



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

**ORDER NO. 3407**

**Subject:** Department-Wide Approach to Reducing Plastic Pollution

**Sec. 1 Purpose.** This Order prioritizes Departmental action to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced by the Department of the Interior (Department) in support of the goals of Executive Order (EO)14057, entitled “Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs through Federal Sustainability,” and to further reestablish the Federal Government as a leader in sustainability.

**Sec. 2 Authorities.** This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended. Other authorities for this Order include, but are not limited to, EO [14057](#), (December 8, 2021).

**Sec. 3 Definitions.** Under this Order, the term “single-use plastic products” means plastic items intended to be disposed of immediately after use, including plastic and polystyrene food and beverage containers, bottles, straws, cups, cutlery, and disposable plastic bags.

**Sec. 4 Background.** On December 8, 2021, President Biden issued, EO 14057, which includes a focus on sustainable acquisition and procurement. Plastic waste is a priority environmental problem. Less than 10 percent of all the plastic ever produced has been recycled, and recycling rates are not increasing. Plastics, including unnecessary and easily substituted single-use plastic products, are devastating fish and wildlife around the world. Our oceans are downstream of all pollution sources, so they bear the brunt of the impacts: of the more than 300 million tons of plastic produced every year for use in a wide variety of applications, at least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and plastic makes up 80 percent of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. Marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, which causes severe injuries and death, and plastic pollution threatens food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change.

The United States is one of the world’s largest producers of plastic waste and other types of waste, and the U.S. Government is a large consumer with significant market power and the ability to drive change through its waste reduction policies and procurement patterns. Section 208 of EO 14057, entitled “Sustainable Acquisition and Procurement,” creates an opportunity for the Department to lead by example in aggressively reducing the amount of single-use plastic products it procures, sells, or distributes while prioritizing products that can be reused, refurbished, or recycled.

Since 1849, the Department has been charged with numerous management and stewardship responsibilities with respect to Government-managed lands, waters, resources, and ecosystems. Today, the Department manages more than 480 million acres of public lands, 2.5 billion acres of

the Outer Continental Shelf, and 750 million acres of marine national monuments across more than 2,000 locations that host nearly 400 million visitors each year. As the steward of 20 percent of the Nation's lands, including national parks and national wildlife refuges; the Federal agency responsible for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats; and a producer of nearly 80,000 tons of municipal solid waste in fiscal year 2020, the Department has an obligation to play a leading role in reducing the impact of plastic waste on our ecosystems and our climate.

As documented by the United Nations Environment Program, additional nonhazardous, environmentally-preferable alternatives to single-use plastic products have been developed in recent years and are readily available. Bags made of paper, bioplastics, and composite can replace single use plastic bags, as can reusable cloth or thicker plastic alternatives. Bottles made of bioplastics, glass, and aluminum, and laminated cartons can replace single-use plastic bottles, as can reusable bottles made of glass, aluminum, or stainless steel. Similar materials can replace single-use plastic in food packaging, beverage cups, tableware, and other products, giving the Department a range of options to consider in this effort to account for the variety of geographic locations and social contexts in which Departmental facilities operate.

**Sec. 5 Reducing Single-Use Plastic Products.** The Department's Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO), working with the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance within the Office of Policy, Management and Budget, is leading the Department's sustainability efforts and working with Bureaus and Offices to further the goals of EO 14057. The following explicit directions and timelines are necessary to ensure the Department's sustainability plans include bold action on single-use plastic products:

- a. Within 90 days of the issuance of this Order, the CSO shall issue guidance to Bureaus and Offices on its implementation to include:
  - (1) Development of a process to account for single-use plastic products being procured, sold, or otherwise distributed by Bureaus and Offices and concessionaires;
  - (2) A review of contracts, concessions, and procurement mechanisms to identify single-use plastic product reduction opportunities and challenges; and
  - (3) Development of sustainable procurement plans to support the goals of section 208 of EO 14057 that include specific approaches to phasing out single-use plastic products by the end of 2032.
- b. Within 270 days of the issuance of this Order, Bureaus and Offices shall submit draft sustainable procurement plans that:
  - (1) Include schedules and targets to make annual progress toward reducing the procurement, sale, and distribution of single-use plastic products from current levels with a goal of phasing out single-use plastic products by 2032;
  - (2) Include schedules for updates to their acquisition and procurement policies and practices to reduce single-use plastic products;
  - (3) Include annual reporting on progress toward reducing procurement, sale, and distribution of single-use plastic products;

- (4) Include a schedule for reporting on how they will phase out single use plastic products by 2032;
  - (5) Include an analysis of alternatives to single-use plastic products, such as compostable or biodegradable materials, or 100 percent recyclable or 100 percent recycled materials (with a circular economy plan) as defined in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224);
  - (6) Identify opportunities to shift public behavior to reduce single-use plastic products, such as installing additional water fountains and reusable water bottle filling stations;
  - (7) May include short-term exemptions if no alternatives currently exist, or for the term of an existing concession or procurement contract, if justification is provided;
  - (8) May include exemptions for medical, public safety, public health, or scientific items, or for items for which there is proof of a circular economy plan, if justification is provided; and
  - (9) May include funding requests, if justified, for implementation costs.
- c. Within 365 days of the issuance of this Order, the CSO shall review the draft plans and provide Bureaus and Offices feedback, and Bureaus and Offices shall refine and submit final sustainable procurement plans.

**Sec. 6 Effect of the Order.** This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Department. This Order and any resulting reports or recommendations are not intended to, and do not create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other persons. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

**Sec. 7 Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **JUNE 8 2022**