

# Clearing a path to Zero Plastic Pollution



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Defending clean water, a safe climate,  
and healthy communities.



environmental  
defence

# Environmental Defence

- A leading Canadian environmental advocacy organization
- Tens of thousands of supporters who take action to defend the environment against plastic pollution
- Non-partisan, fact-based, collaborative



# Zero Plastic Pollution

- ★ Canada's environment ministers have goal of Zero Plastic Waste by 2030
- ★ Canada has joined a coalition of countries committed to ending plastic pollution worldwide by 2040





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# “Managed” plastic waste




# Plastics by the numbers

- 4.4+ million tonnes of plastic discarded in Canada every year
- 11,000+ tonnes of plastic goes into landfills, incinerators and the environment **every day** in Canada
- Half of all discarded plastic is packaging



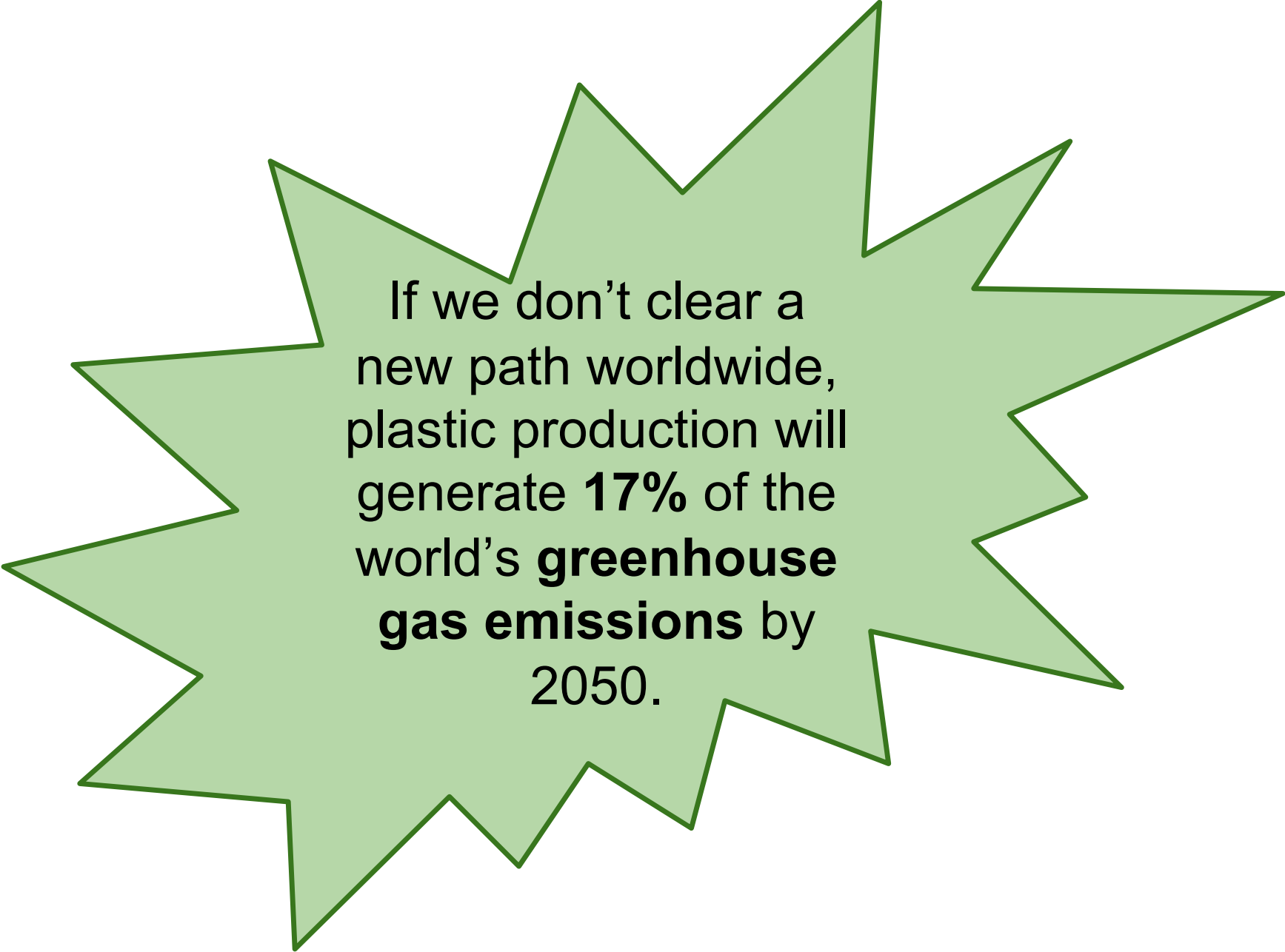


**= 11 tonnes  
Every. Day.**



If we don't clear a new path, Canada will still generate up to 2 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste alone in 2030.

***Recycling Failure, Environmental Defence***  
**(2022)**

A green starburst shape with a dark green outline and a lighter green fill. The text is centered within the starburst.

If we don't clear a new path worldwide, plastic production will generate **17%** of the world's **greenhouse gas emissions** by 2050.



# Federal action needed

- ★ Expand **bans on single-use items**
- ★ Require and support **reuse of packaging**
- ★ **Reject false solutions,** including projects that turn plastic into fuel



# Reduce

- ★ Expand **bans on harmful and non-essential single-use items**
  - takeout cups and lids
  - produce bags
  - multi-layered packaging
  - cigarette filters





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# Priority target: plastic packaging



# Reuse / Refill

- ★ Require and support **reuse of packaging**
  - Launch promised \$100M fund and devote to scale up reuse/refill services
  - Incentivize reuse in recycled content regulations
  - Set targets for refill of beverage containers



# Avoid false solutions

- ★ Plastic waste to fuel/chemicals, waste to energy: **not recycling**
  - Polluting
  - Energy intensive
  - Expensive
  - Unproven



# Extended Producer Responsibility

- ★ Provinces need to do better
  - Implement EPR
  - Cover all sources of waste (household, business, institutional)
  - Set and enforce targets for recycling **and reuse**
  - Burning plastic for any reason is not recycling!
  - ALBERTA: build on successful deposit-return program



# Thank you!

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