Drivers of our Recycling Challenge

Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee
Seattle City Council

Heather Trim
Zero Waste Washington
May 31, 2019
www.zerowastewashington.org

Overview

- Plastics problem
- Consumer confusion
- Recycling operations
- Markets
- Legislative bills

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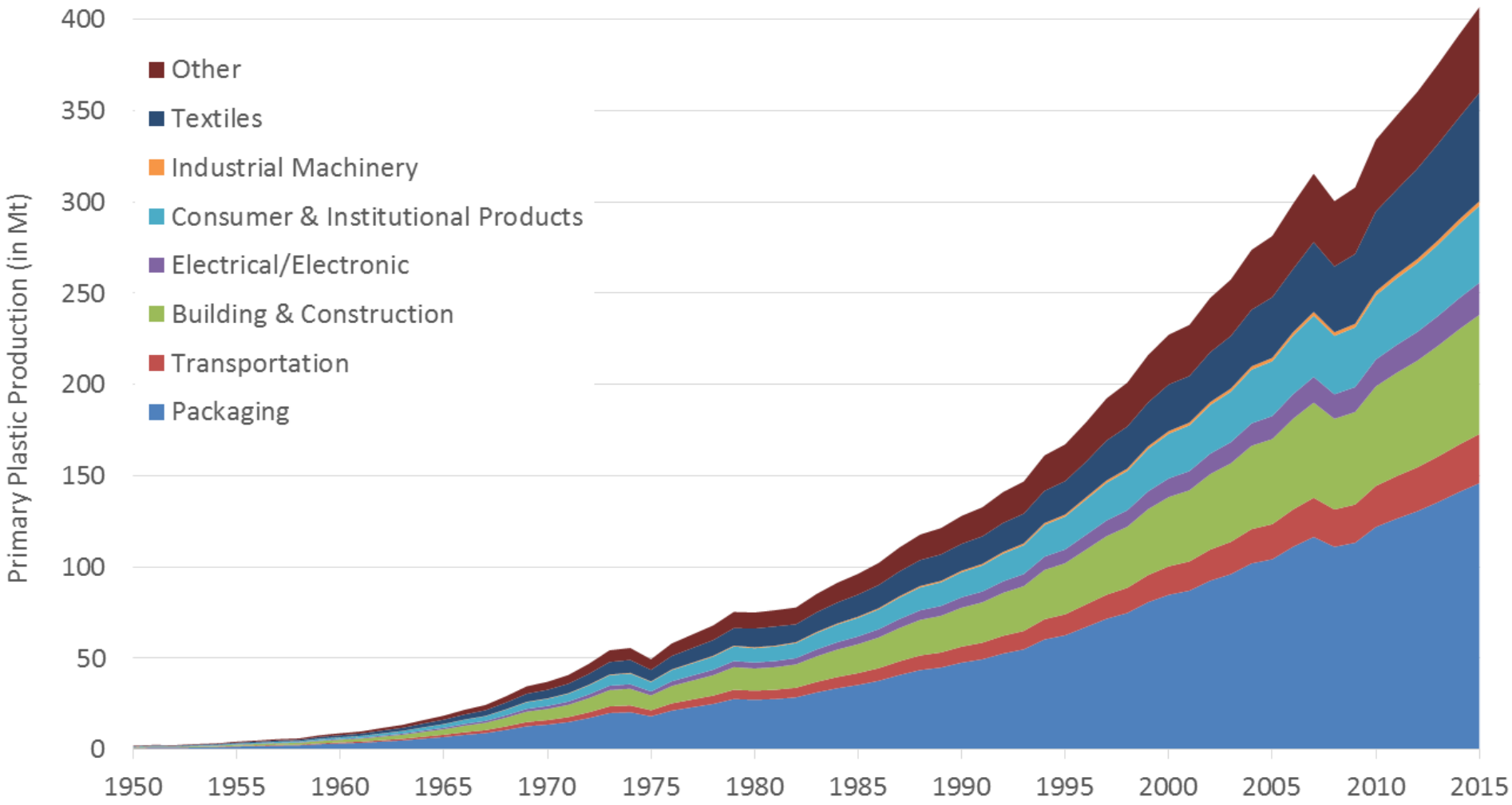
We Live in A Plastic Era



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Geyer et. al (2017)

>30%
plastics is used for packaging
www.unep.org/newscentre/un-declares-war-ocean-plastic

New plastic packaging keeps coming into the market

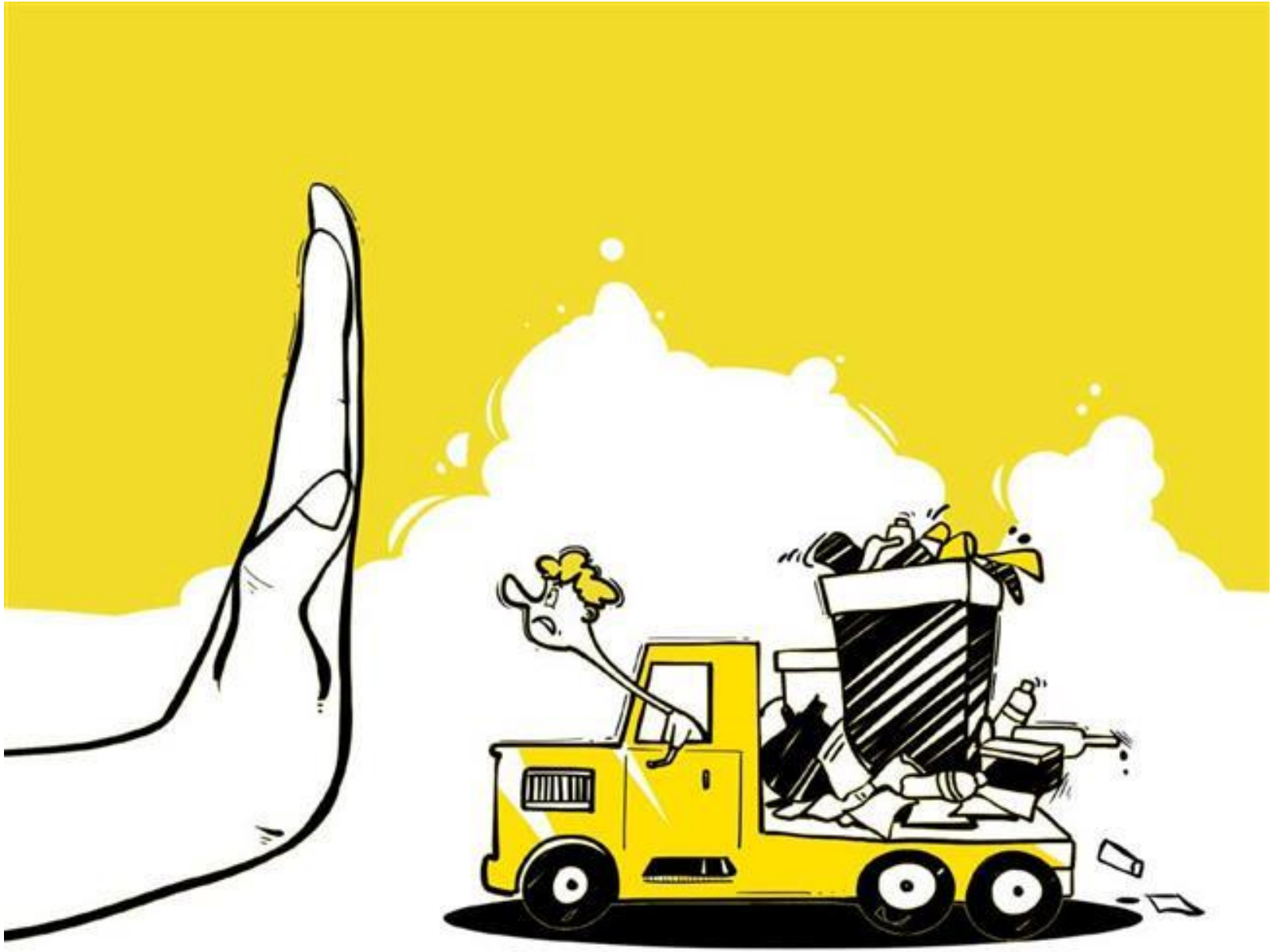
Consumer Confusion

3 second shrug

www.portseattle.org

Is it compostable or not?

China National Sword



Shanghai Daily

60% of waste

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bales_of_PET_bottles_2.jpg

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https://thecruisepeople.wordpress.com/tag/cargo-passenger-services/

Bans

- 24 types of commodities
  - 0.05% contamination standard

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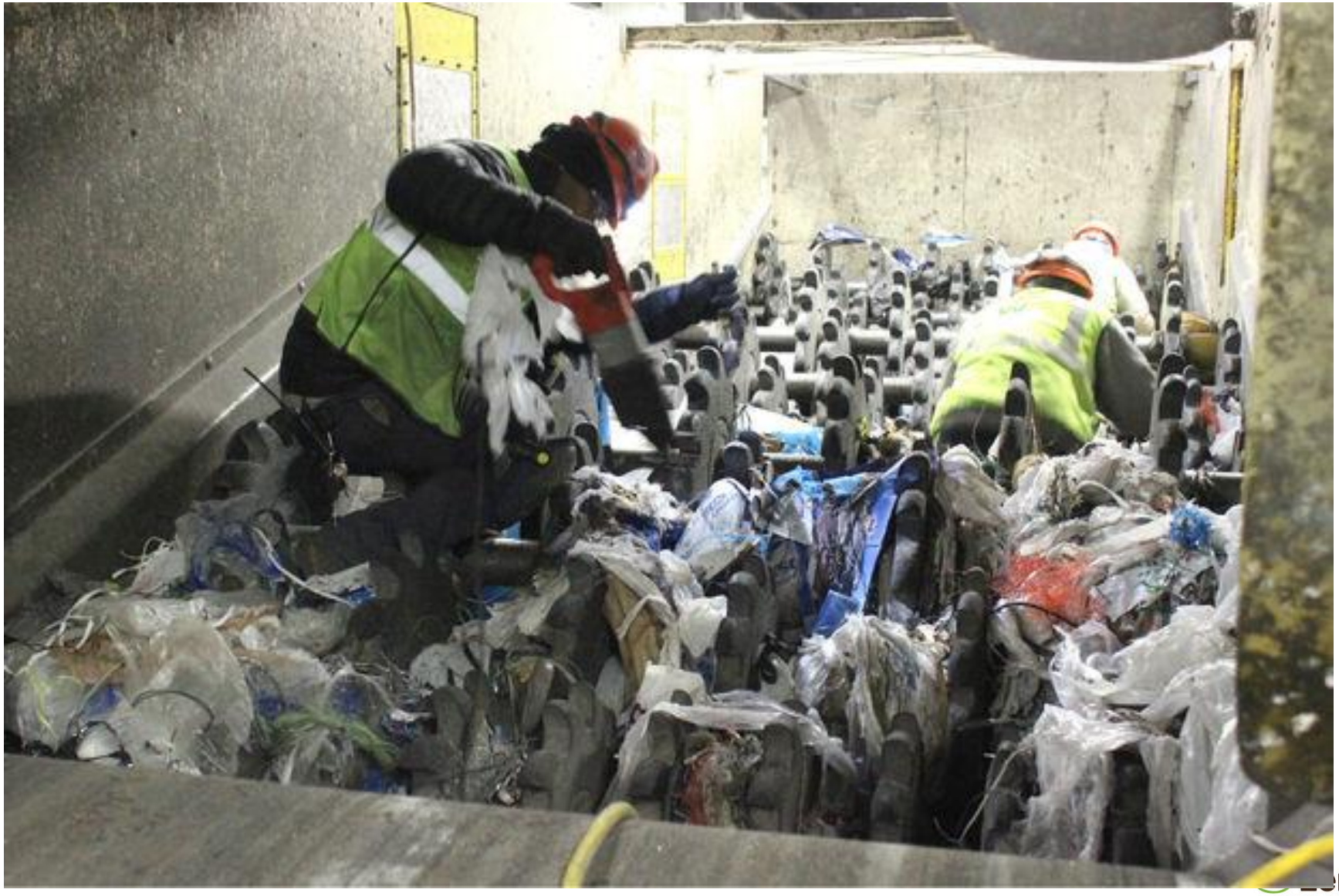
Contamination: 11-20%

https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/testing-numbers-recycling-recyclables/1026231/

HOPE
NATURAL

Bags and film gum up equipment



https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20161219/lincoln-square/plastic-bag-recycling-blue-cart-waste-management

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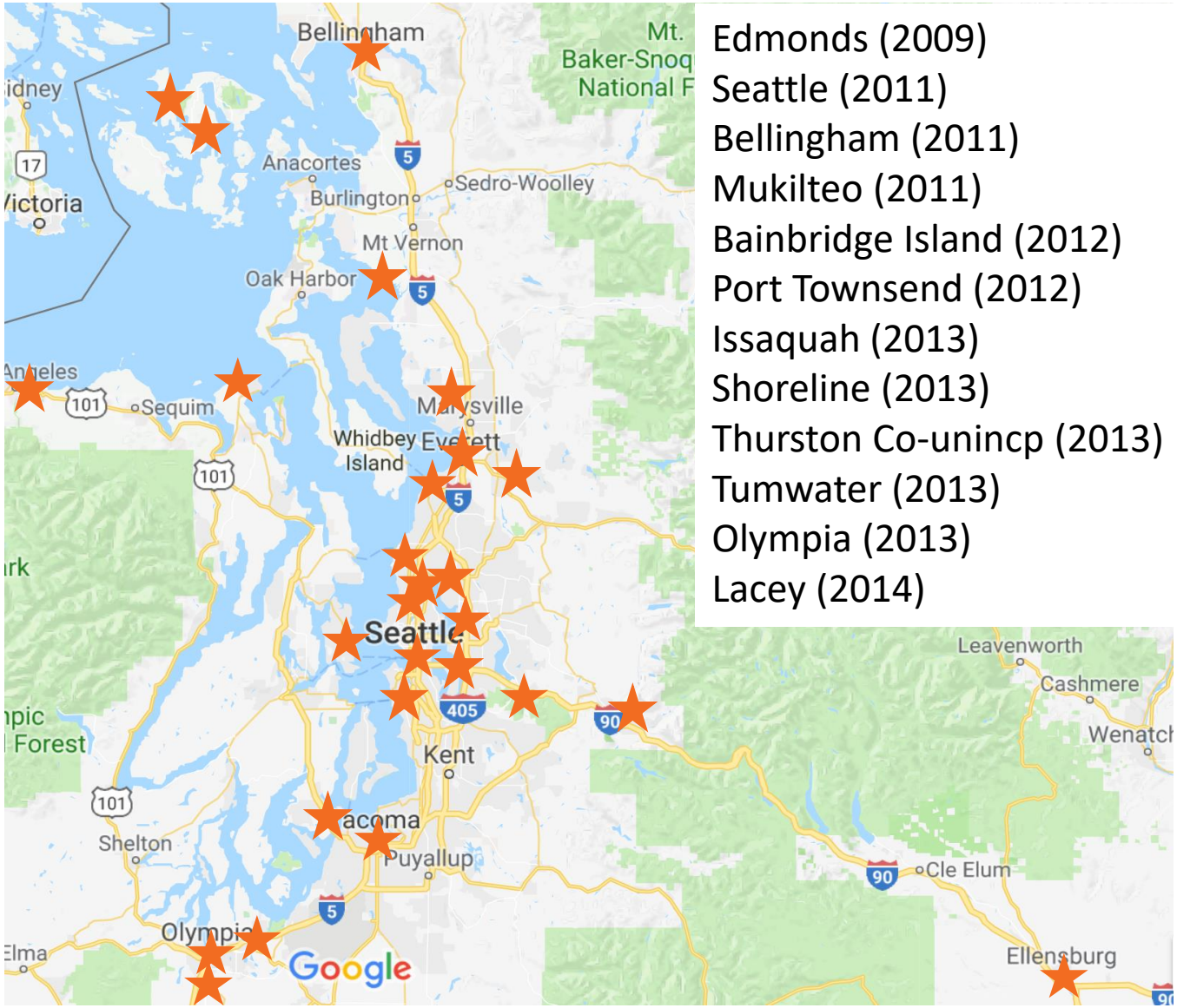
Solutions

Reduce the use of unnecessary plastics

Build markets and restore our recycling system, creating jobs in WA

28 WA Reusable Bag Ordinances



Edmonds (2009)
Seattle (2011)
Bellingham (2011)
Mukilteo (2011)
Bainbridge Island (2012)
Port Townsend (2012)
Issaquah (2013)
Shoreline (2013)
Thurston Co-unincp (2013)
Tumwater (2013)
Olympia (2013)
Lacey (2014)

Lake Forest Park (2018)
Mercer Island (2014)
Kirkland (2015)
Ellensburg (2016)
San Juan Co-unincp (2016)
Tacoma (2016)
Friday Harbor (2017)
Quil Ceda Village (2017)
Port Angeles (2018)
La Conner (2018)
Kenmore (2018)
North Bend (2018)
Everett (2018)
Gig Harbor (2018)
Burien (2019)
Snohomish (2019)
Bremerton (on deck)

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Reusable Bag Bill for Washington State

(SB5323)

Zero Waste Washington |Surfrider Foundation | Seattle Aquarium |Puget Soundkeeper Alliance |Environment Washington

Update Seattle's ordinance

https://www.jconline.com/story/life/food/2015/04/20/fast-food-predictable-hack-menu/26075401/

“To go” containers”

Seattle

Bainbridge Island

Edmonds

Gig Harbor

Friday Harbor

San Juan County

Issaquah

Port Townsend

Lake Forest Park

Burien (on deck)

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Cottonelle
Cottonelle
Cottonelle
Bath Tissue
KIRKLAND
purified water
40

Refill stations

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Refill App

Find water on the go

Download the app to find free Refill Stations on a street near you.

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

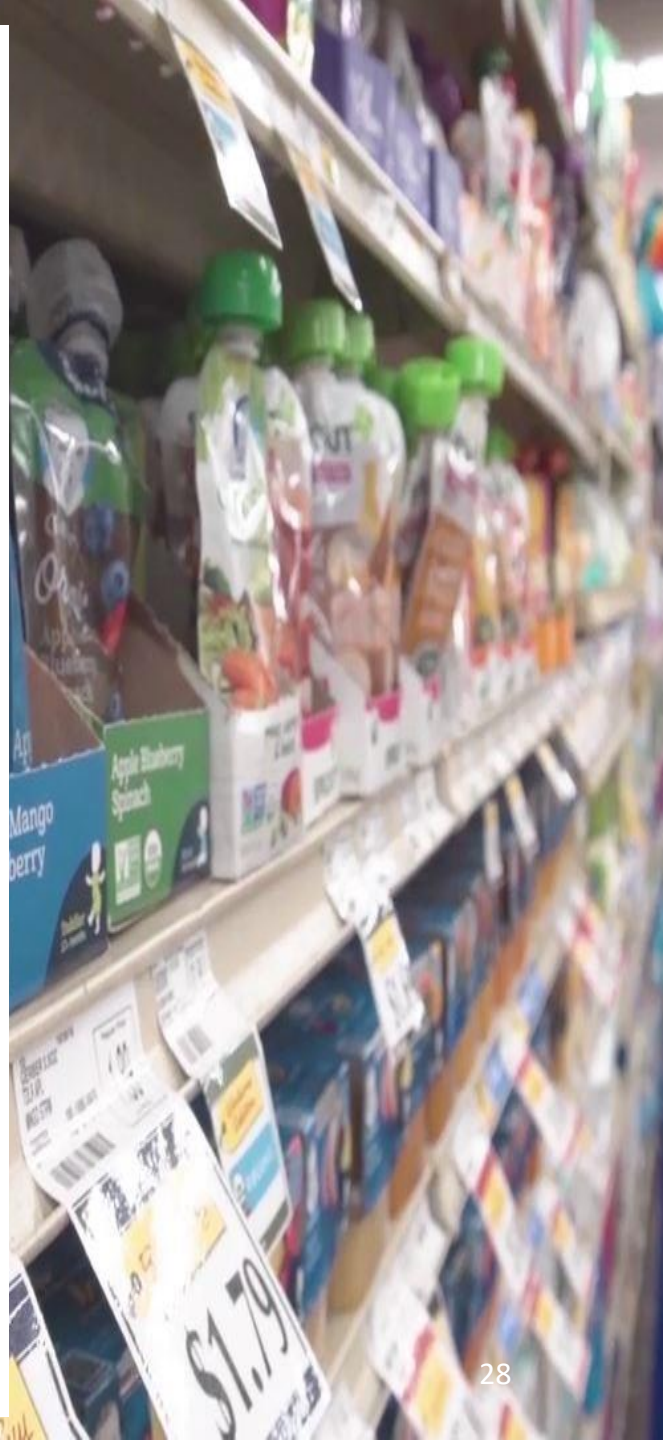
With over 14,000 Refill Stations nationwide, refilling your water bottle for free has never been easier. Simply tap the app, find your local Refill Station and get fresh drinking water on the go.

Build markets and restore our recycling system, creating jobs in WA

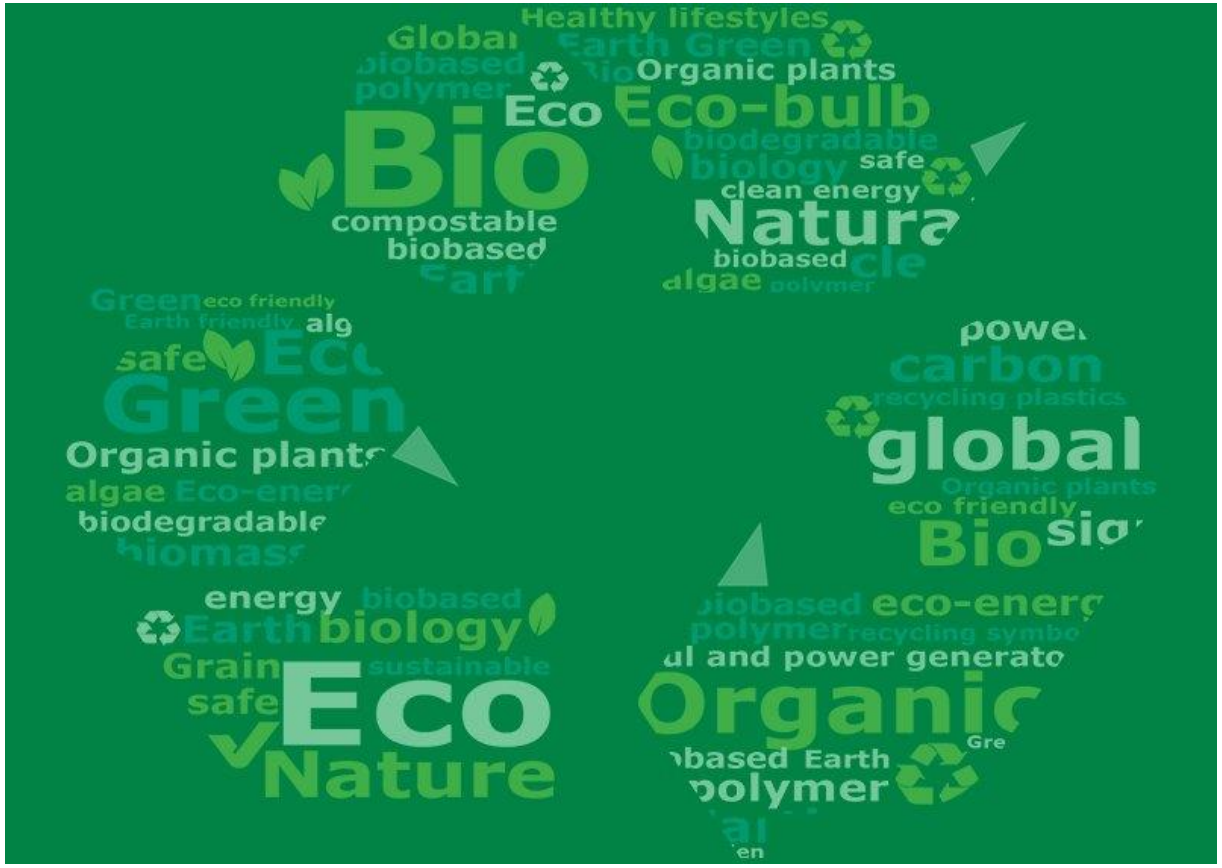
Plastic Packaging Stewardship

Manufacturers and brand owners pay for program that manages plastic packaging at end of life

(SB 5397)



Compostable packaging labeling law
(HB1569)



The bill takes effect on **July 1, 2020**

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Food Waste Reduction Law

(HB1114)

Halve food waste by 2030

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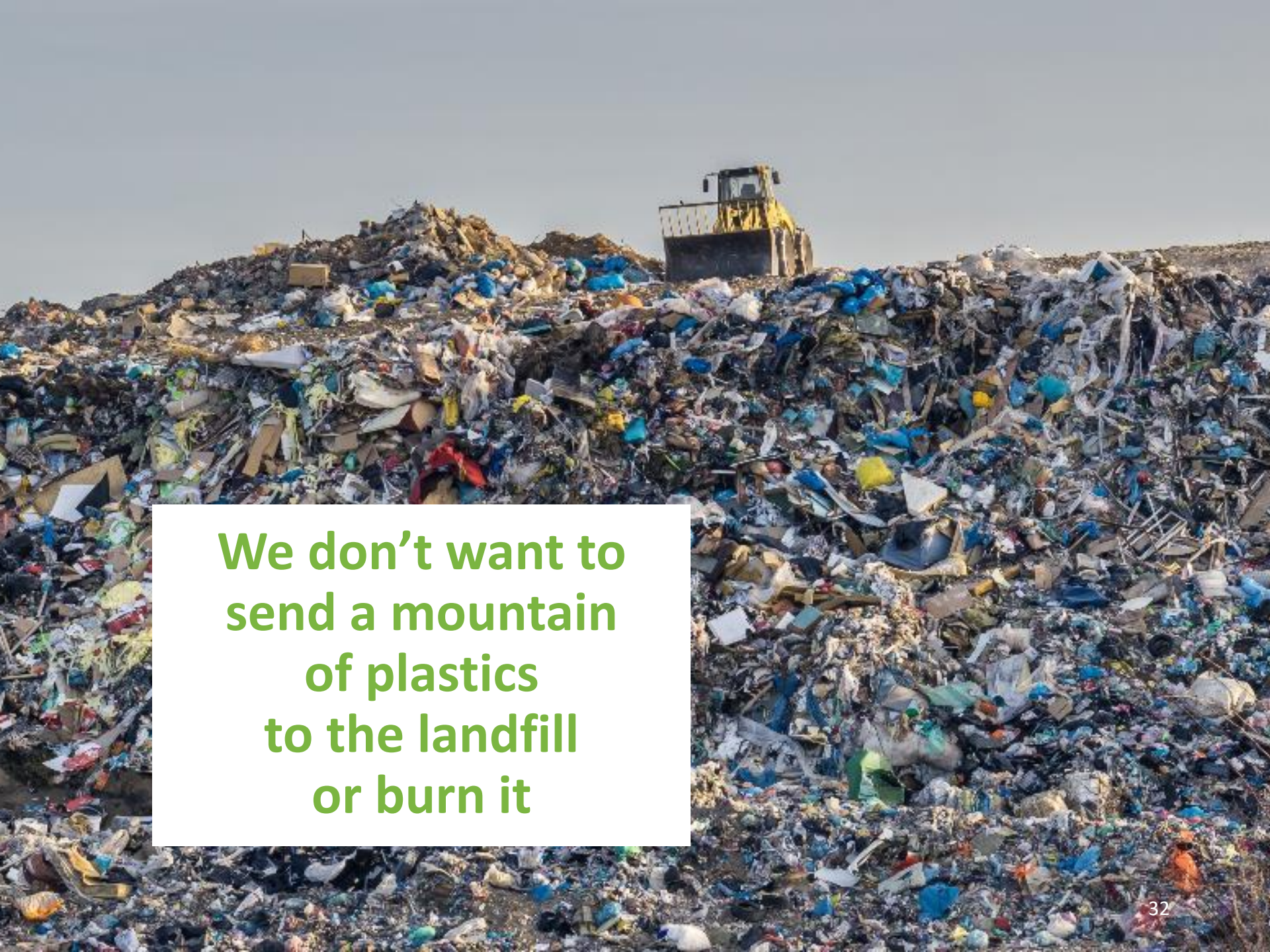
http://econews.com.au/56926/victoria-urged-to-consider-waste-to-energy-project/



We don’t want to send a mountain of plastics to the landfill or burn it

Thank You

Zero Waste Washington
www.zerowastewashington.org

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