo Fjord 2019 – 2020

City Government Decision 1047/19





Action Plan to Reduce Plastic Pollution in the Oslo Fjord 2019 – 2020

Summary:

This decision concerns the City of Oslo's Action Plan to Reduce Plastic Pollution in the Oslo Fjord, 2019-2020. The plan describes how the City of Oslo will combat plastic pollution and become the first municipality in Norway that does not use unnecessary, single-use plastic. The action plan consists of measures within the areas of 1) Cleaning up and handling of plastic waste, 2) Consumption, procurement and environmental management, 3) Micro and nanoplast and 4) Knowledge, information and collaboration. By adopting this action plan, the City Government will take even greater responsibility for the fight against plastic pollution, and demonstrate how Oslo can lead the way in finding solutions to this environmental problem.

Background

In recent years, it has become clear that plastic pollution is one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Researchers have found that only 30 % of the plastic in Europe, 25 % of the plastic in China and 9 % of the plastic in the USA is recycled (R. Geyer, et al. "Production, use, and fate of all plastic ever made"). At the same time, the use of single-use plastics is increasing rapidly. This means that large amounts of plastic are spread to nature and eventually end up in the ocean, where over time it fragments to microplastic. Plastic and microplastic can pose a threat to humans and wildlife. More than 8 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and studies show that around 80 % of marine pollution is comprised of plastic. If the rate of plastic pollution continues at the same pace in the years ahead, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish and 99 % of all seabirds will have ingested plastic.

The UN has set a global target to stop the spreading of plastic into the oceans. The UN Environment Programme launched a global campaign in 2017, "Clean Seas", to eliminate two of the major sources of marine pollution by 2022: Microplastics and single-use plastics. The Clean Seas campaign calls for national and local measures, both aimed at the public and private sectors as well as consumers. Measures to combat plastic pollution will also support the UN's Sustainable Development Goal number 12 on responsible production and consumption, as well as Goal 14 which aims to preserve and promote sustainable use of marine resources.

The recommendations of national authorities are also used as the basis to increase efforts against plastic pollution in Oslo. The Norwegian Environment Agency's «General assessment of sources and measures against marine litter» from 2016, proposes a range of measures that should be implemented at the local level. The assessment shows that most of the marine pollution in densely populated areas in Norway comes from local sources. As the 2019 European Green Capital, Oslo has a particular responsibility to initiate local measures in order to reduce plastic pollution in the Oslo Fjord. At the same time, marine pollution knows no borders. Therefore, the City of Oslo also has a responsibility to contribute to global efforts on reducing plastic pollution.

1. Vision

The City of Oslo has ambitious environmental goals which will lead Oslo to becoming a pioneer city in a range of environment areas. With regard to work on combatting plastic litter, the City Government has the following vision:

For the sake of the environment and wildlife, as well as human health and the enjoyment of nature, no plastics should enter the fjord or other surface waters in Oslo.

2. Main objectives

The short-term goals for the city's work on reducing plastic pollution are:

- The City of Oslo has an ambition to phase out all use of unnecessary, single-use, plastic articles in the city's municipal bodies by the end of 2019.
- By the end of 2019, the City of Oslo shall require that when municipal property is rented out for events, the use of unnecessary, single-use plastic is reduced and that other plastic is sorted and delivered to recycling.

The long-term goals for the city's work on reducing plastic pollution are:

- By 2022 all use of unnecessary, single-use, plastic articles in Oslo will be phased out. This applies to both the city's municipal bodies and the city in general.
- The City of Oslo shall facilitate the collection and handling of plastic waste in the best way possible so that it does not end up in the environment.
- The City of Oslo will contribute to the regular cleaning of beaches, fjord areas and waterways, with particular focus on important natural areas.
- The City of Oslo will cooperate with relevant research institutions, and others, to increase knowledge of the sources of microplastic dispersion in the city's waterways and the Oslo Fjord.

3. About the action plan

This action plan addresses a wide range of short-term and long-term measures, with the aim of preventing plastic from entering the environment and reaching the Oslo Fjord. It also aims to remove existing plastic pollution. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, the city must work on the basis of a circular model. This means that the measures implemented must address all aspects of the problem. Therefore, the action plan contains measures that will help to reduce the production of unnecessary plastic, consider alternatives to plastic, provide essential plastic products with the longest possible lifespan, recycle as much plastic as possible, ensure improvements in waste management, and clean up nature which has become contaminated by plastic. The term unneces-

sary, single-use plastic is limited here to plastic articles which could be replaced by available alternatives that are better for the environment, as assessed in a lifecycle perspective.

In order for Oslo to succeed in this work, a number of municipal sectors in the city will need to contribute. At the same time active participation is necessary from citizens, business and industry, voluntary organizations, neighbouring municipalities and other actors. Relevant agencies and municipal bodies, which have been involved in the preparation of the action plan, include the Agency for Urban Environment, Agency for Improvement and Development, Agency for Waste Management, Agency for Water and Sewerage Works, Agency for Planning and Building Services (including The urban ecology hub, "By Kuben"), and Oslo Port Authority. The City Government wishes to facilitate the development of innovative and smart solutions that can be scaled up and further developed. Communication will be central to the work on implementing measures, and collaboration with various actors will be crucial.

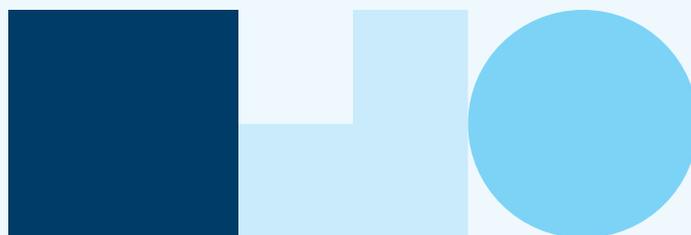
The City of Oslo's Department of Environment and Transport has the overall responsibility for implementation of the action plan. The Agency for Urban Environment will lead an inter-agency consultation group and is responsible for coordination, following up measures and undertaking future revisions of the action plan. To ensure that the measures are kept up to date, the action plan will be revised every second year. A number of the goals and measures will be addressed over a longer period of time and will therefore be equally relevant in each revision of the action plan. Knowledge of plastic pollution and marine pollution is developing rapidly and work on following up the action plan must therefore be a dynamic undertaking.

The action plan to reduce plastic pollution in the Oslo Fjord is limited to the City of Oslo and the inner Oslo Fjord. The action plan comprises of measures directed at improving the coastline, the seabed, rivers and waterbodies, city centre streets and other areas in Oslo, through measures of clean-ups and behavioural change through awareness raising.

4. The action plan's focus areas and measures

The action plan's goals are addressed through four main focus areas:

1. Cleaning up and management of plastic waste
2. Consumption, procurement and environmental management
3. Micro and nanoplastics
4. Knowledge, information and collaboration



1. Cleaning up and management of plastic waste

In order to protect and care for the environment in and along the Oslo Fjord, plastic and other waste that litters the urban area, river banks, the sea or along the coastline, must be cleaned up. Currently, the City of Oslo cleans up waste in urban and natural areas, and in the fjord. Beyond this, beach cleanings are still one of the most effective measures available for cleaning up marine pollution. The City of Oslo has a modern waste management system which collects plastic for recycling or energy recovery through incineration. Plastics that end up in the environment, whether in the fjord or elsewhere, are a danger to wildlife and potentially also for humans. The City of Oslo will intensify efforts on clearing and management of plastic waste.

The City of Oslo will:

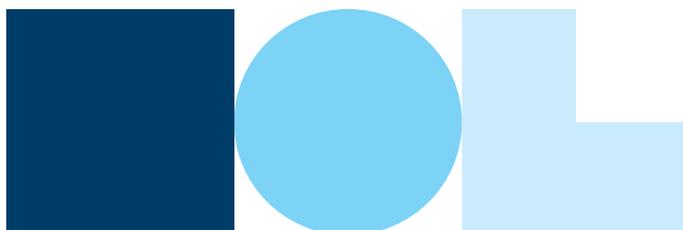
1. Upgrade the marine litter cleaning barge “Pelikan” and remove waste on the water surface.
2. Continue to monitor and map out the seabed along quays using equipment such as drones.
3. Collect waste on the seabed along quays and at selected places in the inner Oslo Fjord.
4. Expand the “Gaterusken” citizens’ initiative (a collaboration between the City of Oslo and the Church City Mission NGO) to clear city centre streets.
5. Carry out a clean-up and awareness campaign, either alone or in cooperation with organizations and volunteers, during 2019.
6. Deploy new waste containers in the city and replace older ones. Examine the possibility of deployment in areas outside of municipal jurisdiction where there is a clear need for waste bins.
7. Carry out measures to increase the recycling rate of plastic, including encouraging and working towards an amendment of the EU rules on infection control.
8. Assess the possibilities of putting in place solutions for source separation and treatment of waste from the business sector.
9. Assess the opportunities for establishing agreements with public and private waste companies for receiving marine waste.
10. Help cruise ships deliver waste and increase recycling.
11. Deploy intelligent waste containers along quay sides which can compact the waste and provide automatic signalling when in need of emptying.
12. Conduct stricter enforcement of legal prohibitions of littering, cf. the Pollution Control Act.
13. Use its municipal bodies responsible for the building and construction sector, to implement contractual requirements preventing plastic littering from construction sites.

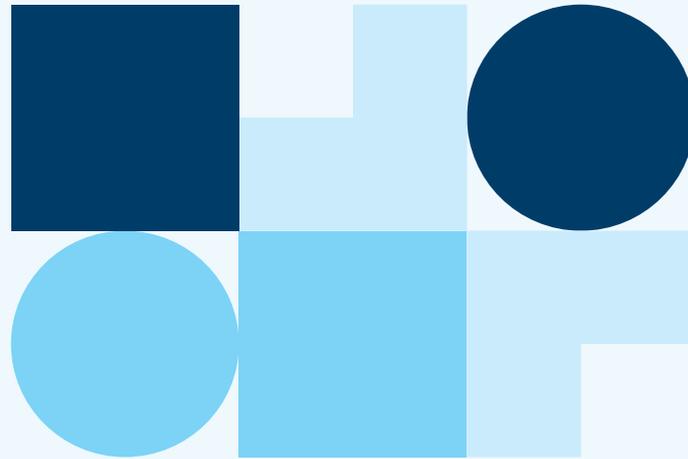
2. Consumption, procurement and environmental management

In parallel with cleaning measures, it is important to work actively on reducing the spreading of plastic to the natural environment. This can be achieved through reducing the use of plastic, as well as smarter ways of using it. As Norway's second largest public sector purchaser, the City of Oslo has considerable purchasing power and good possibilities to contribute to real change in consumption of single-use plastics and promoting available alternatives.

The City of Oslo will:

1. Map out the use of single-use plastic products in municipal bodies.
2. Set invoice and data quality requirements to obtain better information from purchasing.
3. Facilitate and build a culture for the reduced use of plastic and disposable products to help in phasing out the use of unnecessary, single-use plastic in municipal bodies.
4. Provide guidance to municipal bodies and others who run municipal canteens, in finding suitable, environmentally friendly replacement products for unnecessary, single-use plastic.
5. Enter into dialogue with private actors who operate canteens in municipal bodies to phase out the use of unnecessary, single-use plastic. Require private canteen operators to not use unnecessary, single-use plastics when entering into new contracts.
6. Ensure that all municipal canteens have efficient and environmentally sound handling of plastic waste, as well as work to influence private actors to contribute to the objectives of the action plan.
7. Include requirements for reduced use of single-use plastic products in new procurement framework agreements and other municipal purchasing agreements.
8. Be a driving force in further work on producer responsibility schemes.
9. Prepare and follow up a «plastic manifesto» for phasing out unnecessary, single-use articles in plastic and management of plastic, which the business community in Oslo will be invited to join.
10. Require that the use of unnecessary, plastic, single-use articles be reduced when municipal property is rented out for events. Actively contribute to source sorting and delivery for recycling of other plastics - in line with the City of Oslo's Strategy for Events.
11. Develop a guide for «plastic-free» events, in collaboration with relevant actors.
12. Use existing networks as the arena for competence building on plastic use.
13. Consider whether requirements should be made for the use of recycled plastic where this can give suitable and more environmentally friendly solutions or products.
14. Facilitate for the greatest possible reuse, recycling, recovery and sharing.





3. Micro- and nanoplastics

Ocean pollution by Micro- and nanoplastics is an increasing problem. More knowledge is needed about the sources of this type of pollution in the Oslo Fjord and measures need to be stepped up. The amount of microplastic ending up in the ocean from land-based sources in Norway is estimated to be approximately 8,000 tonnes annually (Norwegian Environment Agency 2016: Overarching assessment of measures against microplastics (in Norwegian)). The Environment Agency's report, together with surveys of litter found on Oslo's beaches, show that car tyres, personal consumption and the construction industry are some of the largest sources of plastic pollution. Since tyre wear is a significant source of microplastics in the ocean, efforts to reduce car traffic by one third by 2030 is a significant measure in order to succeed with the vision of zero plastic in the Oslo Fjord. Measures related to reducing car traffic are, however, not described in this action plan.

The City of Oslo will:

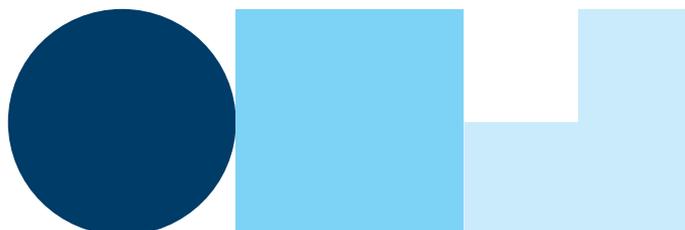
1. Survey microplastics in sewage sludge.
2. Survey microplastics in wastewater to the Bekkelaget sewage treatment plant.
3. Continue testing alternatives to rubber granules in collaboration with relevant actors, with the aim of phasing out the use of such granules as soon as possible.
4. Reduce the spread of microplastics from new and renovated municipal sports facilities with artificial pitches, through better operation and various technical solutions.
5. Continue work on improving technological solutions for artificial sports pitches, in collaboration with relevant actors, to reduce the spread of microgranules.
6. Create an environmental account for artificial sports pitches in order to obtain a better understanding of the scale of loss of granules.
7. Deliver all recovered debris from sand traps to approved landfills.
8. Extend the current arrangements for dumping cleared snow so as to prevent the spread of microplastic.

4. Knowledge information and collaboration

There is a need for more knowledge about the sources and consequences of plastic pollution. In addition, it is important to increase the knowledge of citizens so as to reduce unnecessary plastic consumption and minimize pollution. The City of Oslo will encourage citizens and the business sector, through a variety of activities, to take part in efforts to reduce plastic pollution in the Oslo Fjord.

The City of Oslo will:

1. Obtain better knowledge of the scope and main sources of plastic pollution in the Oslo Fjord in collaboration with relevant research institutions and others.
2. Carry out campaigns and information work, aimed at the citizens of Oslo, on how to reduce unnecessary use of plastic.
3. Use the World Environment Day in 2019 to mark the City of Oslo's work to reduce plastic littering, whilst encouraging participation from citizens and the business community.
4. Increase Oslo schoolchildren's knowledge about plastic littering and recycling by focusing on plastic as a theme in the teaching program developed by the Agency for Waste Management.
5. Increase efforts to change the behaviour of those who use nature for recreational purposes, so that they take better care of their environment.
6. Carry out visits to housing cooperatives to inform and advise the residents about recycling.
7. Extend access to selected mini-recycling stations using technological solutions such as apps.
8. Scale up environmental events in 2019, focusing on plastic and marine litter.
9. Involve citizens in beach cleaning and encourage use of the electronic reporting tool to enhance surveying efforts on marine litter in the municipality.
10. Invite to events at the urban ecology hub, "By Kuben", which put plastic on the agenda and provide for the sharing of experiences and ideas by different actors.
11. Establish a scheme that various actors can apply to, so as to obtain support for measures that help to achieve the objectives of the action plan.
12. Work for a better national system to combat marine litter.
13. Create a plan for the renewal of underwater nature in the fjord in order to recreate and promote the free and wild nature of the seabed.





Oslo



Contact information:

Agency for Urban Environment
Karvesvingen 3, 0579 Oslo

postmottak@bym.oslo.kommune.no
www.oslo.kommune.no/startpage

Switchboard: (+47) 21 80 21 80