

# Help Stop Plastic Pollution in New York

State Lawmakers Need to Pass the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (Senate 4246-b, Assembly 5322-b)



**New York State has a serious plastic problem.**



At any given moment, at least **165 million plastic particles** are floating in New York Harbor.



An average of **6.8 million tons of packaging waste** is produced each year in New York state, constituting **40% of the total waste stream**. Most of this packaging is sent to landfills, burned in incinerators, or winds up polluting our streets, parks, and beaches.



New York City residents generate approximately **36 million pounds of single-use plastic foodware** each year. Tens of millions more pounds are collected from commercial establishments.



A 2022 poll found that **88% of registered New Yorkers** are concerned about single-use plastic products and support local and state policies to reduce single-use plastic.



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A new bill that's co-sponsored by more than half of the New York state legislature could turn the plastics crisis on its head. If enacted, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S4246-b / A5322-b) would take historic steps to reduce plastic production, put the cost and responsibility of managing waste on the companies creating the problem, and reduce toxic chemicals used in packaging. It would mandate that New York companies **reduce their packaging by 50% over 12 years**, require the remaining packaging to be **truly reusable or recyclable**, **remove toxic chemicals from packaging**, and **require companies to pay to clean up their pollution** — all huge steps forward in our fight to stem the plastics crisis.

**You can demand a cleaner, brighter future for New York. Urge Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to bring the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act to the floor for a vote.**

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